

British official criticizes UN peacekeepers for sexual abuse

LONDON – British Defense Minister Michael Fallon says sexual exploitation by U.N. peacekeepers must be eliminated.

Fallon addressed the opening session Thursday of a U.N. conference on increasing peacekeeping contributions and improving the performance of the troops who participate. Defense ministers from 80 countries are attending, including U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter.

Fallon says the U.N. needs to improve planning for peacekeeping, get more troop contributions and improve their performance.

Fallon cites "shocking examples of poor performance" by peacekeepers. He didn't give details but said he was referring to cases of sexual abuse and exploitation by some peacekeeping troops.