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UNCLASSIFIED

page 140

UNCLASSIFIED

SECTION 1 OF 33

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WARNING: TOPIC: FOUO, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY

SERIAL: AFP20090416636005

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: DJIBOUTI

SUBJ: DJIBOUTI CJTFHOA DAILY PRESS SUMMARY 15 APRIL 09 (U//FOUO)

SOURCE: DJIBOUTI COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE HORN OF AFRICA IN
ENGLISH 15 APR 09 (U//FOUO)

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review is compiled by the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of
 Africa, Djibouti. Inclusion of media reports in this summary in no
 way constitutes an endorsement by the US Government. CJTHOA cannot
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Prepared for CJTFHOA by the Cubic Virtual Analysis Center on
 15 April, 2009, (808)534-7601/7607

Top Headlines Somali Red Crescent Compound Hit By Mortar
 Analysis/Road Ahead: This attack will not deter the Somali Red
 Crescent from continuing operations in Mogadishu. However, it
 will give President Ahmed, local clan elders and religious

UNCLASSIFIED

page 141

UNCLASSIFIED

leaders more ammunition in their battle for domestic and international support against rival Islamists groups trying to gain control of the capital. No group has yet claimed responsibility, and they may remain silent to avoid condemnation. Given the potential domestic blowback from attacking such a long-standing and prominent Muslim charity group and probability of the attack's origins becoming known, the Islamist group responsible may issue a public apology and claim the mortar round hit the compound accidentally (a plausible excuse - ill-trained militia fire is notoriously inaccurate). While no organization can protect itself against indiscriminate mortar fire, President Ahmed may offer additional security personnel, however small in number, to the organization as a gesture to further erode support for al-Shabaab and other Islamist groups.

For related articles, go to: Pgs. 11-18, Somalia Related Articles
Sources: AlertNet, 14 Apr 09. Earlier media reporting. Cubic Somalia Country.

Mogadishu Sees Influx Of Returnees, Taxing Humanitarian Aid Analysis/Road Ahead: Displaced populations probably perceive the camp situation worsening with growing local resentment against them, and they are risking returning to Mogadishu, perceived as the first place the new government will assert authority.

Humanitarian and government personnel will be taxed managing returnees' expectations, but it will be possible to recruit some returnees as local humanitarian staff, bolstering citizens' buy-in to government development. The bulk of returnees consist of women and children, adding to the government's humanitarian services and security challenges, particularly since insurgents will see them as softer targets that can be held as bargaining chips against the government. Moreover, securing unarmed and untrained residents will prove a challenge that may require the Sheikh Ahmed government to widen its search for urban security personnel to include less closely allied clan militia.

For related articles, go to: Pgs. 11-18, Somalia Related Articles
Sources: AlertNet, IRIN, AFP, 14 Apr 09 - C-VAC East Africa Food Shortage Primer

Somali Pirates Score Four More Ships

Analysis/Road Ahead: Somali pirates will exploit international fears of retribution against hostage crews. Ransom demands will be higher and laced with threats, a shift from the overall safety of crew members' lives to this point. The threat to pirates' lives has also shifted from accidental death at sea to military

UNCLASSIFIED

page 142

UNCLASSIFIED

intervention, and the pirates will change operations and tactics

/****** BEGINNING OF SECTION 2 *****

to ensure their continued profits. Pirate gangs will more harshly test recruits and pare down personnel to concentrate profits/power and ensure loyalty. They will remove hostages from seized vessels to reduce the number of pirates needed to man those vessels and, by moving hostages to land, they force commando raids to operate on Somali territory, complicating legal strictures. Puntland and Mogadishu governments will deploy clan or official security units to corner pirates in villages, but pirates will counter with bribes and violence against such units.

For related articles, go to: Pgs. 35-52, Piracy Related Articles
Sources: AP, AFP, TIME, Le Monde, 14 Apr 09 - C-VAC HOA Piracy Primer; Somalia Country Study

Kenya-Uganda Row Over Migingo Island Continues
Analysis/Road Ahead: Although Uganda may have deployed a military unit to the island, Brigadier Echoti is more likely to be a present or former soldier who has gathered some associates around him and is exploiting the dispute to extort "Uganda taxes" from local residents and fishermen. In either case, he must be confident of political support from nearby Uganda officials, if not Kampala itself. Given its other security problems, Kenya will not act militarily to force the issue but will rely on political pressure from Uganda's other neighbors since the unchallenged seizure of one island on the lake sets a precedent that can affect the other countries' claims in the Great Lakes region. However, at some point in the next 2-3 weeks, Kenya will send a government investigation team, probably accompanied by an EAC official, to Migingo Island to determine the island's status definitively.

For related articles, go to: Pgs. 23-32, Kenya Related Articles
Sources: BBC, Capital News, Daily News, 14 Apr 09. Earlier media reporting. Cubic's Kenya and Uganda Country Studies.

Table of Contents

Top Headlines 1

Somali Red Crescent Compound Hit By Mortar 1

Mogadishu Sees Influx Of Returnees, Taxing Humanitarian Aid 1

Somali Pirates Score Four More Ships 2

Kenya-Uganda Row Over Migingo Island Continues 2

Other Highlights 6

Middle East 6

UNCLASSIFIED

page 143

UNCLASSIFIED

Yemen 6
Dutch Couple Released By Kidnappers In Yemen 6
Firing Security Leaders For Sympathy With Subversive Elements,
Al-Masiri 7
4 Killed, 5 Injured In Land Dispute Bombing 8
Yemeni Coastguards, British Ship Execute Marine Training 8
Yemen Coastguards End Marine Training 9
Date Fixed To Pronounce Sentence On 13 Iranian Defendants Charged
Of Drugs Trafficking 9
Tribesmen Block Sana'a-Saada Road 9
Horn of Africa 10
Ethiopia 10
Ethiopia May Prosecute Coffee Exporters Accused Of Hoarding 10
Somalia 11
Somali Red Crescent Compound Hit By Mortar 11
Mogadishu Sees Influx Of Returnees, Taxing Humanitarian Aid 12
Somali Red Crescent Compound Hit By Mortar 12
Somali Red Crescent Society Compound Hit By Mortar 13
Some 60,000 Return To Mogadishu This Year Amid Relative Lull In
Fighting 14
Second Thoughts About Returning To Mogadishu 15
Displaced Somalis Return To Mogadishu From Local Regions, Other
Countries 16
Somaliland Angrily Accuses Eritrea Of Interference 16
Clan Elders Say They Were 'Threatened By Al Shabaab' 17
/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 3 *****/

Al-Qaeda Responsible For US Congressman Bomb Attack? 17
Sudan 18
US Embassy Says Obama May Visit Sudan During African Tour 18
Sudan Hopeful For Release Of Canadian, French Hostages 19
Nine Executed For Sudan Beheading 20
ICC Judges May Soon Rule On Darfur Rebel Case: Prosecution 21
Census Shows South Sudan Population At 8.2 Million: Report 22
East Africa 23
Kenya 23
Kenya-Uganda Row Over Migingo Island Continues 23
Kenya And Uganda Security Chiefs To Meet Over Migingo Dispute 24
Kenya Seeks EAC Assistance Over Migingo 24
Kenyan Borders Under Siege 25
Officers Left Homeless After Houses Burn 28
ODM To Use House Majority To Push Reforms 28

UNCLASSIFIED

page 144

UNCLASSIFIED

Kibaki And Raila To Revive Stalled Kilaguni Talks 29
 KACC Ropes Imams Into Fight Against Graft, Drugs 30
 Easter Break Marred By Accidents, Clashes 30
 Tanzania 32
 Tanzanian 'Spy' Killed In Sudan: Described As 'Revenge' Strike For
 Slain Member Of Rebel Movement 32
 Uganda 33
 UNHCR Supports Restoration Of Law And Order In Northern Uganda 33
 Health Ministry To Start Mobile Screening Clinics 34
 Piracy 35
Somali Pirates Score Four More Ships 35
Somali Pirates Hijack 4 Ships, Take 60 Hostages 36
 Joint Chiefs Chairman: Piracy Not A New Problem 38
 Philippines Should Lead Anti-Piracy Voice: Seafarers 38
 Washington Wrestles With The Pirate Problem -- On Land 39
 "Tanit" Pirates Placed In Custody 41
Somali Pirates Declare America Enemy #1 41
 Undeterred **Somali Pirates** Hijack 4 More Ships 42
Somali Pirates Step Up Hijacking Spree 43
Somali Pirates Seize Two More Cargo Ships 44
Somali Pirates Hijack Greek-Owned Ship 45
 Absalon Anti-Piracy Ops End 46
 '3 Rounds, 3 Dead Bodies' 47
 Convoys Are An Answer To Piracy 49
 Rescue At Sea Sparks Calls For Firepower 50
 Areas of Interest 52
 Madagascar 52
 Cyclone Jade Kills 10 In Madagascar 52
 Mozambique 52
 UN Official Calls For Condom Distribution In Prisons 52
 Other Highlights Middle East Yemen Dutch Couple Released By
 Kidnappers In Yemen
 Source: AP, 14 Apr 09 (The Associated Press is an English language
 news organization. As one of the largest and oldest news
 organizations in the world, it has a strong degree of credibility
 and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious
 affiliation, and no bias towards/against the USG or US military.
 Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis
 /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 4 *****/
 delivered to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and
 television outlets around the world. The AP reaches audiences
 world-wide.)

UNCLASSIFIED

page 145

UNCLASSIFIED

A tribal leader said the govt. paid a \$325,000 ransom. A Dutch couple held for two weeks by armed Yemeni tribesmen were freed Tuesday, and a tribal leader said Yemen's government paid more than a quarter million dollars in ransom. The government denied paying the money or meeting any demands and said it was searching for the kidnapers among the Serag tribe in a mountainous region east of the capital. Tribesmen armed with assault rifles seized the couple from their car in the capital, Sana'a, on March 31 and took them to an area about 40 miles, or 70 kilometers, to the east. Powerful tribes in the impoverished country have used the abductions of foreigners -- either tourists or those living or working in the country -- to pressure the Yemeni government to meet demands, often to free clan members from jail. In most cases the kidnappings are resolved and the hostages freed unharmed. Foreigners in Yemen have also been targeted by Islamic militants. Yemen, on the southwestern edge of the Arabian Peninsula, is the ancestral homeland of Osama bin Laden, and al-Qaida loyalists are active in the country despite crackdowns by the weak central government.

After being freed, Heleen Janszen and her husband, Jan Hoogendoorn, were taken to the Dutch ambassador's home in the capital. There they told reporters that they did not feel their lives were threatened and that they were treated well. The couple are from the Dutch city of Deventer and have lived for three years in Sana'a, where Hoogendoorn works for a water company. They said they plan to continue living in Yemen. "We were treated very well. I think the kidnapers had an interest in keeping us happy mainly because they don't want to get too negative an image of this sort of kidnapping," Hoogendoorn said in a phone interview with Dutch national broadcaster NOS. He said he did not know if money was paid to secure their release. "I don't know if it was ransom or pledges in the form of schools, that kind of thing. They were talking about building schools in that region, laying water pipes, electricity and that kind of general infrastructure," he told NOS. Authorities were investigating how the kidnapers were able to pass security checkpoints on their way out of the capital. The couple said Tuesday that one of the kidnapers was wearing a military uniform. They have also said their captors forced them to wear traditional Yemeni clothing, including head scarves, to escape the city undetected. Political analyst Mohammed al-Sabri said the Serag is a powerful tribe and some of its members are high-ranking

UNCLASSIFIED

page 146

UNCLASSIFIED

officers in the army who might have protected the kidnappers. Yemen's minister of information, Hassan al-Lozi, denied the government paid a ransom. "We didn't give anything and we will not submit to the kidnappers," he said. "There are security forces now hunting for the kidnappers." A tribal leader close to the mediators in negotiations to free the couple told the AP that the government agreed to pay \$325,000. He said the government also promised jobs to the kidnappers' tribe and to halt police pursuits of wanted tribe members. He refused to be identified by name out of fear of retribution. The leader of the group of kidnappers, Ali Naser Serag, told the AP by phone that he struck a deal with the government but declined to give details.

Firing Security Leaders For Sympathy With Subversive Elements, Al-Masiri

Source: Yemen Observer, 14 Apr 09 (Yemen Observer is an English language online weekly newspaper. Privately owned, it has a general degree of credibility. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion, analysis, business, economy, sports, culture, and society.)

Abyan Governor Mohammed al-Masiri, disclosed that some of those recently investigated for criminal actions were charged for their involvement with extremist groups.

Al-Masiri said that the governorate's local authorities are suffering problems with the security apparatus, adding that the entire local prison staff is under investigation. The governor said that those being held under investigation were taken into custody during a recent intensive security campaign. They are affiliates of Khalid Abudlnabi who call themselves members of the Jihadist Groups. Al-Masiri added in a release to the official 14 October newspaper that 17 of the suspects were released as it was concluded that they were not involved. Thirty seven others are still being investigated, including 20 known criminals. Al-Masiri pointed out that there is a specialized anti-terrorist group helping with the investigations and in hunting down those who remain at large. This group is being met with the full cooperation of all security authorities as well as the public. Al-Masiri said that the security campaign implemented under the supervision of the Defense Minister has managed to reassure public safety in areas subjected to criminal activity and subversion to the government. The governor went on to say that granting pardon to any member of these groups would not be tolerated on the grounds that they terrorize the people and

UNCLASSIFIED

page 147

UNCLASSIFIED

appoint themselves as alternatives to appointed security and judiciary authorities. Furthermore, the granting of Presidential or local authority amnesty pertains only to public rights. Those who commit capital crimes cannot be forgiven.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 5 *****/

The governor denounced the neutral stance of some of the Ja'ar chiefs who did not stand in the way of those imposing their unreligious, radical view-points. The chiefs should have responded to the criminals' actions which include: unsubstantiated interference in local security, enforcement of instigation punishment without material evidence, and forceful looting of people's lands. The governor said that cases of banditry, theft and highway robbery are treated as criminal actions, however, he added that the local leaders should have stood up to the extremist elements of society, reported them to the authorities, and encouraged peoples' awareness of their illegal actions. The governor mentioned a local authority plan to be initiated in accordance with presidential directives to restore life as usual to Ja'ar city, compensate the people for their losses, and repair damaged public institutions. Al-Masiri is asking the people to cooperate with the security authorities, report any crimes committed, and to bridge the gap of trust between the state and the people. The governor expressed overall satisfaction with the security campaign which lasted for ten days and resulted in the disclosure of the truth to the people, the restoration of stability in the region, and the capture of known insurgents.

4 Killed, 5 Injured In Land Dispute Bombing

Source: Yemen Post, 14 Apr 09 (Yemen Post is an English-language newspaper, located in Yemen. It has a strong degree of credibility and shows a political bias towards Islamic policy, Muslim religious affiliation, and no bias against the USG or US military. The typical audience demography consists of: middle, middle upper & upper class, government allies, businessmen and investors. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion and business. The Yemen Post reaches audiences throughout the Middle East.) Four people have been killed and five others injured as a person blew up a hand grenade in the Hatarish district, east of the capital Sana'a on Monday night.

Local sources said a man from one of two groups fighting each other over a land dispute detonated the bomb as fighting intensified. The detonator was killed in the incident along with

UNCLASSIFIED

page 148

UNCLASSIFIED

three others while five others were hurt, the sources said. Land disputes are common in Yemen with experts warning of its effects as many people are killed, sometimes daily. A recent scientific study said land disputes are a time bomb threatening stability and security in the country. The study with the theme 'Having lands and Associated Problems' conducted by Dr. Fadhl Abdullah Al-Rabi'e has urges new rules to ease owning lands in the manner which can ensure social justice and balance. The study also recommends a rethink of policies for land possession in an attempt to establish solutions for misdistribution of lands through establishing a social board to solve land disputes among the public and a specialized court to deliver verdicts in land dispute cases.

