

Media Update

14 December 2016

United Nations

Press Statement

United Nations in Pakistan strongly condemns the attack on Ahmadi mosque in Chakwal

ISLAMABAD, 13th December 2016: The United Nations Country Team in Pakistan is shocked at the brutality of a mob attack on an Ahmadi place of worship in Chakwal, and condemns the violence used and any expression of intolerance. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is emphatic: 'Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion'. This attack, and any on a place of worship is against this principle and universal principles of common humanity," said Mr. Neil Buhne, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations Pakistan.

FAO

Press Release

Pakistan as a key frontline country in the fight against Desert Locust

Pakistan is in the frontline of Desert Locust in Southwest Asia. A contributing factor is the two breeding seasons for locusts in the spring and summer in Pakistan during which locusts breed in the desert areas bordering India and Iran.



This was highlighted during the 30th session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, (FAO) Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia (SWAC) held on 13-14 December 2016 in Islamabad.

Mr. Keith Cressman, Executive Secretary of the Commission, conducted the session with delegates from Afghanistan, India, Iran and Pakistan who are the four members of FAO's oldest regional locust commission.

The role of the Commission is to strengthen national capacities of member countries to monitor their locust situation, undertake the necessary control operations and plan for rapid response to locust outbreaks and invasions.

FAO is uniquely placed to monitor the global Desert Locust situation and act as a neutral provider of objective and reliable information that the countries can use to prepare for and prevent locust attacks. The Organization's Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) based at FAO headquarters in Rome has been providing locust-affected countries with forecasts and early warning for nearly four decades.

During this session of the Commission, delegates agreed to introduce bio pesticides for Desert Locust control, to develop a resource management system, and to strengthen information and reporting, contingency plans and training.

The combined efforts of SWAC and DLIS will help to reduce the frequency, duration and intensity of devastating locust plagues and protect agriculture and livelihoods in the region.

This Commission has been meeting regularly every two years since 1964. The last session was held in 2014 in Iran.

UNICEF

Press Release

Ishmael Beah, David Beckham, Orlando Bloom, Millie Bobby Brown, Jackie Chan, Priyanka Chopra, Angelique Kidjo and Femi Kuti attend UNICEF's 70th anniversary event and call for a fair chance for every child

***Priyanka Chopra introduced as UNICEF's newest Goodwill Ambassador
at star-studded event at the United Nations in New York***

For multimedia content visit: <http://uni.cf/2hgc3cM>

NEW YORK, 12 December 2016 – UNICEF commemorated 70 years of tireless work for children today with the help of some of the organization's best-known Goodwill Ambassadors and celebrity advocates at a 'children's takeover' event co-hosted by 12-year-old Millie Bobby Brown and featuring children and young people who have benefited directly from UNICEF's efforts.

The celebration at United Nations headquarters in New York featured UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors Ishmael Beah, David Beckham, Orlando Bloom, Jackie Chan, Angelique Kidjo, Femi Kuti, and world-renowned actress and girls' rights advocate Priyanka Chopra, whose appointment as UNICEF's newest global Goodwill Ambassador was announced at the event.

"My involvement with UNICEF began almost 10 years ago in India. Today, I stand here humbled, enriched and committed, because of it. Thank you, UNICEF, for the amazing journey so far as well as this huge honor," said UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Priyanka Chopra. "Along this decade old journey, with UNICEF, I have been on many field trips to villages and centers across India. On those trips, I spent time with numerous young girls and their families and experienced firsthand the transformative power of empowering young girls with opportunities that are rightfully theirs. Together, with my fellow, dedicated ambassadors, I am now proud to stand with UNICEF to help build a world where children's rights are respected and protected."



Ms. Chopra has served as a UNICEF national ambassador in India, where she has been an intrepid advocate for girls and adolescents. Celebrating her appointment, UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake said, “Priyanka Chopra is already a champion for India’s children -- and as a UNICEF global Goodwill Ambassador, she will be a force for children and adolescents everywhere.”

The anniversary celebration, which was led by the next generation of young celebrities and other young people, powerfully demonstrated the impact of UNICEF’s work over seven decades to protect the rights of the world’s most vulnerable children.

“This celebration of UNICEF’s 70th anniversary belongs to those for whom UNICEF was created in the first place: children. And it also belongs to the thousands of UNICEF staff and our partners whose work in some of the world’s most dangerous and difficult places has touched the lives of millions of children. What can be more important?” said UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake.

People’s Choice nominee and star of hit television series *Stranger Things* Millie Bobby Brown served as the evening’s co-host and interviewed international soccer star David Beckham about what he has seen and learned over the course of his 11-years as a Goodwill Ambassador. Rising young Broadway star Akira Golz and UNICEF Youth Advocate Chen Lin were also co-hosts at the event. Together they represented the future of UNICEF and its work for every child.

Orquestra Crianca Cidadã, a 37-member Brazilian children’s orchestra, kicked off the evening’s performances. UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors and international music stars Angelique Kidjo and Femi Kuti performed together onstage with Kids United, a French musical group of children aged between 8 and 16 years.

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Orlando Bloom conducted an onstage discussion with child refugee Mustafa Al Said, who fled conflict in his native Syria and now lives in Germany. UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Ishmael Beah spoke about his experience as a child soldier in Sierra Leone and his work advocating against the recruitment of children into armed groups.

The programme also featured Juan Carlos, a 27-year-old lawyer from El Salvador, who recalled how UNICEF helped him after he lost his limbs when he stepped on a buried landmine at the age of five years old. He now advocates for the rights of children with disabilities, working to help break down the barriers and inequities they often face.

Livey Van Wyk, a mother living with HIV, spoke about her experience fighting stigma, She was accompanied on stage by her 13-year-old son, who is HIV-negative thanks to UNICEF's work in Namibia to prevent HIV transmission from mothers to their babies.

Today, the Empire State Building in New York marked UNICEF's 70th anniversary by lighting the tower UNICEF-blue. The lights were switched on by UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador David Beckham.

“UNICEF was established to bring help and hope to children whose lives and futures were at risk. Our mission is no less urgent today,” said Mr. Lake. “As UNICEF gives *children* hope, children are the *world's* hope for a better future -- for all of us.”

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Notes to Editors:

UNICEF was established in 1946 by the United Nations to safeguard the lives of children struggling to survive in the aftermath of World War II, and in doing so, help rebuild destroyed societies and restore hope for a better future.

Today, the organization continues to work tirelessly in the world's toughest places to bring life-saving aid and long-term support to children whose lives and futures are endangered by conflict, crises, poverty, inequality and discrimination.

Immense progress for children has been achieved in recent decades. Since 1990, the number of children dying before their fifth birthday halved and hundreds of millions of children have been lifted out of poverty. Out-of-school rates among primary-school-aged children have reduced by more than 40 per cent between 1990 and 2014.

Despite significant progress, too many children are being left behind because of their gender, race, religion, ethnic group or disability; because they live in poverty or in hard-to-reach communities; or simply because they are children.

UNICEF's commemoration of its 70th anniversary includes:

- The publication of a new book, [*For Every Child, Hope: UNICEF@70 1946-2016*](#), which captures 70 years of the organization's work for the most vulnerable children;
- The launch of a new global institutional identity under the umbrella concept, *UNICEF for every child*, that underscores the universality of UNICEF's mandate and the urgent need to reach the most vulnerable and excluded children; and
- The relaunch of UNICEF's global website, www.unicef.org,

About UNICEF

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

For more information about UNICEF and its work visit: www.unicef.org

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