

## **PRESS RELEASE**

## UNMEER CONDEMNS ATTACKS AGAINST EBOLA RESPONDERS IN GUINEA

Conakry, Guinea, 13 February 2015 – Mr. Abdou Dieng, Head of the United Nations' Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) in Guinea praises the national and international responders' remarkable commitment embodied by their continuous efforts across Guinea to prevent and fight against the spread of the outbreak.

Mr. Dieng condemns the attacks against some national and international teams that occurred during their frontline interventions against the epidemic. He calls upon them not to become discouraged, and reminds that they deserve applause for their brave actions in favour of the entire population.

This attitude leads Mr. Dieng to apprehend the spread of rumours and false information on the teams' operations, as they destabilise the teams' work and limit their efficiency, hampering the communities' understanding and cooperation. Recent events around Conakry have demonstrated the harm these rumours create for the communities. The situation is unfortunate, not only for Guinea, but also for the affected neighbouring countries, namely Liberia and Sierra Leone, which keep the fight going on.

In the beginning of 2015, the fight against Ebola has produced heartening results, and the Head of UNMEER in Guinea urges all political parties, religious and civil society leaders as well as the media to reiterate their commitment to overcome the Ebola outbreak and eliminate the disease. Dialogue must be the first choice among national institutions, Ebola responders and local populations.

Mr. Dieng renews the entire United Nations' solidarity with the Guinean people and government, and he expresses his deep sympathy and condolences to the families of the epidemic's victims.

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