Yemeni Coastguards, British Ship Execute Marine Training
Source: SABA, 14 Apr 09 (SABA (AKA Yemen News Agency) is an Arabic and English language news agency, run by the government. Most reporting focuses on: local, regional, and Middle East News. SABA's estimated circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences in Yemen.)

A military training has been executed by two vessels of the Yemeni coastguards with a British military ship.

The training included the ways ships are stationed in sea and other military marine operations, according to the Media Center of the Interior Ministry. The Yemeni Coastguards Center of the Red Sea has said that this training aimed at improving the abilities of coastguards in the fields of fighting and practicability.

Yemen Coastguards End Marine Training
Source: SABA, 14 Apr 09 (SABA (AKA Yemen News Agency) is an Arabic and English language news agency, run by the government. Most reporting focuses on: local, regional, and Middle East News. SABA's estimated circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences in Yemen.)

A number of boats of the Yemen Coast Guard, Gulf of Aden sector, ended on Tuesday marine training carried out in the Yemeni territorial waters.

The four-day training came within the framework of Yemen Coast Guard plan for training, rehabilitation and raising readiness of Coast Guard's members to perform the tasks entrusted to preserve security, especially in the fight against sea piracy. The training included the interdiction of suspect vessels and catching pirates. The training also aimed to raise the skills and

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

capacities of Yemen Coast Guards' members to face all types of maritime piracy which will ensure safety of international waters.

Date Fixed To Pronounce Sentence On 13 Iranian Defendants Charged Of Drugs Trafficking

Source: Almotamar, 14 Apr 09 (Almotamar.net is an Arabic and English language Yemeni news aggregator and e-newspaper, located in Sana'a, Yemen. Owned by Yemen ruling party's General People Congress GPC, it shows a political bias towards the GPC political platform. Most reporting focuses on: local, regional and /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 6 *****/

international news and sports. Almotamar.net's estimated online circulation/audience reach is 117 per 1 million reaching audiences in Yemen 26(-PERCENT-), Saudi Arabia 17(-PERCENT-), Egypt 9(-PERCENT-), the United Arab Emirates 6(-PERCENT-), and Kuwait 6(-PERCENT-).)

Yemen Specialised Criminal Appeals court has on Tuesday decided fixing a date of 23 next June to pronounce sentence on 13 Iranians accused of bringing drugs into Yemen.

In the court hearing held today and chaired by Judge Mohammed al-Hakimi and attended by general prosecution, the prosecution completed its declaration against appeal of the convicted defendants and demanded fixing a date for pronouncement of sentence and the defendants requested likewise. The First Instance Court had in mid of last November sentenced the first defendant to death and gave the other 12 defendants 25 years in jail. The defendants were caught on 25 March 2008 in the Yemeni regional waters offshore Al-Mukalla port of Yemen with a large quantity of drugs in their possession.

Tribesmen Block Sana'a-Saada Road

Source: Yemen Post, 14 Apr 09 (Yemen Post is an English-language newspaper, located in Yemen. It has a strong degree of credibility and shows a political bias towards Islamic policy, Muslim religious affiliation, and no bias against the USG or US military. The typical audience demography consists of: middle, middle upper & upper class, government allies, businessmen and investors. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion and business. The Yemen Post reaches audiences throughout the Middle East.)

Armed tribesmen in Amran province are blocking the Sana'a-Saada road, claiming the authorities refused to release a cement truck which belongs to one of the Ghoula tribes and which was seized last week by people of another tribe in the area, the News Yemen

UNCLASSIFIED

page 150

UNCLASSIFIED

reported on Tuesday.

The website cited locals as saying the armed people have used bulldozers to block the highway with large rocks and sand. Last week, tribesmen of the Bani Suraim clan abducted a cement truck for a man of the Ghoula tribes but the reason for the abduction was not identified. Hearing the news, the Ghoula tribesmen blocked the way and retaliated seizing a truck for a person of the Bani Suraim clan. But local mediators then contained the situation and reopened the road on condition that the two trucks would be returned to the two tribes through the local authority. Later, the Ghoula tribesmen claimed their truck was not sent back after they handed over the truck they had seized to the local authority and which has been returned it to its owners at the Bani Suraim tribe. They said they wanted the local authority to implement the agreement fairly but local officials appeared careless regarding what was agreed upon. As a result, On Tuesday noon, the Ghoula tribesmen brought bulldozers and blocked the Sana'a-Saada road, savaging the authorities as looking into the people's matters with partiality. Meanwhile, the local sources said that the police director in the area has left for Mareb province along with his family in protest at the authority unfair implementation of the agreement between the two tribes whereby the authorities should have returned the two abducted trucks but not only one.

Horn of Africa Ethiopia Ethiopia May Prosecute Coffee Exporters Accused Of Hoarding

Source: Bloomberg, 14 Apr 09 (Bloomberg is an English language news and media company, located in New York City, U.S. Owned by Michael R. Bloomberg, it has a strong degree of credibility. Most reporting focuses on: business and financial news.)

Ethiopia may prosecute six of the country's largest coffee exporters after the government said they have been hoarding beans bound for export, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said.

The government shut the exporters' warehouses last month and suspended their licenses after accusing them of illegally stockpiling coffee and selling export-grade coffee on domestic markets. Some exporters were holding beans in anticipation of a currency devaluation, Eleni Gabre-Madhin, chief executive officer of the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange, said last month. "I would not be surprised if some of them were to be taken to court," Meles said in a press conference yesterday in Addis Ababa. Coffee is Ethiopia's largest export, accounting for 35 percent of the country's export earnings last year. Stockpiling by exporters has

UNCLASSIFIED

page 151

UNCLASSIFIED

"put pressure on the country's foreign currency reserves," the agriculture ministry said in a statement March 30. Ethiopia's agriculture ministry warned on March 30 that it had also taken unspecified "similar measures" against 88 other coffee exporters, of about 120 in the country involved in the business. The prime minister said the 88 exporters wouldn't face prosecution "whatever shortcomings they have had" in the past and that he expected they would learn from the crackdown on the other six exporters.

Following the seizures, state-owned Ethiopian Grain Trade Enterprise said earlier this month it would begin exporting coffee from the country, Africa's largest producer of the beans. Meles said yesterday that the state-run grain importer had entered the market because the remaining private coffee exporters might not have the capacity to export Ethiopia's coffee crop. "The preference will be to the private sector actors," he said. "There is no intention to establish a public monopoly in any of the

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agricultural markets." Ethiopia's coffee exports have declined more than 10 percent to 76,674 metric tons in the first eight months of the fiscal year that began in July, compared with the same period a year earlier, according to trade ministry statistics. The nation's coffee export income has fallen to half the government's target amid a decline in world prices and a ban on Ethiopian beans in Japan. Japan, which purchased about 20 percent of Ethiopia's coffee shipments in 2007, banned imports last year after finding elevated residues of pesticide in a shipment of the beans. Ethiopia's trade minister said the residues probably came from bagging coffee in sacks that had previously held chemicals and that the government has corrected the problem. Gabre-Madhin also said a change this year from a state-run auction system to an open-pit commodity exchange for trading beans temporarily interrupted supplies. The government devalued the birr against the dollar in January in an attempt to build foreign currency reserves. One dollar buys 11.18 birr, compared with about 9.5 a year ago.

Somalia Somali Red Crescent Compound Hit By Mortar

Synopsis: The compound housing a limb-fitting centre of the Somali Red Crescent Society was hit by a mortar on Monday afternoon, 13 April, killing one civilian and wounding five others, none of whom were staff of the Somali Red Crescent or patients. The

UNCLASSIFIED

page 152

UNCLASSIFIED

centre was clearly marked with the Red Crescent emblem. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Somali Red Crescent are deeply saddened by the incident and the bloodshed it caused, and wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the family of the person killed. "The incident illustrates once more how dangerous it is in Mogadishu and how difficult it can be to provide victims of the armed conflict with medical care and humanitarian aid," said Dr Ahmed M.Hassan, the president of the Somali Red Crescent. Although nothing suggests that the centre was deliberately targeted, the ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent remind all parties concerned of their obligation to respect and protect at all times medical staff and infrastructure such as hospitals, clinics and limb-fitting and rehabilitation centers.

Analysis/Road Ahead: This attack will not deter the Somali Red Crescent from continuing operations in Mogadishu. However, it will give President Ahmed, local clan elders and religious leaders more ammunition in their battle for domestic and international support against rival Islamist groups trying to gain control of the capital. No group has yet claimed responsibility, and they may remain silent to avoid condemnation. Given the potential domestic blowback from attacking such a long-standing and prominent Muslim charity group and probability of the attack's origins becoming known, the Islamist group responsible may issue a public apology and claim the mortar round hit the compound accidentally (a plausible excuse - ill-trained militia fire is notoriously inaccurate). While no organization can protect itself against indiscriminate mortar fire, President Ahmed may offer additional security personnel, however small in number, to the organization as a goodwill gesture to further erode support for al-Shabaab and other Islamist groups.

Sources: AlertNet, 14 Apr 09. Earlier media reporting. Cubic Somalia Country Study and Somalia Factions Primer.

Mogadishu Sees Influx Of Returnees, Taxing Humanitarian Aid

Synopsis: Some 60,000 civilians have returned to Mogadishu since the start of 2009 amid a relative lull in fighting in the Somali capital in the first three months of the year. Fresh conflict in late March between an armed opposition group and government forces displaced some 1,200 people. Most of those returning to Mogadishu this year have been coming from settlements for internally displaced people (IDPs) in the Lower and Middle Shabelle regions in south-central Somalia, and Hiraan, Galgaduud and Mudug regions in central Somalia. They are returning mainly

UNCLASSIFIED

page 153

UNCLASSIFIED

to the districts of Yaaqshiid, Wardhiigleey, Heliwaa and Hawl Wadaag in north-east Mogadishu. UNHCR has also reports of 2,200 returnees from Kenya, 300 from Yemen and 20 from Ethiopia, as well as a mixed group of some 900 refugees and forced returnees from Saudi Arabia. Nairobi-based UNHCR Representative to Somalia, Guillermo Bettocchi, who visited Mogadishu as part of an inter-agency mission, said, "The situation in Mogadishu is still very unstable and basic services are not in place yet. We are going to do our best to help the Somali people in this difficult moment." Despite the fact that returns are a positive sign and that sustainable return of refugees and IDPs is the preferred solution, UNHCR is not yet encouraging returns to Mogadishu amid the volatile security situation and lack of basic services. The returnees are facing multiple problems, including the lack of adequate shelter. Bettocchi and representatives of other humanitarian agencies met Somali officials during their mission to Mogadishu and discussed the next steps to take in support of returnees and the displaced. Despite the positive sign of returns to Mogadishu, the insecurity in some regions of the country, combined with drought and the lack of livelihoods among rural and urban people, continues to push thousands of Somalis to flee to neighboring countries.

Analysis/Road Ahead: Displaced populations probably perceive the camp situation worsening with growing local resentment against them, and they are risking returning to Mogadishu, perceived as the first place the new government will assert authority.

Humanitarian and government personnel will be taxed managing returnees' expectations, but it will be possible to recruit some returnees as local humanitarian staff, bolstering citizens' buy-in

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to government development. The bulk of returnees consist of women and children, adding to the government's humanitarian services and security challenges, particularly since insurgents will see them as softer targets that can be held as bargaining chips against the government. Moreover, securing unarmed and untrained residents will prove a challenge that may require the Sheikh Ahmed government to widen its search for urban security personnel to include less closely allied clan militia.

Sources: AlertNet, IRIN, AFP, 14 Apr 09 - C-VAC East Africa Food Shortage Primer

Somali Red Crescent Compound Hit By Mortar

Source: Reuters via AlertNet, 14 Apr 09 (Reuters is a multi

UNCLASSIFIED

page 154

UNCLASSIFIED

language news organization, located in London, England. Publicly owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, Reuters delivers news stories and news analysis to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the globe.)

The mortar killed 1 civilian and wounded 5.

The compound housing a limb-fitting centre of the Somali Red Crescent Society was hit by a mortar on Monday afternoon, 13 April, killing one civilian and wounding five others, none of whom were staff of the Somali Red Crescent or patients. The centre was clearly marked with the red crescent emblem. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Somali Red Crescent are deeply saddened by the incident and the bloodshed it caused, and wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the family of the person killed. "The incident illustrates once more how dangerous it is in Mogadishu and how difficult it can be to provide victims of the armed conflict with medical care and humanitarian aid," said Dr Ahmed M.Hassan, the president of the Somali Red Crescent.

Although nothing suggests that the centre was deliberately targeted, the ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent remind all parties concerned of their obligation to respect and protect at all times medical staff and infrastructure such as hospitals, clinics and limb-fitting and rehabilitation centres. The ICRC continues to work closely with the Somali Red Crescent and remains a key provider of emergency aid for victims of conflict and natural disasters in Somalia. It has maintained an uninterrupted presence in the country since 1982.

Somali Red Crescent Society Compound Hit By Mortar

Source: CRI English, 14 Apr 09 (TBD)

The compound housing a limb-fitting center of the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) in the capital Mogadishu was hit by a mortar on Monday afternoon, killing one civilian and wounding five others, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said.

None of the victims were staff of the SRCS or patients. The ICRC said in a statement the ICRC and SRCS are deeply saddened by the incident and the bloodshed it caused, and wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the family of the person killed. "The incident illustrates once more how dangerous it is in Mogadishu

UNCLASSIFIED

page 155

UNCLASSIFIED

and how difficult it can be to provide victims of the armed conflict with medical care and humanitarian aid," said Dr. Ahmed M. Hassan, the president of the SRCS. "Although nothing suggests that the center was deliberately targeted, the ICRC and the SRCS remind all parties concerned of their obligation to respect and protect at all times medical staff and infrastructure such as hospitals, clinics and limb-fitting and rehabilitation centers," the statement said. The ICRC continues to work closely with the SRCS and remains a key provider of emergency aid for victims of conflict and natural disasters in Somalia. It has maintained an uninterrupted presence in the country since 1982. According to the UN information, 35 aid workers were killed in Somalia in 2008 and 26 were abducted. Two workers have been killed this year. Hundreds of thousands of people are dependent on aid in the war-torn country. Close to 50 percent of the Somali population, or some 3.2 million people, are reliant on humanitarian assistance.

Some 60,000 Return To Mogadishu This Year Amid Relative Lull In Fighting

Source: Reuters via AlertNet, 14 Apr 09 (Reuters is a multi language news organization, located in London, England. Publicly owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, Reuters delivers news stories and news analysis to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the globe.)

Returnees are facing a multitude of problems.

Some 60,000 civilians have returned to Mogadishu since the start of 2009 amid a relative lull in fighting in the Somali capital in the first three months of the year. Fresh conflict in late March between an armed opposition group and government forces displaced some 1,200 people. Most of those returning to Mogadishu this year have been coming from settlements for internally displaced people.

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in the Lower and Middle Shabelle regions in south-central Somalia, and Hiraaan, Galgaduud and Mudug regions in central Somalia. They are returning mainly to the districts of Yaaqshiid, Wardhiigleey, Heliwaa and Hawl Wadaag in north-east Mogadishu. UNHCR has also reports of 2,200 returnees from Kenya, 300 from Yemen and 20 from Ethiopia, as well as a mixed group of some 900 refugees and forced returnees from Saudi Arabia. "I hope these

UNCLASSIFIED

page 156

UNCLASSIFIED

returns will be sustainable," said Nairobi-based UNHCR Representative to Somalia Guillermo Bettocchi, who visited Mogadishu last Wednesday as part of an inter-agency mission. "The situation in Mogadishu is still very unstable and basic services are not in place yet. We are going to do our best to help the Somali people in this difficult moment," he added.

