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SRSB condemns killing of AMISOM troops in Mogadishu

Nairobi, 23 February 2009: The UN Special Representative for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, has condemned yesterday's attack on AMISOM troops in Mogadishu which killed 11 Burundian peacekeepers.

"I was shocked to hear about the murder of the Burundian troops who came to Somalia to help and I condemn this unpatriotic, violent act in the strongest possible terms. All too often these killings are carried out by young Somalis manipulated by ruthless individuals and groups."

Mr Ould-Abdallah pointed out that the killings came a day after the Somali Parliament had approved the new Cabinet drawn up by the Prime Minister Omar Sharmarke.

"I am sure that this attack was carried out to detract attention from positive developments concerning Somalia," he said. "There is a new Government which is going to be based in Mogadishu to help people focus on returning their lives and their country to normality."

"With the return today of President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed to Mogadishu, this is a time of hope for Somalia. For Somalis, those who are behind these killings are well known and are on the losing side."

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