



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations**

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*Media Statement*

*For Immediate Release*

**UN honours departed Zambian police officer with Dag Hammarskjöld Medal**

**UNITED Nations, New York, Wednesday, May 29, 2013** – The UN has awarded the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal to a Zambian police officer, Gilford Kawina, who died while serving with the United Nations-African Union Peacekeeping Mission in Darfur in Sudan.

Mr Kawina died on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2012.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim at the Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations, Gertrude Mwape, received the medal on behalf of Mr Kawina's family during the International Day of UN Peacekeepers today (Wednesday) at UN Headquarters.

A total of 111 peacekeeping personnel – military, police and civilians – that died in 2012 were honoured. Speaking at the solemn ceremony, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon paid tribute to the fallen heroes. He said the UN was working hard to improve safety of peacekeepers around the world, but noted that "peacekeeping is inherently dangerous".

According to the UN, Zambia currently contributes 217 military and police personnel to six UN peacekeeping operations.

The UN says it has nearly 80,000 military personnel, 12,500 police officers, 17,000 international civilian and national staff serving in 15 peacekeeping operations on four continents.

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***Issued by:***

**CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA (Mr.)**

**First Secretary for Press and Public Relations**

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**Captions:**

1. Zambia UN Mission Chargés d'affaires ad interim, Gertrude Mwape, receiving the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal from UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous, on behalf of the family of Zambian police officer, Gilford Kawina, who died on February 17, 2012 in Darfur. This was at UN Headquarters in New York, May 29, 2013. PHOTO | CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA |GRZ
2. Zambia UN Mission Chargés d'affaires ad interim, Gertrude Mwape, signing the book of acceptance after receiving the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal on behalf of the family of Zambian police officer, Gilford Kawina, who died on February 17, 2012 in Darfur. This was at UN Headquarters in New York, May 29, 2013. PHOTO | CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA | GRZ