Despite the fact that returns are a positive sign and that sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced people is the preferred solution, UNHCR is not yet encouraging returns to Mogadishu amid the volatile security situation and lack of basic services. The returnees are facing multiple problems, including the lack of adequate shelter. Many houses in the neighbourhoods of return were destroyed in the heavy fighting that took place in Mogadishu in the last two years. UNHCR is leading an inter-agency assessment of the situation in Mogadishu, which will guide the assistance and protection policy of the humanitarian community with regards to the returnee communities. The agency also hopes to re-establish its presence in Mogadishu as the security situation allows. All foreign humanitarian workers were evacuated in mid-2008 following killings and kidnapping of UN officials, including the abduction of the UNHCR head of office.

UNHCR's Bettocchi and representatives of other humanitarian agencies met Somali officials during their mission to Mogadishu last week and discussed the next steps to take in support of returnees and the displaced. "I am very pleased that the new government has made the support to the returnees a priority. In particular, it's very encouraging to hear that they intend to respect the right of the people to choose where to live, not forcing anybody to move against their will," Bettocchi said in Nairobi on Tuesday. Despite the positive sign of returns to Mogadishu, the insecurity in some regions of the country, combined with drought and the lack of livelihoods among rural and urban people, continues to push thousands of Somalis to flee to neighbouring countries.

More than 24,000 Somali refugees have fled to Kenya since January and some 3,000 entered Ethiopia, while another 10,000 people left their homes during the same period because of the acute drought ravaging many parts of the country. Some 8,000 of the drought-affected population were displaced in Kismayo and Badhaade districts in the Lower Juba region, while more than 2,000 have moved from rural to urban areas in Galgaduud in central Somalia. The biggest problem is the heavy loss of livestock

UNCLASSIFIED

page 157

UNCLASSIFIED

suffered by the predominantly pastoralist communities in the worst drought in 30 years. UNHCR assists more than 460,000 Somali refugees in nearby countries, including Kenya (277,000), Yemen (126,000), Ethiopia (36,000), Djibouti (8,000), and Uganda (7,000). It also coordinates protection and shelter activities for the 1.3 million internally displaced in Somalia.

Second Thoughts About Returning To Mogadishu

Source: IRIN, 14 Apr 09 (Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN) is a multi language news agency run by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs OCHA. With a general degree of credibility, the typical audience demography consists of: the humanitarian aid community and others who are seeking information on complex emergencies. Most reporting focuses on: news relevant to those responding to and affected by complex emergencies, such as conflict-induced forced migration, and natural disasters. IRIN reaches audiences world-wide.)

Returning IDPs are facing healthcare and livelihood challenges. Mother-of-five Fadumo Hussein wishes she was still living at a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) instead of in the makeshift dwelling in Mogadishu she returned to three months ago. "At least at the camp we had health care; here we are cut off... We have had no help, except from the MCH Mother-Child Health clinic where we get some medicines," she said. Hussein returned home after Ethiopian troops, which had been supporting the forces of the Transitional Federal Government, left the country. She found her home destroyed and now lives in a hut on her compound. Many Mogadishu residents like Hussein recently returned from IDP camps, but are facing healthcare and livelihood challenges. Only mothers and children benefit from the services of local MCH clinics, which are supported by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Zahara Abdullahi, who runs the MCH in Yaqshiid District near Hussein's home, said the facility, which provides health support for the community, had been overwhelmed by the number of people seeking help. Because of the improving security situation in the area, she said, "we are seeing a lot more traffic." Yaqshiid District, north of the city, was one of the worst affected by the violence. "We are seeing a lot more cases of malnutrition," Abdullahi said. "We provide the medicines we have, but we cannot give the food they need." Abdullahi said a number of families had returned to IDP camps because "they think they get better help there." Hibo Mohamed would like to return to an IDP camp but cannot afford the fare.

UNCLASSIFIED

page 158

UNCLASSIFIED

"We were better off in the camp than here; the only assistance
/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 10 *****/

here is from the MHC and they don't have food." A civil society source in Mogadishu, who requested anonymity, told IRIN many returnees were finding "their homes no longer existed and were having to start from scratch". According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), some 60,000 people have returned to Mogadishu since the start of 2009. Most are returning from IDP settlements in the Lower and Middle Shabelle regions in south-central Somalia, and Hiraan, Galgaduud and Mudug regions in central Somalia, said a UNHCR briefing note on 14 April. The returnees were heading mainly to the districts of Yaaqshiid, Wardhiigleey, Heliwaa and Hawl Wadaag in Mogadishu. Roberta Russo, associate public information officer for UNHCR Somalia, recently told IRIN the humanitarian community was "seriously concerned about the spontaneous returns to Mogadishu as the security situation is still volatile and basic services to help the returnees are not in place." Meanwhile, the violence continues: Dozens were injured or killed on 13 April after shelling in parts of south Mogadishu.

Displaced Somalis Return To Mogadishu From Local Regions, Other Countries

Source: AFP, 14 Apr 09 (Agence France-Presse is an English, French, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic language news agency. AFP has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards, the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis. AFP reaches audiences in thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets.)

Some 60,000 Somalis uprooted by violence in Mogadishu have returned to the city from the country's southern and central regions since January due to a relative lull in clashes, the UN said Tuesday.

More than 3,000 others have also returned from neighbouring Kenya and Ethiopia as well as from Yemen and Saudi Arabia, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in a statement. "Despite the fact that returns are a positive sign... UNHCR is not encouraging returns to Mogadishu because of the volatile security situation and lack of basic services," it said. However, over the same period, nearly 30,000 Somalis fled to Kenya and Ethiopia due to a searing drought that has also displaced some 10,000 within the country. Mogadishu has suffered some of the worst violence in

UNCLASSIFIED

page 159

UNCLASSIFIED

the past two years between then Ethiopia-backed Somali government troops and insurgents, who continue to stage attacks even after Ethiopia's January withdrawal. The UNHCR, which pulled out of Somalia last year, also said it would re-open offices in Mogadishu "as soon as possible" depending on security conditions.

Somaliland Angrily Accuses Eritrea Of Interference

Source: Garowe Online, 14 Apr 09 (Garowe Online is an English and Somali language online publication of Radio Garowe, a community FM radio station located in Garowe, Puntland. Most reporting focuses on: Somalia relevant news. Garowe Online reaches audiences in Somalia.)

Authorities in Somalia's breakaway republic of Somaliland responded heatedly Tuesday to a statement issued by the Eritrean Foreign Ministry, Radio Garowe reports.

Mr. Abdullahi Mohamed Du'ale, the Somaliland foreign minister, issued a strongly-worded press statement endorsing Somaliland's separatist agenda and criticizing Eritrea's role in the world, and particularly in the Horn of Africa region. "Eritrea is seen as an isolated administration most of the time and Asmara is famous for interfering in other countries' affairs, like Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen and most recently Djibouti," the press statement read from the Somaliland government. Further, the press release claimed that Somaliland police "captured many suspects trained in Eritrea to bring trouble to peace and security in the Horn of Africa region." Somaliland, located in northwestern Somalia, unilaterally declared independence from the rest of the country 1991 but has not been recognized internationally.

Clan Elders Say They Were 'Threatened By Al Shabaab'

Source: Garowe Online, 14 Apr 09 (Garowe Online is an English and Somali language online publication of Radio Garowe, a community FM radio station located in Garowe, Puntland. Most reporting focuses on: Somalia relevant news. Garowe Online reaches audiences in Somalia.)

Clan elders in Somalia's capital Mogadishu say they have been threatened by anti-government Islamist hardliners, Radio Garowe reports.

Ahmed Dirie, spokesman for the Hawiye Tradition and Unity Council, a self-appointed clan association, told reporters Tuesday that Al Shabaab militants issued the death threats to the clan group's leadership. "Most of the threats are directed at Hawiye Council Chairman Mohamed Hassan Haad and I believe they Al Shabaab are against peace and reconciliation efforts," Mr. Dirie claimed. The

UNCLASSIFIED

page 160

UNCLASSIFIED

Hawiye Council, which claims to represent Mogadishu's dominant Hawiye clan-family, issued a press statement calling for a ceasefire. "It is unacceptable to us for fighting to continue in Mogadishu while other regions are peaceful," said Mr. Haad, the Hawiye Council chairman, while speaking on local radio last week. Mr. Haad has refused to speak out publicly against Al Shabaab, although Mr. Dirie boldly maintained that the clan association "will continue peace efforts, even if we are killed." Both Mr.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 11 *****/

Haad and Mr. Dirie were outspoken supporters of Al Shabaab and other insurgent groups in 2007 and early 2008, as battles raged against Ethiopian troops, but the clan elders changed rhetoric as ex-Islamic Courts chief and Hawiye clansman Sheikh Sharif Ahmed became President of Somalia. Sheikh Hussein Ali Fidow, a senior member of Al Shabaab, recently told reporters that the guerrilla group is behind mortar attacks against African Union peacekeepers (AMISOM) based at the airport and the main port in Mogadishu. More than 10 people were killed in battles between AMISOM and insurgents last week, angering local clans who suspect Al Shabaab fighters are composed of multiple clans that come from all regions in Somalia. President Sheikh Sharif's interim government is the 15th attempt to restore national order since the eruption of the Somali civil war in 1991.

Al-Qaeda Responsible For US Congressman Bomb Attack?
Source: Afrik, 14 Apr 09 (Afrik.com is an English and French language independent news website, located in Paris, France. Afrik.com's estimated circulation reach is one million visitors/month.)

Al-Shabab claimed the attack on Payne.

Sheikh Husein Ali Fidow, a spokesman for the group was quoted as saying: "We carried out mortar attacks against the enemy of Allah who arrived to spread democracy in Somalia. This government is welcoming America, which is our prime enemy and we will never stop attacking them." The radical Islamist guerrillas have sworn to topple the fragile transitional government in Somalia and oppose American democracy and influence in the country. Somalia has not had a functioning national government since warlords overthrew President Siad Barre in 1991 before turning on each other for more power. As the plane carrying Mr Payne was about to take off, the insurgents began to fire mortars towards his plane but Airport officials confirmed that none of the Mortars hit the plane.

UNCLASSIFIED

page 161

UNCLASSIFIED

Mr Payne had just met with interim President Mr. Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, among other Somali officials in the capital, Mogadishu. "We realize that the government cannot do things overnight. It's going to take patience and time for the government to be able to start to provide services to its people. But the government will have a responsibility of proving that it's in the process of benefiting people," Mr. Payne was quoted as saying to the Somali government before his departure. Hot on the discussion board before his departure was Sunday's hostage drama in the Indian Ocean, which saw US naval forces shot dead three Somali pirates who had been holding an American ship captain for five days. Peace and reconciliation in Somalia and possible co-operation between Washington and Mogadishu was also discussed. US foreign policy on Somalia has been overshadowed by the killing of 18 US soldiers in Mogadishu in 1993, but the Obama administration is reported to be ready to work with and assist the Horn of Africa nation. "We discussed the progress the Somali government has made so far and the need for co-operation between the two countries. Our meeting ended in mutual understanding," said Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, Prime Minister of Somalia.

Sudan US Embassy Says Obama May Visit Sudan During African Tour
Source: Sudan Tribune, 14 Apr 09 (Sudan Tribune is an English language non-profit news aggregator. Located in France, it has a general degree of credibility. Most reporting focuses on: Sudan relevant news, opinions, press releases and studies from various news agencies, news outlets, academic organizations, and "think tanks". Sudan Tribune reaches audiences in Sudan 33(-PERCENT-) and Kenya 13(-PERCENT-).)

The US Embassy in Khartoum said that President Barack Obama may stop in Sudan during his Africa tour later this year.

The spokesperson of the US embassy John Walter speaking to the UN sponsored Miraya FM radio in Sudan said that they have not yet been informed about President Obama's visit but that it might include Sudan. The surprise announcement comes as the Obama's special envoy to Sudan Scott Gration left the East African country on a positive note saying that he will convey "a new image of a great country". Sudanese officials said that Gration promised to come with a new proposal for resolving the Darfur crisis within the next few months that could also pave the way for normalizing bilateral relations. The US special envoy's main task was to convince Khartoum to reverse its decision to expel more

UNCLASSIFIED

page 162

UNCLASSIFIED

than a dozen aid groups from Darfur accusing them of collaborating with the International Criminal Court (ICC). Last month the ICC issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir in connection with war crimes committed in Darfur. Sudanese officials have said that the decision is irreversible and that they will be able to cover the gap in humanitarian work. However UN officials said that this is not possible. Speaking at the opening of the eighth session of the legislative assembly Bashir said he welcomed "positive signs" sent by Obama towards the Islamic world. "We, our brothers and sisters, are seekers of peace and stability and we do not want our country to live under the shadows of swords and tension" he said. "Our hands remain held out to those who call for peace and justice in accordance with the standards of fairness and dignity" Bashir added.

It is likely that any move by the Obama administration towards

***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 12 *****

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normalizing ties with Khartoum will bring disappointment and fierce criticisms from advocacy groups creating a public relations nightmare in Washington. Gration during his recent meetings with Sudanese officials emphasized US friendship with the Sudan government and appeared to have backed down from the earlier position on the aid groups expulsion and instead proposing an alternative humanitarian plan. Obama's team is comprised of several key figures considered to be hawks in their views on dealing with Khartoum. The US Vice President Joe Biden has publicly called for military intervention in Darfur as did the US ambassador at the UN Sudan Rice. The US Democratic Senator John Kerry, a former presidential candidate and the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will also visit Darfur this week as part of a congressional delegation. The United States imposed economic sanctions on Sudan in 1997 and designated it a "state sponsor of terrorism" Khartoum has been pushing for full normalization of relations with Washington and an end to more than a decade of U.S. sanctions. But despite helping broker the North-South peace agreement in Sudan, the Darfur conflict further worsened relations between the two countries. Washington labeled the Darfur conflict 'genocide'.

Sudan Hopeful For Release Of Canadian, French Hostages

Source: Sudan Tribune, 14 Apr 09 (Sudan Tribune is an English language non-profit news aggregator. Located in France, it has a general degree of credibility. Most reporting focuses on: Sudan

UNCLASSIFIED

page 163

UNCLASSIFIED

relevant news, opinions, press releases and studies from various news agencies, news outlets, academic organizations, and "think tanks". Sudan Tribune reaches audiences in Sudan 33(-PERCENT-) and Kenya 13(-PERCENT-).)

The Sudanese Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahmoud today announced that the government expects the release of two abducted aid workers in the near future.

Armed men had kidnapped a pair of women from their office in southern Darfur on the night of April 4. The minister told SMC, a news service close to the security and intelligence service, that the security committee in South Darfur state had made good efforts to secure the release of the Canadian and French workers.

He expected these efforts would lead to their release in the near future. Aide m(-VERTICAL-BAR-)dicale internationale (AMI), the employer of the abducted workers, is reportedly playing a direct role in the negotiations. According to the Montreal Gazette, the Canadian government is in touch with the French aid agency and is trying to help secure the release of the Canadian hostage, a Canadian Foreign Affairs Department official said Monday.

But Foreign Affairs spokeswoman Lisa Monette declined to release any information about Canadian Stephanie Jodoin, fearing for her safety. Jodoin told Agence France-Presse by phone on Sunday that she and fellow hostage Claire Dubois are being treated well, but they don't know where they are being held. Different sources report conflictingly that the kidnappers are either former janjaweed of the Abbala tribe, Fellata tribesmen or also a group calling itself "Falcons for the Liberation of Africa." The identity and affiliations of the kidnappers were further obscured when they demanded that the French organization Zoe's Ark face a re-trial in Chad, where six Zoe's Ark employees had been convicted but then pardoned on March 31, 2008 by Chadian President Idriss Deby. The kidnappers have been in contact with a number of international news organizations. These captives are the latest victims of a new, more intense round of violence against aid workers in Darfur. Four employees of Doctors Without Borders (MSF), three of them foreigners, were kidnapped March 11 at gunpoint by uniformed border guards, according to an eyewitness who spoke with Radio Dabanga. An employcc of a Canadian-headquartered aid group was shot dead March 23 when gunmen entered his living quarters, only days after being beaten in a road-side ambush. AMI itself lost two Sudanese colleagues in February, gunned down by men on horseback; others were wounded.

UNCLASSIFIED

page 164

UNCLASSIFIED

During the past three years (from 2006 through 2008), more incidents of major violence against aid workers occurred in Sudan than in any other country in the world, according to a report released Wednesday by the London-based Overseas Development Institute.

Nine Executed For Sudan Beheading

Source: BBC, 14 Apr 09 (British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is an English language state-owned public broadcaster, located in the United Kingdom. Owned by the State, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion, analysis. BBC's estimated circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences world-wide.)

Taha was a controversial newspaper editor.

Nine men from Darfur have been executed for the beheading of a Sudanese newspaper editor in 2006. They were hanged in a prison in the capital, Khartoum, in front of the relatives of the editor, Mohammed Taha. It was initially thought that Mr Taha had been killed by Islamists but a defence lawyer said an article in his newspaper had angered Darfur groups. His decapitated body was found on a dirt road a day after he had been abducted from his home in Khartoum. Human rights group Amnesty International has condemned the men's conviction, saying it was based on confessions obtained by torture. Groups of women were wailing

/****** BEGINNING OF SECTION 13 *****

outside the jail after the executions, reports the Reuters news agency.

Ten people were initially convicted of the murder but one was later acquitted. A defence lawyer said an article in Mr Taha's al-Wifaq newspaper had angered members of the Darfur community by downplaying the scale of rape in the Darfur conflict and insulting women from the region. Despite being an Islamist himself, Mr Taha had sparked angry demonstrations when in 2005 he reprinted an article questioning the roots of the Prophet Muhammad. He was put on trial for blasphemy but the charges were later dropped. Mr Taha had been the target of an assassination attempt five years previously after writing an article which criticised the ruling National Congress Party. Despite his controversial past, thousands of weeping mourners attended Mr Taha's funeral in September 2006.

ICC Judges May Soon Rule On Darfur Rebel Case: Prosecution

UNCLASSIFIED

page 165

UNCLASSIFIED

Source: Sudan Tribune, 14 Apr 09 (Sudan Tribune is an English language non-profit news aggregator. Located in France, it has a general degree of credibility. Most reporting focuses on: Sudan relevant news, opinions, press releases and studies from various news agencies, news outlets, academic organizations, and "think tanks". Sudan Tribune reaches audiences in Sudan 33(-PERCENT-) and Kenya 13(-PERCENT-).)

The prosecutors at the International Criminal Court (ICC) say that they expect a ruling on the case against Darfur rebels in April. International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo speaks beside assistant prosecutor Fatou Bensouda (R) during a news conference in the Hague July 14, 2008 The deputy ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda speaking at the diplomatic hearing last week said in The Hague said that her office hopes "to have a decision from the Judges this month". Bensouda said that given the public stances by the Darfur rebels in which they committed to cooperating with the ICC "judicial proceedings could start soon". The ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo's third case on Darfur, opened in late 2007, investigates an alleged rebel attack on the Haskanita military base that left 10 African Union (AU) soldiers dead and one missing. The counts against the rebel leaders in the case filed under seal included war crimes of violence to life, intentionally directing attacks against personnel, installations, material, units or vehicles involved in a peacekeeping mission and pillaging. Attacking peacekeepers constitutes a war crime under the Rome Statute which forms the basis of the ICC.

Over the last few months Ocampo has desperately sought a quick decision on the case before the Pre-Trial Chamber I which is handling the case, is reconstituted. However the Chamber rejected his requests and they further refused to allow him to notify the suspects about the case against them. The deputy prosecutor speaking about the arrest warrant issued last month against Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir said that "Sudan is obliged under international law to execute the warrant on its territory". "If it does not enforce the warrant, the United Nations Security Council, which referred the case to the ICC, will need to ensure compliance" she added. Bensouda said that Bashir's decision to expel more than a dozen aid agencies from Darfur after the warrant "is another step in the commission of the crime of extermination". She also called on State Parties to sever "non-essential" contacts with the Sudanese head of state. Bashir has travelled to a number of countries in the region since

UNCLASSIFIED

page 166

UNCLASSIFIED

the arrest including Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Eritrea.

None of these states have ratified the Rome Statute which forms the basis of the ICC. However Djibouti which is a state party announced that it has invited Bashir to visit and declared that it will not honor its obligations under the statute in this regard. The Gambian prosecutor criticized arguments made by African states that the court is targeting only African nations in its investigations. The African Union (AU) strongly criticized the ICC move accusing The Hague based court of being biased towards Africans and said that the arrest warrant approved in March, threatens peace prospects in Darfur. "As a Deputy Prosecutor, and as an African woman, I am dismayed by suggestions that this Court is targeting Africans. This Court has indicted the President of the Sudan because he pursues the extermination of 2.5 million Africans" she said. "They Khartoum have done nothing. Worse, they have condoned the rape of women and girls for five years, African women, African girls. This Court is defending African victims and will continue to do so" Bensouda added. The deputy prosecutor said that they are working with an African Union (AU) panel headed by former South African leader Thabo Mbeki that is looking into accountability mechanisms in Darfur and reconciling it with peace efforts in the war ravaged region.

"We explained to him that the ICC has conducted investigations against six individuals, including the three rebel commanders. There are no sealed arrest warrants and the Court is not conducting new investigations" she said. "President Mbeki has the huge task of moving the process of accountability ahead for all the other individuals involved in the commission of crimes. We are committed to working with him" the ICC official added. Some observers have expressed skepticism about the role of the panel saying its goal is to save Bashir from ICC prosecution. This month the Sudanese head of state praised the work of the eight

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member panel last week. "We thank the AU and the former presidents headed by Mbeki who came here ... But we don't want those Khawajas Westerners" Bashir told a crowd in Darfur. Sudan has refused to recognize jurisdiction of the ICC which was empowered to investigate the Darfur through a UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution in March 2005. Two other arrest warrants remain outstanding for a Sudanese minister and a militia leader. Sudan

UNCLASSIFIED

page 167

UNCLASSIFIED

refused to hand the two men over.

Census Shows South Sudan Population At 8.2 Million; Report Source: Sudan Tribune, 14 Apr 09 (Sudan Tribune is an English language non-profit news aggregator. Located in France, it has a general degree of credibility. Most reporting focuses on: Sudan relevant news, opinions, press releases and studies from various news agencies, news outlets, academic organizations, and "think tanks". Sudan Tribune reaches audiences in Sudan 33(-PERCENT-) and Kenya 13(-PERCENT-).)

The results of the fifth census conducted last year will show that Southern Sudan account for 20(-PERCENT-) of the population, a newspaper reported today.

The Al-Sahafa independent newspaper quoting "reliable sources" said that the population of Khartoum topped 5 million; Darfur 7.5 million; South Sudan 8.2 million. Furthermore, the number of displaced Southerners in North Sudan has been reported as 500,000. The sources said that the South expressed reservation over the results noting that the dispute "may be resolved politically". Last week Sudanese census officials expressed satisfaction that the process conducted conforms to the international standards in terms of coverage and impartiality.

The census monitoring and follow up committee chairman Dr. Abdel-Bagi Al-Gailani said that monitors from over 20 countries observed the process and vouched for its integrity.

The South Sudan officials have warned that they will not accept results reflecting its populations as being less than the third of the country. The fifth Sudan Population and Housing Census, a milestone in the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was conducted from 22nd to 30th April 2008. It was the first all inclusive census for people of southern Sudan since the country's independence in January 1956. This week the SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum disclosed that "discrepancies" are behind the delay in releasing the census outcome. Amum said that "the results may be questionable and we do not know whether it would be valid ground for the upcoming general elections".

"Probably without the census results we could rely on former statistics such as the 1956 census" he added. The census will help decide how wealth and power are ought to be shared in Sudan. The north-south border crosses oilfields producing some 500,000 barrels per day of crude. But the census committee said today that there were no issues faced in the South and that no objections were raised.

UNCLASSIFIED

page 168

UNCLASSIFIED

East Africa Kenya-Uganda Row Over Migingo Island Continues

Synopsis: Uganda has dismissed claims from Kenya that it has deployed army troops on the disputed Migingo Island in Lake Victoria. Local Kenyan told their media a Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) brigadier Echoti was commander of Uganda army troops on the island. Kenya media also quoted Echoti as saying he had taken charge of the island, and that his troops had replaced the police there. Moreover, Kenya sources report his troops are arresting Kenyan fisherman on the lake and around the island, despite a pledge by President Mwai Kibaki and his Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni that they will settle the matter. However, Ugandan Army spokesperson Maj. Felix Kulayigye, told AP, "We do not have Brigadier Echoti in the UPDF. ... The island is too tiny for a military occupation." Meanwhile, Nairobi has announced it will other member states of the East African Community (EAC) to negotiations intended to resolve the ownership dispute. Relations between the two countries deteriorated over ownership of the one-acre island in November 2008. To avert a possible crisis, the two governments last month set up a joint border committee to verify where the contentious island lies. EAC Minister Amason Kingi told reporters on Tuesday that the row between Kenya and Uganda over the island is no longer a bilateral issue, and as such there is need to involve Rwanda, Tanzania and Burundi. "I think it should be resolved within the provisions of the Treaty (EAC Treaty) that whenever there is a problem or when there's a dispute between member states, then a peaceful resolution ought to be looked for. I believe that is what is happening now," he said. Mr Kingi however said it was unfortunate that Uganda had sent its security forces to Migingo, as the EAC Treaty does not provides for the militarization of the region's shared resources. He said Kenya was aware that boundaries would not matter once the EAC political federation is achieved and that is it was pushing to have the row determined amicably.

Analysis/Road Ahead: Although Uganda may have deployed a military unit to the island, Brigadier Echoti is more likely to be a present or former soldier who has gathered some associates around him and is exploiting the dispute to extort "Uganda taxes" from local residents and fishermen. In either case, he must be confident of political support from nearby Uganda officials, if not Kampala itself. Given its other security problems, Kenya will not act militarily to force the issue but will rely on political pressure from Uganda's other neighbors since the

UNCLASSIFIED

page 169

UNCLASSIFIED

unchallenged seizure of one island on the lake sets a precedent that can affect the other countries' claims in the Great Lakes

***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 15 *****

region. However, at some point in the next 2-3 weeks, Kenya will send a government investigation team, probably accompanied by an EAC official, to Migingo Island to determine the island's status definitively.

Sources: BBC, Capital News, Daily News, 14 Apr 09. Earlier media reporting. Cubic's Kenya and Uganda Country Studies.

Kenya And Uganda Security Chiefs To Meet Over Migingo Dispute
Source: The Standard, 14 Apr 09 (The Standard is an English language daily newspaper, located in Nairobi, Kenya. Owned by the Standard Group, it has a general degree of credibility but shows a political bias against Kenyan President Kibaki's government. The Standard's estimated circulation/audience reach is 54,000 reaching audiences across Kenya.)

Top security chiefs of Kenya and Uganda meet this week to resolve the Migingo Island ownership dispute.

Foreign Affairs Minister Moses Wetang'ula said Police Commissioner Hussein Ali and his Ugandan counterpart would meet as a follow-up of last week's meeting between President Kibaki and Uganda's Yoweri Museveni in Lusaka, Zambia. The two are expected to come up with plans to ensure safety of their citizens on the island.

During the Lusaka meeting, the two leaders agreed that Uganda should withdraw its security forces from the island to allow fishermen operate freely and without harassment. Uganda was also to lower its flag that flies over the island. But fresh reports indicate that Uganda has deployed soldiers on the island under the command of a brigadier, and its flag continues to fly over the island. Consequently, Kenyan fishermen claim that they continue to suffer harassment. However, Mr Wetang'ula said the Government is not aware of the developments but promised to make a statement once he "verifies the reports". "I have read this in the Press. I have to check, verify and confirm before I comment," he said in his office in Nairobi. He denied claims the Government is hesitant to resolve the issue, saying a ministerial delegation that visited the Island on March 13 agreed with their Ugandan counterparts to demarcate boundaries within 60 days. Meanwhile, a senior Ugandan military officer has been deployed to Migingo Island. The officer, a brigadier, whose name was only given as Echoti, arrived on the disputed island on Friday, and immediately held a meeting with fishermen, informing them that he was now in

UNCLASSIFIED

page 170

UNCLASSIFIED

charge. "He (Echoti) said any inquiries over activities on the island should be channeled through him," said Mr Juma Mbori, chairman of Migingo Beach Management Unit. Contacted over the new development, Migori DC Julius Mutula skirted around the issue and instead said Kenya will send police to patrol beaches around the island.

Kenya Seeks EAC Assistance Over Migingo

Source: Capital News, 14 Apr 09 (TBD)

The government has said it will invite other member states of the East African Community (EAC) to the negotiating table, to resolve the ownership dispute over Migingo Island.

EAC Minister Amason Kingi told reporters on Tuesday that the row between Kenya and Uganda over the island is no longer a bilateral issue, and as such there is need to involve Rwanda, Tanzania and Burundi. "I think it should be resolved within the provisions of the Treaty (EAC Treaty) that whenever there is a problem or when there's a dispute between member states, then a peaceful resolution ought to be looked for. I believe that is what is happening now," he said. Since late last year, Kenya and Uganda have been claiming ownership over the one-acre island in Lake Victoria, which has historically been part of Kenya's territory. Uganda has already deployed its military forces and is said to be arresting Kenyan fishermen, despite a pledge by President Mwai Kibaki and his Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni that they will settle the matter. Mr Kingi however said it was unfortunate that Uganda had sent its security forces to Migingo, as the EAC Treaty does not provide for the militarization of the region's shared resources. He said Kenya was aware that boundaries would not matter once the EAC political federation is achieved and that is it was pushing to have the row determined amicably. "We are journeying towards a federation and most of the things that we are fighting for, the boundaries that we are clinging on, are things that will be brought down," Mr Kingi stressed, adding that the issue should not cause a major rift between the two nations. Mr Kingi's sentiments echoed those of his Permanent Secretary David Nalo, who last month expressed confidence that the various issues that are cropping up within the Community would not affect the region's integration process. Mr Nalo told Capital Business that the disagreements on issues such as the ownership of Migingo Island and land ownership, were mere perceptions and not deep rifts among the member states. He reckoned that the exposure the region was now getting had enriched the integration and enabled

UNCLASSIFIED

page 171

UNCLASSIFIED

the teams involved to genuinely address concerns raised by member states. However, it remains to be seen what direction the Island dispute will take and how the partners will react.

Kenyan Borders Under Siege

Source: The Standard, 14 Apr 09 (The Standard is an English language daily newspaper, located in Nairobi, Kenya. Owned by the Standard Group, it has a general degree of credibility but shows a political bias against Kenyan President Kibaki's government.

The Standard's estimated circulation/audience reach is 54,000

***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 16 *****

CITE OSC RESTON VA 701608

reaching audiences across Kenya.)

The Kenya-Uganda border is vague and subject to interpretation. A Ugandan government officer in the rank equal to a Kenyan DC camped at Migingo Island to collect taxes accrued from the abundant fish sales on the island. She made it clear that the fish belonged to Uganda and those who didn't like the new arrangement should leave. To make the whole saga harrowing, the Ugandans treated the Kenyan team contemptuously when they recently visited Kampala for talks on the island. According to Nyatike MP Hedic Omondi Anyanya who was born near the island 45 years ago, survey maps and other internationally accepted geographical data show that the island is in his constituency. But the Migingo Island saga is just a speck in a sea of Kenya's border woes. From huge chunks of seas to towering mountains and sprawling plains, Kenya's territory has been subject to hanky panky manoeuvres from her neighbours over the years. But the most worrying is the inaction, lethargy and casual manner in which the Government treats border security and integrity.

In 1998, the then Kabete MP Paul Muite raised a query in Parliament regarding the Elemi Triangle at the boundary between Kenya and Sudan. While the Oxford Learner's Atlas showed that the land belonged to Sudan in the 1980s and earlier, subsequent drawings show the land is in Kenya. Defence Minister Yusuf Haji says he doesn't want to comment on the Elemi Triangle at a time the Government is embroiled in a comic tussle with Uganda over Migingo Island. He denies that Kenya's territorial integrity has ever been under threat. In January 2005, the then Lands Minister Amos Kimunya told Parliament that the Elemi Triangle is in Kenya. Other border areas have not been secure either. Francis Chachu, the MP for North Horr, says his constituents suffer most as a result of Kenya's pedestrian treatment to her territorial rights.

UNCLASSIFIED

page 172

UNCLASSIFIED

He says the Turbi massacre three years ago was not a local conflict. The largest constituency in the country shares an expansive boundary with Ethiopia.

"In 2006, Ethiopia militias crossed into Kenya and slaughtered people across five sub-locations in the constituency. The villagers have not returned home because their territorial rights and security as Kenyan citizens living in Kenya are not guaranteed," Chachu explains. He adds: "Examples are those who lived in Balesaru sub-location in North Horr. They all moved down to Dukana town where there is a GSU camp." Despite having the longest boundary with Ethiopia, there is no army camp in North Horr. While it may not be cost effective to put army officers in every sub-location along the border, Chachu says the number of regular police, Administration Police and the General Service Unit officers should be beefed up. As things stand today, Ethiopians are free to move in and occupy the villages where Kenyans fled in 2006.

Ali Mahmoud, the assistant minister for Special Programmes and the MP for Moyale, blames border conflict to Ethiopian Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) militias and some Ethiopian authorities. He says Ethiopian government often accuses Kenyans of harbouring the rebels. In turn, the OLF accuse Kenyans of betraying them to the Ethiopian government. He continues: "As a result, Kenyans often find themselves between the sea and the rock. Although there is a military camp at Odha, the area is so vast that and the soldiers cannot cover the whole region. We have never had any legal territorial disputes with Ethiopia because there are large beacons everywhere along the boundary but our border is infringed all the time with everyone's knowledge."

The legislator says the Ethiopians love playing roughshod over Kenya's territory mainly because the area has poor communication and transport infrastructure. "For instance, the road from Marsabit to Moyale was last gravelled in the 1970s. The tarmacking that has been the subject of much hype is earmarked to cover only 130 kilometres from Isiolo to Mirire River. There will remain a deficit of over 400 kilometres, which the Government says will be done when another development partner is identified. But while we don't expect the road to be completed immediately, some commitment can be made to have it done in phases," he says. The Ethiopian side has good infrastructure.

Undoubtedly, poor infrastructure is the bane of all insecurity problems in northern Kenya. As if that is not enough, the

UNCLASSIFIED

page 173

UNCLASSIFIED

provincial administrators in the area are poorly equipped. Mahmoud alleges that the Moyale DC has not had a vehicle for the last one-year. The four DOs have never had a vehicle since they were deployed. But while some border troubles take the shade of neglect, others are coloured by lack of information and propaganda from the neighbours. For instance, the Turkana and the Pokot of Kenya and their Karamajong cousins of Uganda have for long engaged in cross-border raids and counter accusations. Indeed, barely a month passes without the Ugandan media reporting that the Pokot or the Turkana have attacked their counterparts across the border. Turkana Central MP Ekwe Ethuro, however, vehemently denies that the Kenyans ever attack Ugandans. Unlike the Kenya-Ethiopia border, where the boundary is well demarcated and beacons erected, the Kenya-Uganda border is vague and sometimes subject to new interpretations. There are families along the boundary that have taken citizenship in both countries. However, the Migingo saga has proved that East Africa Community (EAC) is weak and unity far from being achieved as the two

***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 17 *****

CITE OSC RESTON VA 701608

countries wrangle over territorial integrity. When the British colonial government left, some areas belonging to Kenya were never properly secured to the rightful owners. A senior officer in the Office of the President who was a DO in the 1970s gives an example of West Pokot District which was administered from Uganda until 1971. This is collaborated by the Kapenguria MP Rev Julius Murgor. Murgor further says that the Ugandan side of the boundary is heavily guarded while Kenyan side is not. The Ugandans have an army unit every five kilometres while Kenya has only a few administration police officers. However, there is an army base at Kacheliba. Kenya has only six APs at Katikor and three officers at Kanyerus boundary. This tips the balance against Kenyans whenever territorial conflicts and security concerns arise. On the eastern front, more territorial woes confront the country. The Kenya-Somalia border has been the perennial candidate of border instability since independence. From pirates dashing across Kenya's territorial waters in the Indian Ocean to porous swathes in the north, North Eastern Province has gained the prominence of a peculiar case study in security nightmare. But Abdulrahman Hassan, MP for Wajir South, says that the matter has been blown out of proportion. He explains: "The data in UN reports and other archives about North Eastern Province is not

UNCLASSIFIED

page 174

UNCLASSIFIED

factual. NGOs compile reports without consulting the local leaders or even the provincial administrators who may have first-hand information and experiences. Of course, there are problems mainly because Kenya is educating and assimilating Somalis from Somalia and this could cause problems in the future. But we feel many things are exaggerated." Abdulrahman says that there has not been a single excursion from Somalia since 1994 when the Wajir Peace and Development Committee was formed. Mandera Central MP Mohammed Abdikadir agrees: "Two Italian nuns were abducted at Elwak, which is at the Kenya-Somalia border but were later handed over to the authorities."

The Mandera Central MP, whose constituency borders both Somalia and Ethiopia, says that Kenya's boundary with Ethiopia is buffed up by a river over a long stretch. This makes it a very visible boundary. Although this was a problem area for decades, the presence of the military since last year has occasioned a return to normalcy. Kenya military spokesperson Bogita Ongeru, however, says that Kenya's borders with other countries are better stationed than ever before. He downplays minor skirmishes that often occur at the boundary, explaining that these cannot compromise our territorial integrity. The absence of a functioning government in Somalia is a source of apprehension along the boundary at all times. Further south where Kenya borders Somalia in the Indian Ocean at Kiunga, the emergence of **Somalia pirates** has just added a new territorial problem to the many that plague the country from every direction.

Officers Left Homeless After Houses Burn

Source: The Standard, 14 Apr 09 (The Standard is an English language daily newspaper, located in Nairobi, Kenya. Owned by the Standard Group, it has a general degree of credibility but shows a political bias against Kenyan President Kibaki's government. The Standard's estimated circulation/audience reach is 54,000 reaching audiences across Kenya.)

More than 50 police officers were left homeless after a fire gutted down their houses.

The officers, most of the APs, were on duty when their houses in Nairobi's Kariokor area caught fire. Witnesses said the fire broke out from one of the houses before spreading to others over the weekend. Police suspected an electric fault as the cause of the fire. Most of the affected houses affected may have been old and dilapidated but they were the only accommodation the officers knew. Yesterday, Central deputy OCPD Richard Muguai said the fire

UNCLASSIFIED

page 175

UNCLASSIFIED

had affected the morale of the officers. Elsewhere, there was panic at the Total Petrol Station near Department of Defence Headquarters, when a fire burnt down the members club. The fire gutted down the kitchen and nearby rooms before it was contained, yesterday morning.

No one was injured in the 9am incident and firefighters from the City Council arrived in time. Kilimani OCPD Fransio Nyamatari said they had not established the cause of the fire but they were investigating. He said fire started from the kitchen before spreading to other structures. The petrol station is located a few meters and there was anxiety among workers as the firemen fought the fire. Elsewhere, robbers stabbed a man to death in Eastleigh Estate. The man was walking home with his girlfriend when they were attacked. Kasarani OCPD Jasper Ombati said the man died on the spot, adding no arrest has been. Separately, police are questioning two people in connection with the killing of a magistrate whose body was found dumped outside a bar a week ago. Sources said more arrests would be made this week as investigation into the murder of Rogers Fundi continues. Fundi's body was found outside a bar in Embakasi area, a day after he failed to return home. Separately, nine burglars were arrested stealing second-hand clothes from a warehouse in Industrial Area, Nairobi. The gang had driven into the compound and broken doors when police struck on Sunday evening. Officers said the gang had arranged with some guards at the premise to rob the facility.

ODM To Use House Majority To Push Reforms

Source: The Standard, 14 Apr 09 (The Standard is an English language daily newspaper, located in Nairobi, Kenya. Owned by the /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 18 *****/

Standard Group, it has a general degree of credibility but shows a political bias against Kenyan President Kibaki's government. The Standard's estimated circulation/audience reach is 54,000 reaching audiences across Kenya.)

After reaching a dead end in their quest to have the national coalition accord re-negotiated, ODM is planning to use its superior numbers in Parliament to push for reforms, The Standard has learnt.

ODM Chief Whip Jakoyo Midiwo confirmed the party would resort to the august House to spearhead change. "We have the numbers and I believe if we approach the reforms united, we will achieve our goal," said the Gem MP. He added that the apparent fallout in PNU was a blessing to efforts by ODM to have reforms implemented. "We

UNCLASSIFIED

page 176

UNCLASSIFIED

are seeing that Narc-Kenya, who are divorcing PNU, want reforms and if we join hands with the party's MPs in Parliament, we will clear the hurdles and deliver reforms," he added. "The mood is that Kenyans want reforms and those who want to block it will have no choice when we join hands and vigorously push for it," he said. Mr Midiwo said there was no turning back on the quest for reforms in Government. The MP, however, said the reform agenda needed goodwill from both sides to succeed. "For us to achieve meaningful reform, we need goodwill from all sides. One side cannot do it alone but if the goodwill is not forthcoming, we will push harder with like-minded legislators," he added.

Midiwo said majority MPs were pro-reform. Party Secretary General Anyang' Nyong'o said the numbers strategy was agreed upon during the last Parliamentary and National Executive Council meeting. "This is what we agreed during the PG/NEC meeting," said the Medical Services minister. Cabinet ministers Franklin Bett, Paul Otuoma and six ODM legislators said they would now push for reforms in Parliament. Mr Bett (Roads) and Dr Otuoma (Fisheries) said ODM would use the House to initiate reforms because "PNU was not willing to do so". Assistant Minister George Khaniri, MPs Nicholas Gumbo (Rarieda), James Rege (Karachuonyo), Oyugi Magwanga (Kasipul Kabondo), Olago Aluoch (Kisumu Town West) and Yusuf Chanzu (Vihiga) demanded reconvening of Parliament to deal with reforms. Speaking separately, the MPs said they would take advantage of their majority in the House to pass reform Bills. "Our opponents think they can frustrate our reforms agenda. We will face them in Parliament because we have the upper hand," Bett said. The MPs said they would block a Motion seeking to extend the retirement age from 55 to 60 years. Speaking in Kisumu, Khaniri said ODM would join with pro-reform MPs to make changes that would benefit Kenyans. "We will give priority to setting up of the Independent Interim Electoral Commission," said the Hamisi MP.

Kibaki And Raila To Revive Stalled Kiliguni Talks

Source: Nairobi Star, 14 Apr 09 (Nairobi Star is an English language full color daily newspaper, located in Nairobi, Kenya. The newspaper has a combination of human interest stories, sports, entertainment, gossip, fashion and business. It is a full colour 32 page newspaper that is published six times a week (Monday - Saturday) and retails for KSh 35.)

Plans to revive the stalled talks to iron out problems in the Grand Coalition are expected to start today.

UNCLASSIFIED

page 177

UNCLASSIFIED

Sources in both PNU and PDM said yesterday emissaries had been sent to the two leaders and both were willing to re-establish contact before a joint public appearance this week. Prime Minister Raila Odinga at the weekend described last week's attack on President Kibaki as "a storm in a teacup" and insisted all his party wants is respect and dialogue. Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka has also assured that his boss President Kibaki and Raila will sort out their difference threatening to break the fragile coalition government. "I can assure Kenyans that both President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga will get back to talks after the Easter holidays," Kalonzo said at the weekend. Last week Raila launched a scathing attack on his coalition partner, describing the President's leadership style as "primitive." The attack followed the collapse of talks by the coalition management team co-chaired by the two leaders. Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called Raila on Tuesday last week as the party's parliamentary group and National Executive Council meeting was underway and urged him and Kibaki to engage in one-on-one talks over the crisis. Annan also called President Kibaki shortly after to convey the same message. The routine Wednesday meetings at the State House where the President and Prime Minister meet to consult on national issues have not taken place for more than two weeks.

KACC Ropes Imams Into Fight Against Graft, Drugs

Source: The Standard, 14 Apr 09 (The Standard is an English language daily newspaper, located in Nairobi, Kenya. Owned by the Standard Group, it has a general degree of credibility but shows a political bias against Kenyan President Kibaki's government. The Standard's estimated circulation/audience reach is 54,000 reaching audiences across Kenya.)

The Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission is partnering with Imams to help fight corruption and drug trafficking at the Coast.

The agency conducted a three-day workshop at Reef Hotel in Mombasa, involving members of Kenya Council of Imams and Ujamaa to empower them to fight the vices. KACC representative Yassin

***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 19 *****

Aila said they chose the Imams because of their closeness to the people, saying they were the most suitable group to deal with drug abuse and trafficking. "Drug trafficking has been rampant in the province, that's why we partnered with the Imams so they could educate the users on the effects of dealing with it," the KACC representative said. The Imams asked the Government to

UNCLASSIFIED

page 178

UNCLASSIFIED

empower KACC more to apprehend those implicated in corruption for the level of the vice to go down. "The Judiciary has been dragging corruption cases for years, that's why the Government should give powers to KACC to apprehend those involved," said Sheikh Mohammed Swalih of the local Jamia mosque. The Imams accused the Government of not putting much effort to fight corruption. Speaking at the workshop, nominated MP Sheikh Mohammed Dor said the Government should make changes in the police force because it (the force) had not made any effort to fight the vice. Mr Aila said the way forward in the fight against corruption, must ensure transparency and accountability and a society empowered through civic education.

Easter Break Marred By Accidents, Clashes

Source: The Standard, 14 Apr 09 (The Standard is an English language daily newspaper, located in Nairobi, Kenya. Owned by the Standard Group, it has a general degree of credibility but shows a political bias against Kenyan President Kibaki's government. The Standard's estimated circulation/audience reach is 54,000 reaching audiences across Kenya.)

Thousands of people return to their places of work today after Easter festivities marred by a streak of incidents and accidents that left about two dozen dead and scores homeless.

Police Spokesman Eric Kiraithe said the Easter weekend was "better" than previous ones. "Apart from a few arson incidents reported in parts of Western, Nairobi and Central provinces, the country was generally calm compared to the past," Mr Kiraithe said. More than 20 people perished in road accidents and others lost their homes to floods, fire and tribal clashes. "Preliminary statistics show there were fewer vehicles that left for upcountry, Mombasa and other areas for the season," Traffic Commandant Aggrey Adoli told The Standard yesterday. Eleven people, many of them relatives, died in Kathiani, Machakos, when a matatu that had been left unattended rolled, tossing its passengers into a ditch. They had travelled from Kathonzi District for a marriage ceremony. Machakos OCPD Hassan Barua said the matatu driver, who went into hiding soon after the accident, has been arrested. He told The Standard on the telephone that the man is likely to appear in court to answer charges related to the tragic incident in which several other people were injured and admitted to various hospitals. A cloud of gloom and grief hang over Kwa Kavisi, Kitonyini and Thinu as villagers mourned departed relatives and friends. In Kiambu, four people were killed in a

UNCLASSIFIED

page 179

UNCLASSIFIED

grisly accident on Good Friday. Twelve others were seriously injured and a survivor is still in a coma. In the 1pm accident, a car with six passengers hit another vehicle it attempted to overtake on Kiambu Road, leading to a pile-up affecting four other vehicles, which were extensively damaged. Three people died on the spot, while the fourth succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment. The 12 are admitted to different hospitals. Rescuers said police were late to reach the scene. Separately more than 50 police officers were left homeless when a fire gutted down their houses in Nairobi's Kariokor area. Most of the Administration Police officers were on duty when the inferno broke out at the weekend. The cause of the fire is yet to be known even though police said they suspect an electric fault. Central deputy OCPD Richard Muguai said morale of the officers had been dampened by the accident. In Trans-Nzoia East District, a police officer was shot dead by cattle rustlers only a week after Rift Valley PC Hassan Noor toured the area. And tension remained high in villages near Kobolet Forest after the attack, with families fleeing homes in fear for their lives.

The raiders ambushed a team of APs at Ekegoro in Sinyerere and shot dead one during the Saturday night attack. Local DC Naftali Mungathia said the officer was on normal patrol when suspected rustlers struck. In Kapkoi, Kwanza District, four people were killed in what residents feared could lead to renewed tribal clashes. On Saturday night, two raiders were shot dead when police reservists thwarted their attempt to steal cattle. Local DC Hassan Mohamed said officers on patrol ambushed the cattle raiders and killed two. But others escaped into the forest. And hardly a day later, in an apparent revenge attack, the raiders killed an elderly woman and a young man near Bondeni Primary School, a few metres from where the raiders were gunned down. Ms Nekesa Lungui was alone in the house when the raiders torched her house during the 2am incident. They went to another homestead where they dragged Harun Simiyu out of his house and sprayed him with bullets. They did not take anything. The killings have sparked tension, with Pokot leaders claiming the killed 'raiders' were visiting schoolboys. The DC, however, dismissed allegations by the leaders, led by Kapenguria MP Julius Murgor and former Assistant Minister Samuel Moroto. "How can they claim that those killed were schoolboys when they were armed and wanted to steal cattle?" asked the DC. But the leaders alleged that a police reservist had opened fire and killed the boys said to be pupils

UNCLASSIFIED

page 180

UNCLASSIFIED

of Kanyarkwat Primary School.

Led by Mr Moroto, the villagers held a peaceful demonstration in Bondeni to protest against the killing. But a resident, Mr

***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 20 *****

Anthony Odinya, said: "We do not feel safe because tension is growing." Officials of the Kitale Catholic Church Justice and Peace Commission, led by Boniface Wanyoike, who toured the area, feared that planting could be interrupted unless the farmers got enough security. The incidents, the official said, would hinder peace building processes going on and urged the Provincial Administration to restore peace. Politician Albert Gumo said the area has been peaceful for the past two years, but the killings could disrupt the peace. But the DC assured residents that adequate security would be provided and urged them to resume planting. In a separate incident in the same district, a church and four houses were torched in Likhuna village in Kolongolo by unknown arsonists. Pentecostal Evangelical Fellowship Church of Africa was set ablaze in what sources said was related to leadership wrangles. The burnt houses belong to worshippers. Those responsible are yet to be established.

Tanzania Tanzanian 'Spy' Killed In Sudan: Described As 'Revenge' Strike For Slain Member Of Rebel Movement

Source: This Day, 14 Apr 09 (This Day (Nigeria) is an English language daily newspaper, located in Nigeria. Owned by Leaders and Company, it has a strong degree of credibility. Most reporting focuses on: local and international news, business, politics, sports, opinions, editorials and entertainment. This Day's estimated circulation/audience reach is 100,000 daily and 120,000 on Sundays with an online estimated circulation/audience reach of 45 per 1 million reaching audiences in Nigeria 23(-PERCENT-), the United States 13(-PERCENT-), the United Kingdom 11(-PERCENT-), Canada 11(-PERCENT-) and Ireland 9(-PERCENT-).)

A Tanzanian national is reported to have been murdered in southern Sudan on suspicion of being a member of the Sudanese intelligence and security service.

The Tanzanian, identified as Wera Tarimo, was slain last Thursday in the Rumbek township of Sudan, along with a Kenyan national named as James Ndungu Wanjiriu. It could not be immediately established exactly what Tarimo and Wanjiriu were doing in the Sudan. According to the reports, the duo were suspected of being 'spies' for Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS), and were allegedly involved in the assassination of an

UNCLASSIFIED

page 181

UNCLASSIFIED

official with the opposition Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). The SPLM official assassinated on Thursday has been identified as Thon Wuong Manyon, the movement's assistant secretary for both Rumbek North County (Maper) and the Lake State secretariat, and also education inspector of Rumbek North County. According to an eyewitness statement quoted in the Sudan Tribune newspaper, Tarimo and Wanjiriu were then killed on the same day, as part of a revenge campaign by angry relatives of the slain SPLM official.

"A family member from Rumbek North, who was very angry, took revenge by killing one man from Tanzania and one man from Kenya, suspecting them to be members of the NISS," said the newspaper in its report. Quoting what it described as a 'foreigner' who was related to one of the victims, the newspaper said James Ndungu Wanjiriu from Kenya was killed on Thursday at 3 pm, while Wera Tarimo from Tanzania was killed the same day at 8 pm. It is understood that the bodies of the two were transported from Rumbek to Kenya on Saturday, with Tarimo's remains expected to be flown out from Kenya to Tanzania. "In order to transport the remains of the deceased back to their respective countries, Lake State governor Lt. General Daniel Awet Akot provided assistance to the foreigners by giving them one car with contribution from the Trade Union of East Africa, whose members reside in Rumbek," said the report. In the meantime, two NISS officers believed to also be members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) which is the SPLM military wing - are reported to have been placed under arrest in connection with Manyon's death. Lakes State Deputy Governor Awan Guol Riak, who also acts as Sudan's minister for local government and law enforcement, has called for an investigation into the killing. "The officers of the National Security who are suspected of involvement in this killing are in custody awaiting investigation," he said. In 2005, following a peace agreement ending the second Sudanese civil war, the SPLM chose Rumbek as an interim administrative centre of the semi-autonomous southern regions. With no multi-storey buildings or paved roads and a population of around 100,000, Rumbek is serviced by a dirt airstrip, and is described as a "ramshackle town." Records also show that back in October last year, another Tanzanian national was shot and wounded in his garage in Rumbek, and hardly a week later another Kenyan national was shot dead by an unknown assailant in the same township. A contingent of 875 soldiers from the Tanzania People's Defence

UNCLASSIFIED

page 182

UNCLASSIFIED

Forces (TPDF) are currently being deployed to the international peacekeeping forces in the war-torn Darfur region of Sudan. The TPDF squad in Darfur, led by Lieutenant Colonel Ally Katimbe, is part of a hybrid mission set up by the African Union and United Nations Missions in Darfur (UNAMID).

Uganda UNHCR Supports Restoration Of Law And Order In Northern Uganda

Source: Reuters, 14 Apr 09 (Reuters is a multi language news organization, located in London, England. Publicly owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, Reuters delivers news stories and news /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 21 *****)

analysis to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the globe.)

The long arm of the law did not reach very far in northern Ugandan districts like Kitgum after the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) launched a two-decade rebellion against the government in 1987. Ringed by conflict, the village of Apieta was a no-go zone and if anyone needed help they had to travel almost 20 kilometres, usually by foot, to reach the nearest police station. But the situation has changed dramatically since the LRA and the government began sporadic peace talks in 2007. The return of peace has allowed some 800,000 people to leave special camps for the internally displaced in northern Uganda and return to their homes over the past two years. The police are also coming back to restore order among the returning population - and UNHCR is helping them serve the more remote areas. Vantorino Okumu, a native of Apieta, said there was a vacuum when the fighting ended and criminals took advantage of this. "Bad elements would come and steal our animals, steal our crops and steal our poultry because there was no police presence in the village," the 49-year-old father of seven explained. "The community met and decided that we needed a police post in the area," Okumu said, adding that he had offered land for the station that was built. The police have been resuming their constitutional duty in the north, but there is a problem re-establishing a presence in remote areas, such as Apieta, because of the lack of infrastructure.

UNHCR is trying to help fill this gap and at the same time contribute to the restoration of law and order at the grassroots

UNCLASSIFIED

page 183

UNCLASSIFIED

level, which has obvious benefits for the reintegration and protection of returnees. To this end, the refugee agency has funded the construction by a German implementing partner of 12 police stations, including one in Apieta, to serve the surrounding community in remote areas of the north. The posts were built using environmentally friendly bricks made of local soil and cement. "Law and order has a strong link with protection. When we saw that there was a need that could make a difference in the lives of people, we approached the authorities and created something concrete - like this police station," Stefano Severe, UNHCR's representative in Uganda, told participants at the colourful opening ceremony in February for the post in Acholibur village, Pader district. A month later, locals in Acholibur said there had been a marked improvement in the law and order situation. "We have noticed a fall in the crime rate since the police post was commissioned," said Bernard Ongaya, a local leader in Acholibur. "We are grateful to UNHCR for that." In the past, UNHCR has supported the police in northern Uganda by providing them with bicycles and thus help them patrol a larger area. Last year, the agency handed over 600 bicycles.

Health Ministry To Start Mobile Screening Clinics

Source: New Vision, 14 Apr 09 (New Vision is an English and Swahili language daily newspaper. Owned by the State, it has a general degree of credibility but shows a political bias towards the government of President Museveni. New Vision's estimated circulation/audience reach is 35,000 reaching audiences throughout Uganda.)

CERVICAL cancer is caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), a sexually transmitted virus. Health experts say the virus is highly transmissible.

Statistics from the health ministry reveal that between 45 to 50(-PERCENT-) of the women in Uganda live with the cancer, but many do not know because they have not had a check-up. From the six million women countrywide who would require cervical cancer screening, only 5(-PERCENT-) seek the services, whereas 85(-PERCENT-) report to hospitals when the disease is in its advanced stages. Some people are ignorant about the need to screen for the cancer, others do not have the facilities, while some just do not care. Some women know about the check-up, but do not know where to access the services. Health experts say there is need to provide more centres for screening as well as train personnel. Since the cancer has claimed many women's lives, the

UNCLASSIFIED

page 184

UNCLASSIFIED

health ministry has made plans to establish mobile cervical cancer clinics to screen and treat the disease. According to the health state minister, Richard Nduhuura, once launched, the services will provide the much-needed screening and treatment which will lead to the reduction in deaths related to cervical cancer.

Addressing the press recently, Nduhuura said the ministry would collaborate with Save a Woman Initiative Uganda, an NGO, to fight the disease. He urged all sexually active women to go for screening at hospitals including Mulago, Nsambya, Masaka, and Mbarara. Other centres are Kampala City Council (KCC) Dispensary on Nkrumah Road, Kawempe Health Centre and Mildmay Centre at Lweza on Entebbe Road. Sensitisation on cervical cancer screening may not be wide-spread. At Old Mulago Hospital, where the screening is done, there are hardly any queues. On the day I was there, by 10:00am, there were only three women waiting to be screened. Usually by this time, other clinics at Mulago would have queues of patients waiting to be attended to. "There is still need to sensitise women on the necessity of cancer-screening. Except for the days we receive women mobilised by churches or local councils, the number is still low. About 15-20 women turn up in a day," says a nurse at the centre. Lately, churches and I.Cs have

***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 22 *****

been mobilising women to go for screening at Mulago Hospital. She says many of these women live in areas where they cannot access cervical cancer-screening, so they go to Mulago. She says some older women fear to be checked by women younger than them. "Many women have confessed being uncomfortable with getting checked by girls their daughter's age."

The nurse urges women to go for cervical cancer check-ups. The exercise takes a few minutes. Annet Nabbakka, a nurse at the KCC Dispensary, says they attend to about 10 to 20 clients a day. Whereas the services are free in public hospitals, some private clinics charge between sh35,000 and sh80,000. Caroline Nakaliri of Doctor's Clinic in Seguku on Entebbe Road says she always advises women who attend antenatal clinics at the centre to go for cervical cancer screening," she says. Dr. Dan Murokora, the clinical director of Uganda Women Health Institute, says cancer in advanced stages causes kidney failure and sometimes anaemia, the major cause of death among women with the cancer. Cervical cancer, once detected early, can be stopped by cryotherapy which freezes the abnormal cells before they become cancerous. "About

UNCLASSIFIED

page 185

UNCLASSIFIED

85-95(-PERCENT-) of the cases that report to hospital early with cervical cancer can be cured," he says. When cervical cancer is in its advanced stages, (where bleeding continues to occur), the patient becomes anaemic as a result of losing a lot of blood. Bleeding also destroys the walls of the uterus, giving off a foul smell. Murokora says when the cancer grows, it blocks the kidney tubes, resulting into kidney failure and may result in death. At this stage, the cancer cannot be treated. A patient would also not be able to control urine. "This could cause the legs and abdomen to swell," Murokora explains.

Piracy Somali Pirates Score Four More Ships

Synopsis: Undeterred Somali pirates went on a hijacking spree, brazenly capturing four more ships and taking over 60 crew members hostage in the Gulf of Aden. Pirates have vowed to retaliate for five colleagues slain by US and French forces in recent hostage rescues -- and the top US military officer said he takes those comments seriously. But Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also said, "We're very well prepared to deal with anything like that." The latest seizures were the Lebanese-owned cargo ship MV Sea Horse, the Greek-managed bulk carrier MV Irene E.M. and two Egyptian fishing boats. Maritime officials said the Irene carried 21 to 23 Filipino crew and Egyptian officials reported 36 fishermen, mostly Egyptians, on the two boats. It was not known exactly how many crew the Sea Horse had on board. NATO spokeswoman Shona Lowe said pirates in three or four speedboats captured the Sea Horse -- an attack that came only hours after the Irene was seized in a rare overnight raid. The two Egyptian fishing boats were hijacked in the gulf off Somalia's northern coast. A flotilla of warships from nearly a dozen countries has patrolled the Gulf of Aden and nearby Indian Ocean waters for months. They have halted many attacks on ships this year, but say the area is so vast they can't stop all hijackings. Pirates have attacked 78 ships this year, hijacking 19 of them, and 17 ships with over 300 crew still remain in pirates' hands, according to the International Maritime Bureau's piracy reporting center in Kuala Lumpur.

Analysis/Road Ahead: Somali pirates will exploit international fears of retribution against hostage crews. Ransom demands will be higher and laced with threats, a shift from the overall safety of crew members' lives to this point. The threat to pirates' lives has also shifted from accidental death at sea to military intervention, and the pirates will change operations and tactics

UNCLASSIFIED

page 186

UNCLASSIFIED

to ensure their continued profits. Pirate gangs will more harshly test recruits and pare down personnel to concentrate profits/power and ensure loyalty. They will remove hostages from seized vessels to reduce the number of pirates needed to man those vessels and, by moving hostages to land, they force commando raids to operate on Somali territory, complicating legal strictures. Puntland and Mogadishu governments will deploy clan or official security units to corner pirates in villages, but pirates will counter with bribes and violence against such units.

Sources: AP, AFP, TIME, Le Monde, 14 Apr 09 - C-VAC HOA Piracy Primer; Somalia Country Study

Somali Pirates Hijack 4 Ships, Take 60 Hostages

Source: AP, 14 Apr 09 (The Associated Press is an English language news organization. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards/against the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis delivered to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the world. The AP reaches audiences world-wide.)

Undeterred Somali pirates went on a hijacking spree, brazenly capturing four more ships and taking over 60 crew members hostage in the Gulf of Aden, the waterway at the center of the world's fight against piracy.

Pirates have vowed to retaliate for five colleagues slain by U.S. and French forces in recent hostage rescues -- and the top U.S. military officer said Tuesday he takes those comments seriously. But Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told ABC's "Good Morning America" that "we're very well prepared
/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 23 *****/

to deal with anything like that." Despite Mullen's confident statement and President Barack Obama's warning of further U.S. action, pirates captured two more nautical trophies Tuesday to match the two ships they seized a day or two earlier. The latest seizures were the Lebanese-owned cargo ship MV Sea Horse, the Greek-managed bulk carrier MV Irene E.M. and two Egyptian fishing boats. Maritime officials said the Irene carried 21 to 23 Filipino crew and Egyptian officials reported 36 fishermen, mostly Egyptians, on the two boats. It was not known exactly how many crew the Sea Horse had on board, but a ship that size would

UNCLASSIFIED

page 187

UNCLASSIFIED

probably need at least a dozen. NATO spokeswoman Shona Lowe said pirates in three or four speedboats captured the Sea Horse on Tuesday -- an attack that came only hours after the Irene was seized in a rare overnight raid. The two Egyptian fishing boats were hijacked in the gulf off Somalia's northern coast but it was not clear if those attacks came Monday or Sunday. The Gulf of Aden, which links the Suez Canal and the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean, is one of the world's busiest and most vital shipping lanes, crossed by over 20,000 ships each year.

A flotilla of warships from nearly a dozen countries has patrolled the Gulf of Aden and nearby Indian Ocean waters for months. They have halted many attacks on ships this year, but say the area is so vast they can't stop all hijackings. Pirates have attacked 78 ships this year, hijacking 19 of them, and 17 ships with over 300 crew still remain in pirates' hands, according to Noel Choong, who heads the International Maritime Bureau's piracy reporting center in Kuala Lumpur. Each boat carries the potential of a million-dollar ransom. The Irene, flagged in the Caribbean island nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, was sailing from the Middle East to South Asia, Choong said. U.S. Navy Lt. Nathan Christensen, spokesman for the Bahrain-based 5th Fleet, said the Irene carried 23 Filipino crew, while Choong reported it had 21 and Greek marine officials said it carried 22. There was no immediate way to reconcile the figures. A maritime security contractor, speaking on condition of anonymity because it is a sensitive security issue, said the Irene put out a distress signal "to say they had a suspicious vessel approaching. That rapidly turned into an attack and then a hijacking." "They tried to call in support on the emergency channels, but they never got any response," the contractor said.

The latest seizures come after Navy SEAL snipers rescued American ship captain Richard Phillips on Sunday by killing three young pirates who held him captive in a drifting lifeboat for five days. A fourth pirate surrendered after seeking medical attention for a wound he received in trying to take over Phillips' vessel, the Maersk Alabama. Phillips on Tuesday was aboard a Navy vessel at an undisclosed location, Christensen said. He was initially taken aboard the Norfolk, Va.-based USS Bainbridge and then flown to the San Diego-based USS Boxer for a medical exam. In Washington, Obama appeared to move the piracy issue higher on his agenda, vowing the United States would work with nations around the world to fight the problem. "I want to be very clear that we

UNCLASSIFIED

page 188

UNCLASSIFIED

are resolved to halt the rise of piracy in that region and to achieve that goal, we're going to have to continue to work with our partners to prevent future attacks," Obama told reporters Monday. The 19 crew members of the Alabama celebrated their skipper's freedom with beer and an evening barbecue Monday in the Kenyan port of Mombasa, said crewman Ken Quinn.

The vessel's chief mate was among those urging strong U.S. action against piracy. "It's time for us to step in and put an end to this crisis," Shane Murphy said. "It's a crisis. Wake up." The U.S. is considering new options to fight piracy, including adding Navy gunships along the Somali coastline and launching a campaign to disable pirate "mother ships," according to military officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity because no decisions have been made yet. The four pirates who attacked the Alabama were between 17 and 19 years old, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said. "Untrained teenagers with heavy weapons," Gates told students and faculty at the Marine Corps War College. "Everybody in the room knows the consequences of that." U.S. officials were now considering whether to bring the fourth pirate, who surrendered shortly before the sniper shootings, to the United States or possibly turn him over to Kenya. Both piracy and hostage-taking carry life prison sentences under U.S. law. The French navy late Monday handed over the bodies of two **Somali pirates** killed last week in a hostage rescue operation, and the bodies were buried in Somali's semiautonomous northern region of Puntland.

Joint Chiefs Chairman: Piracy Not A New Problem

Source: AP, 14 Apr 09 (The Associated Press is an English language news organization. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards/against the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis delivered to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the world. The AP reaches audiences world-wide.)

The nation's top military officer says the United States is ready to meet any retaliation that might result from Navy SEALs shooting a trio of pirates holding an American merchant sea captain hostage.

Threats along these lines were made in the wake of Sunday's Indian
/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 24 *****/

UNCLASSIFIED

page 189

UNCLASSIFIED

Ocean rescue. Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said "I take their comments seriously." Interviewed Tuesday on ABC's "Good Morning America," Mullen sought to assure people that "we're very well prepared to deal with anything like that." He said that dealing with pirates has been a long-standing security issue for U.S. leaders and said a review is under way on the Joint Chiefs to "look broadly and widely and deeply" at the overall strategy for dealing with the problem.

Philippines Should Lead Anti-Piracy Voice: Seafarers

Source: AFP, 14 Apr 09 (Agence France-Presse is an English, French, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic language news agency. AFP has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards, the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis. AFP reaches audiences in thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets.)

Half of the hostages held by **Somali pirates** are Filipino.

A leading seafarers' group called on the Philippine government on Tuesday to lead an international response to piracy off the Somali coast. Around half of the 228 seamen aboard 13 ships being held hostage by **Somali pirates** are Filipinos, according to the International Seafarers Action Center. "The Philippine government should rally the international community to take bolder steps against these marauding pirates," the group's president, Edwin de la Cruz, told AFP. "The Philippines, being the home country of most of the victims, should be at the forefront of an international response," de la Cruz said. As a last resort, the Philippines should also push for the deployment of an international "expeditionary force" with a UN mandate to crush the pirates and rescue the hostages, he said.

De la Cruz said the government should also force ship owners to give crew members the right to refuse to man ships in areas considered high risk. He noted that "profit oriented" shipping companies were known to wander into hostile areas to cut travel time, making them vulnerable to attacks. "This has become a global problem, not just a Somali problem," he said, adding that **Somali pirates** have vowed to step up attacks after the US Navy killed three pirates and rescued the American captain of a cargo ship attacked last week. "We should now rally the UN and other democratic countries to exert force and real pressure against the pirates." "The US move was a commensurate response to the problem," he said. The Philippines is the world's leading supplier

UNCLASSIFIED

page 190

UNCLASSIFIED

of crew, with over 350,000 sailors manning oil tankers, luxury liners and passenger vessels worldwide, official statistics show. The Malaysia-based International Maritime Bureau (IMB) piracy reporting centre said that since January there had been 74 attacks compared to 111 in 2008 off Somalia.

Washington Wrestles With The Pirate Problem -- On Land
Source: TIME, 14 Apr 09 (TBD)

The celebrating over Sunday's daring rescue of Richard Phillips, the ship captain held hostage by **Somali pirates**, didn't last too long at the Pentagon.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates acknowledged on Monday that rescuing hostages -- in this case, Navy snipers took out Phillips' three captors -- is only a stopgap way of dealing with the pirates now sailing the Gulf of Aden. "There is no purely military solution to it," Gates told an audience of the Marine Corps War College in Quantico, Va. "It is a serious international problem, and it's probably going to get worse." (See pictures of the U.S. and France fighting the **Somali pirates**.) There's been talk in the Pentagon of dispatching more warships to the region to beef up protective patrols. And President Barack Obama took a tough stance on Monday, saying, "I want to be very clear that we are resolved to halt the rise of piracy in that region." But Gates made it clear that the real solution isn't on the high seas. Instead, it's back along the Somali coast in the impoverished villages and towns that the pirates call home. "As long as you've got this incredible number of poor people and the risks are relatively small," he said, "there's really no way in my view to control it unless you get something on land that begins to change the equation for these kids."

Responsibility for changing that equation belongs to the new U.S. African Command (Africom), set up 18 months ago to help provide security to permit the rebuilding of shattered nations like Somalia. But don't look for quick action. "We do not have a military presence in Somalia," the command's chief, Army General William Ward, told Congress last month. In fact, the military is in no rush to head back to that lawless nation in the Horn of Africa. President Clinton's Pentagon was first bloodied there when 18 soldiers died in a 1993 firefight memorialized in *Black Hawk Down*. As a reminder of the volatile environment, local insurgents on Monday fired mortar rounds at a private plane ferrying U.S. Congressman Donald Payne out of Mogadishu after he had visited with the head of the country's weak new transitional

UNCLASSIFIED

page 191

UNCLASSIFIED

government. (See pictures of the brazen pirates of Somalia.) Even if the Pentagon had the stomach for this kind of fight, the confused command structure for the region would make it hard to succeed. You might think, after all, that Africom would be front and center in battling the piracy now rampant off Somalia's coast. But in fact Africom deals only with African territory, and not the seas surrounding it. Those are monitored by U.S. Central

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Command, also responsible for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. This disconnect -- Centcom if by sea, Africom if by land -- highlights the challenge facing the Pentagon as it tries to grapple with 21st century pirates who thrive amid chaos. Africom's only role in battling pirates is helping Centcom hand over the captured ones -- 130 so far this year -- to East African nations for trial. Africom still has a lot of kinks to work out. At that House hearing on March 19, Ward acknowledged that he has only a "very small command" -- headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany -- to deal with Africa, and not a soul on Somali soil. But things are getting better. "Every day improvements are made," Ward said. "I count it a victory when I can pick up the phone or send an e-mail and it goes to the same address, and we are getting more and more that way." (See the top 10 audacious acts of piracy.) The growing piracy problem highlights Gates' smarts -- it was only a week ago that he boosted the Navy's buy of the small and fast Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) from two to three next year, with a total planned buy of 55. The defense chief termed the LCS a "key capability for presence, stability and counterinsurgency operations in coastal regions." With its ability to sail into shallow waters, an LCS vessel can chase pirates into places bigger warships could never go. The LCS is "an ideal platform" for unconventional Navy missions, including "counterpiracy operations," Rear Admiral Victor Guillory, director of the Navy's surface-warfare division, told a House panel on March 10. But at 400 feet in length and \$500 million each -- and with initial production plagued by problems -- the Navy is not going to be able to buy enough to stamp out piracy anytime soon.

The pirates, largely from lawless coastal Somali towns, have basically turned the heavily traveled route through the Gulf of Aden into a toll road that shippers' insurance firms have been willing to pay for (up to \$3 million for a single vessel). About

UNCLASSIFIED

page 192

UNCLASSIFIED

20,000 merchant ships traverse the waterway each year; there have already been 74 attacks and 15 hijackings in 2009, compared with 111 attacks last year. The pirates generally want cash, not trouble. They've treated their hostages well, and violence has been rare. All of that changed, of course, last week when a quartet of Somalis seized Phillips from the U.S.-flagged Maersk Alabama. In the wake of the U.S. action, some **pirates** and **Somali** warlords have pledged to take revenge on some of the more than 200 international sailors currently being held captive on the seas. (See a brief history of **pirates**.) **Somalia's** extreme poverty and lack of effective central government make it an ideal breeding ground for piracy, and the Cold War's end helped make it possible. Like Afghanistan, Somalia was for decades a rope in the tug-of-war between the Soviet Union and the U.S., later abandoned and left to rot as the superpowers' rivalry ebbed. It's the latest warning that the 21st century's dangers are more likely to come from failed states and their desperate young men rather than modern militaries boasting flotillas of warships, formations of tanks and fleets of aircraft.

"Tanit" Pirates Placed In Custody

Source: Le Monde, in French, 14 Apr 09 - Translated by Cubic Translation Services (Le Monde is a French language daily evening newspaper, located in Paris, France. Owned by Groupe Le Monde, it has a general degree of credibility but shows a left-of-center political bias and no religious affiliation. The typical audience demography consists of: French speaking/reading audience. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion, and analysis. Le Monde's estimated circulation/audience reach in 2005 is 363,999 reaching audiences in internationally.)

French corrections are holding the three Somalis accused in hijacking the yacht.

The three **Somali pirates** arrested during the French rescue of hostages aboard the Tanit have been moved to France and placed in custody, according to the Rennes court where the initial investigation has been opened. Rennes has jurisdiction due to its oversight of "French nationals with Vanne residency" which includes the hijacking victims; it will also consider the crime as having been carried out as an act of organized crime that will involve the national gendarmerie, the state prosecutor, Herve Pavy, indicated. Earlier in the day, Defense Minister Morin insisted that the three suspected pirates be tried in France. The Tanit, hijacked on 04 April in the Gulf of Aden, was freed during

UNCLASSIFIED

page 193

UNCLASSIFIED

a rescue marred by the death of yacht skipper, Florent Lemacon, after shots were fired between pirates and French commandos. Pavy has confirmed that an autopsy will be convened 'as soon as the skipper's body is on French soil.' The results are expected by the end of the week. The investigation will seek to determine the source of the fatal shot, and the Defense Ministry has not excluded the possibility that Lemacon may have been killed by a French bullet.

Somali Pirates Declare America Enemy #1

Source: People's Daily, in Chinese, 14 Apr 09 - Translated by Cubic Translation Services (TBD)

During the rescue of the US ship Captain, Philips, US Navy **SEALS** special forces used sniper rifles to kill three of the **Somali pirates** who had taken him hostage; rescuing him unharmed and ending a 5-day hostage crisis.

Afterward a **Somali pirate** warlord said they would execute any of
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those attempts to try to rescue the hostages they still hold, and singled out America specifically as "Enemy #1." The **Somali pirates** aboard the small lifeboat were compelled by a lack of fuel and deteriorating sea-states to allow the US destroyers to throw them a tow line and draw closer. While being towed, a pirate who had suffered an injury had come aboard the destroyer seeking medical assistance, and quickly thereafter was arrested. Somehow the torsos of the remaining three pirates became exposed on the small lifeboat and US sharpshooters seized that rare opportunity to fire, killing all three. Previously, the French Navy had conducted a rescue operation, killing two pirates and arresting three; however, their rescue attempt also resulted in the death of one of the hostages. A spokesman for moderate Muslims in Somalia stated that foreign militaries have murdered thousands of pirates and that piracy in all its forms would escalate. High-ranking leaders in the US and French Navies stated their fears that the hostage rescue operations could lead to an proliferation of pirate attacks in retaliation. Some anti-piracy experts believe although the US military was able to use force to effect a hostage rescue this time, it will not be a "positive" long-term effect on containing Somali piracy, and could even add gas to the fire. At the same time, the American's use of force could also place the lives of the other 200-odd hostages in danger, as in the past the **Somali pirates**

UNCLASSIFIED

page 194

UNCLASSIFIED

usually did not harm the crew or the ship in order to secure a ransom. The American military estimates that even if there were no patrols along the eastern sea zones in the Indian Ocean, they would still need at least 61 warships to effectively secure the high-risk areas in the Gulf of Aden. At present, there are only 12-16 warships from a variety of countries providing patrols and convoy escort in the area, providing the pirates a huge amount of "breathing room." How to deal with captured pirates is also a difficult issue. For a long time, ship-owners have avoided arming their ships and crews in order to avoid liability for potential incidents. Now, there are some 20,000 ships that must transit the Gulf of Aden in order to enter the Red Sea and pass through the Suez Canal to deliver their goods to Europe and America. If one examines the Horn of Africa, there are numerous incidents of piracy over the past two weeks, which illustrates that the area is no longer safe. On 8 April, a US-flagged cargo ship hauling UN relief supplies to Africa was attacked and boarded by 4 pirates in the aforementioned Horn of Africa area. In order to spare his crew, Captain Phillips offer himself up, but first had his crew secure themselves in a safe room. Afterward the crew came out and took back the ship. The American people have "dark memories" of Somalia. In 1993, American special forces fought a pitched battle in the capital of Mogadishu in which they lost 18 soldiers and several helicopters. Afterward, President Clinton announced a military withdrawal from Somalia. America is reluctant to again step into the incessant chaos of the Horn of Africa.

Data reveals that there are less than 200 US-flagged ocean-going cargo freighters in the world. The aforementioned 17,000 ton ship was hauling over 400 fully-laden cargo container, with some 232 of them designated as UN relief supplies intended for Somali and Ugandan refugees. The ship reached port and was unloaded on the 12th. America has announced many times they will not pay ransom to "sinister powers" for the safe return of hostages. That is why even though Captain Phillips was the first American sailor taken hostage by pirates in the past 200 years, it is impossible to predict if American sailors will continue to have Phillip's "good luck" in the future.

C-VAC Note: This a much more fleshed out report on Somali piracy that is usually carried by the Chinese media. The details of the hijacking of the Maersk Alabama are a little sketchy, and underlying tone of the article creeps towards the "US may have made things worse" side of the ledger. There is no commentary on

UNCLASSIFIED

page 195

UNCLASSIFIED

what it might mean for the Chinese forces operating in the area.

Undeterred Somali Pirates Hijack 4 More Ships

Source: AP, 14 Apr 09 (The Associated Press is an English language news organization. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards/against the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis delivered to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the world. The AP reaches audiences world-wide.)

4 ships have been seized in 2 days.

NATO says **Somali pirates** have hijacked another cargo ship in the Gulf of Aden, the fourth ship seized in the last two days. NATO spokeswoman Shona Lowe says the Lebanese-owned MV Sea Horse was attacked Tuesday off the Somali coast by pirates in three or four speedboats. She had no further details. Earlier, **Somali pirates** captured the MV Irene E.M., a Greek-managed bulk carrier sailing from the Middle East to South Asia. The Irene was seized in the middle of the night Tuesday -- a rare tactic for the pirates.

Somali pirates appear undeterred by U.S. and French attacks that have killed five pirates in the past week during hostage rescues, including that of an American sea captain. Pirates have vowed to retaliate for the killing of their colleagues.

Somali Pirates Step Up Hijacking Spree

Source: AFP, 14 Apr 09 (Agence France-Presse is an English, /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 27 *****/

French, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic language news agency. AFP has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards, the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis. AFP reaches audiences in thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets.)

Pirates vowed retaliation after the rescue of a US captain.

Somali pirates seized two more ships on Tuesday, brushing off their losses from deadly rescue operations and throwing down the gauntlet to US President Barack Obama after he pledged to curb piracy. It brought to four the number of vessels taken since the US navy operation on Sunday which saved an American skipper but led to the deaths of three pirates, upping the stakes in the dangerous waters off the Horn of Africa. The MV Irena, a 35,000-tonne Greek-operated merchant vessel flagged in

UNCLASSIFIED

page 196

UNCLASSIFIED

Saint-Vincent and the Grenadines, was hijacked in the Gulf of Aden, the European Union's naval mission in the area said. Its 22 Filipino crew is believed to be safe. "It's a Greek ship, it was seized early today," Andrew Mwangura, from the Kenya-based East African Seafarers Assistance Programme, told AFP. Hours later a NATO spokeswoman said a second freighter, flying a Togolese flag, had been seized by pirates off the Horn of Africa, the 10th hijacking in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean since the start of the month. "I can confirm that a second cargo ship, the Sea Horse has been seized," said spokeswoman Shona Lowe from NATO's Northwood maritime command centre in England. She could not provide details on the numbers or nationalities that had been aboard the ship nor how many remained in danger. The pirates attacked the vessel "on three or four skiffs," she said.

Mwangura said the owners of the Greek ship had another vessel, the 64,000-tonne Maltese-flagged Panamax Anna, attacked in the area on Monday. The vessel "was attacked by six pirates in a boat in the Gulf of Aden on Monday, 110 miles (177 kilometres) north of Bosasso (Puntland) but escaped," he said. On Monday, the head of the group that seized the US ship Maersk Alabama vowed to retaliate for the deaths of three pirates in the military operation which rescued an American captain held on a lifeboat over the weekend. "The American liars have killed our friends after they agreed to free the hostage without ransom... this matter will lead to retaliation and we will hunt down particularly American citizens travelling our waters," Abdi Garad said by phone from the pirate lair of Eyl. "We will intensify our attacks even reaching very far away from Somalia waters, and next time we get American citizens... they (should) expect no mercy from us." The captain of the US ship was saved when Navy Seals fired three shots, one for each pirate, bringing an end to the high-seas drama which prompted Obama to call for renewed vigour in anti-piracy efforts. "I want to be very clear that we are resolved to halt the rise of piracy in that region," he said on Monday.

According to sources close to the pirates, French ships were also prime targets following the rescue of the Tanit yacht in which one hostage was killed, together with at least two pirates. French commandos had already launched rescue operations in two previous cases over the past year, killing and capturing pirates. So far Somali pirates have never executed hostages and sought to release ships in exchange for ransoms. International Maritime

UNCLASSIFIED

page 197

UNCLASSIFIED

Bureau (IMB) head Noel Choong backed the tough approach against the pirates, whose relentless attacks have disrupted one of the world's busiest maritime trade routes. "We support the robust response against the pirates," he told AFP. But he admitted that revenge attacks were a risk. "It may spark retaliatory action by the pirates. It may increase violence against the ships and crew members," Choong said. All observers agree that piracy can only be eradicated with measures to end the chaos inside Somalia, where close to two decades of war and lawlessness have made piracy one of the few viable businesses. The latest releases and hijackings bring to at least 18 the number of ships being held by **Somali pirates** and to more than 250 the number of crewmen held hostage. Following a surge in attacks in 2008, which saw close to 50 ships being seized and millions of dollars paid in ransom money to the pirates, naval powers upped their response. Up to 20 ships -- operating under US, EU, NATO and national commands -- can be off the coast of Somalia at any given time. Most of them patrol shipping lanes in the Gulf of Aden, where maritime traffic bottlenecks in and out of the Red Sea, leading pirates to attack vessels further out at sea in the Indian Ocean.

Somali Pirates Seize Two More Cargo Ships

Source: Reuters, 14 Apr 09 (Reuters is a multi language news organization, located in London, England. Publicly owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, Reuters delivers news stories and news analysis to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the globe.)

Pirates have not been deterred by recent military actions.

Somali pirates hijacked two more cargo ships on Tuesday in attacks that showed their determination to continue striking shipping in the area's strategic waterways. The capture of the Greek-owned MV Irene E.M. and Togo-flagged MV Sea Horse were a clear sign the sea gangs have not been deterred by two raids in recent days by

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 701608

U.S. and French special forces that killed five pirates. NATO Lieutenant Commander Alexandre Fernandes said the Portuguese warship NRP Corte-Real had received a pre-dawn distress call from the St. Vincent and the Grenadines-flagged Irene E.M. as it traveled through the Gulf of Aden. "There was only three minutes

UNCLASSIFIED

page 198

UNCLASSIFIED

between the alarm and the hijack," Fernandes told Reuters aboard the warship. "They attacked at night, which was very unusual. They were using the moonlight as it's still quite bright." The Greek merchant marine ministry said the Irene E.M.'s 22 crew members were all Filipinos. The bulk carrier was sailing from Jordan to India when it was attacked. Its Piraeus-based owners were not immediately available for comment.

Hours later, NATO officials on the NRP Corte-Real said a second ship, the nearly 5,000-tonne MV Sea Horse, had also been seized by about 77 nautical miles off Somalia. They said it was hijacked by pirates aboard three or four skiffs, but they had no other immediate details. Heavily armed gunmen from lawless Somalia have run amok through the busy Indian Ocean shipping lanes and strategic Gulf of Aden, capturing dozens of vessels, hundreds of hostages and making off with millions of dollars in ransoms. Until there is political stability onshore, experts warn, attacks on shipping will continue off its coast. "Piracy is far more complex than any naval patrol," said U.S. analyst J. Peter Pham, of Madison University. "It will require more than just the application of force to uproot piracy from the soil of Somalia." NATO officials said a Canadian warship had sent a helicopter to scout out what was happening on the Irene E.M. "There are hostages so now we will shadow and monitor the situation," Fernandes said. Foreign navies are patrolling the seas off Somalia. But the pirates have continued to evade capture, driving up insurance costs and defying the world's most powerful militaries. Snipers on a U.S. navy destroyer freed an American ship captain on Sunday by killing three Somali pirates holding him hostage in a lifeboat, ending a five-day standoff. Two more pirates died on Friday when French commandos stormed a yacht that had been seized. A French hostage was also killed. Some fear the bloody assaults by Washington and Paris to free their hostages may raise the risk of future bloodshed. The pirates have vowed to take revenge on U.S. and French citizens.

So far, the sea gangs have generally treated captives well in the hope of fetching big ransom payouts. Piracy is lucrative in chaotic Somalia, where the brigands armed with assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers have thrived. Many poor and unemployed young Somalis see the gangs as a dazzling alternative to their hard lives, given the quick money to be made. Most of the groups are based in villages and small towns along Somalia's long coast like Eyl, Hobyo and Harardheere. Last year, the gunmen

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

grabbed headlines with the world's largest sea hijack -- a Saudi Arabian supertanker carrying \$100 million of crude oil -- and the seizure of a Ukrainian ship with a huge military cargo including 33 Soviet-era tanks. But out of the international limelight, they have been striking regularly for years. They still hold about 260 other hostages, including nearly 100 Filipinos, on 17 captured ships.

Somali Pirates Hijack Greek-Owned Ship

Source: Reuters, 14 Apr 09 (Reuters is a multi language news organization, located in London, England. Publicly owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, Reuters delivers news stories and news analysis to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the globe.)

The night attack was unusual.

Pirates hijacked a Greek-owned bulk carrier on Tuesday in a rare night-time seizure off Somalia's coast, the latest attack on commercial shipping in the vital waterways, NATO officials said. The brazen capture of the MV Irene E.M. hours before dawn was a clear sign the sea gangs planned to continue their crime wave despite two raids in recent days by U.S. and French special forces which killed five pirates. NATO Lieutenant Commander Alexandre Fernandes said the Portuguese warship NRP Corte-Real had received a distress call from the St. Vincent and the Grenadines-flagged merchant ship as it traveled through the Gulf of Aden. "There was only three minutes between the alarm and the hijack," Fernandes told Reuters aboard the warship. "(The pirates) attacked at night, which was very unusual. They were using the moonlight as it's still quite bright." The Kenya-based regional East African Seafarers' Assistance Programme, which tracks piracy, said the 22 crew were unharmed,

The Greek merchant marine ministry said the Irene E.M.'s crew were all Filipinos. The vessel was sailing from Jordan to India when it was attacked. Its Piraeus-based owners were not immediately available for comment. Heavily armed gunmen from chaotic Somalia have run amok through the busy shipping lanes of the Indian Ocean and strategic Gulf of Aden, capturing dozens of vessels and making off with millions of dollars in ransoms. NATO officials said a Canadian warship had sent a helicopter to investigate what was happening. "There are hostages so now we will shadow and

UNCLASSIFIED

page 200

UNCLASSIFIED

monitor the situation," Fernandes said. Foreign navies are patrolling the high seas off Somalia. But the pirates have continued to evade capture, driving up insurance rates and defying

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 29 *****/

the world's most powerful militaries.

U.S. Navy snipers aboard a U.S. destroyer freed an American ship captain on Sunday by killing three Somali pirates holding him hostage in a lifeboat, ending a five-day standoff. Two more pirates died on Friday when French forces raided a yacht that had been seized. A French hostage was also killed. Some fear the bloody assaults by Washington and Paris to free their hostages may raise the risk of future bloodshed. The pirates have vowed to take revenge on U.S. and French citizens. So far, the sea gangs have generally treated their captives well in the hope of fetching big ransom payouts. Piracy is lucrative in chaotic Somalia, where the brigands armed with assault rifles and grenade launchers have thrived.

Absalon Anti-Piracy Ops End

Source: Politiken.dk, 14 Apr 09 (TBD)

The Absalon arrives back in Denmark Thursday, ending its anti-piracy operations.

The Danish warship Absalon arrives back in Copenhagen Thursday, ending its eight-month anti-piracy operations off the coast of Africa. Until recently, the Absalon was the flagship of Task Force 150, an international naval effort to prevent pirates from hijacking commercial vessels in areas off the Horn of Africa. Defence Minister S(-VERTICAL-BAR-)ren Gade says Absalon prevented between eight and 10 hijackings. "The international community has sent a clear signal that piracy must stop. Some 15 international warships in the area have a preventive effect and Absalon has prevented some eight to 10 hijackings. If nothing else, we have saved these sailors from being taken hostage," Gade says. Gade says, however, that pirate attacks appear to be on the increase. "We must admit that the number of hijackings is increasing and that we cannot solve the problem by military means alone. We must build stable governments in the pirates' home countries - and that will take years," Gade says. Denmark still has staff officers in the region, and Gade would like Absalon to return to anti-piracy operations at the beginning of 2010.

'3 Rounds, 3 Dead Bodies'

Source: Washington Post, 14 Apr 09 (The Washington Post is an English language daily newspaper, located in Arlington, Virginia.

UNCLASSIFIED

page 201

UNCLASSIFIED

Owned by the Washington Post Company, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. The typical audience demography consists of: residents of the District of Columbia, as well as of the suburbs of Maryland and Northern Virginia. Most reporting focuses on: the workings of the White House, Congress, and other aspects of the U.S. government. The Washington Post's estimated circulation/audience reach as of October 2006 was 656,297 with a Sunday circulation of 930,619, along with an online circulation of 2170 per 1 million reaching audiences in United States 71(-PERCENT-), Canada 4(-PERCENT-), China 3(-PERCENT-), the United Kingdom 3(-PERCENT-) and India 1(-PERCENT-).

Navy SEALs end hostage crisis off Gulf of Aden.

As dusk began to fall Sunday, the **Somali pirates** holding captain Richard Phillips had grown edgy. As they bobbed in the ocean near the USS Bainbridge, a Navy destroyer sent to rescue Phillips, the teenage pirates were experiencing withdrawal after days without khat, a mildly narcotic leaf chewed in for its stimulant effects. "They were realizing they were in a no-win situation," said a senior U.S. military official. "They were floating around in rough waters, they were tired. . . . These guys didn't have their chew with them." After the on-scene commander judged that Phillips's life was suddenly in immediate jeopardy, three shots rang out from the Bainbridge in indistinguishable succession, felling the three pirates in the lifeboat. Bound tightly, Phillips could not move to celebrate the end of his ordeal until **Navy SEALs** climbed aboard the small craft and set him free. "It was pretty remarkable that these snipers nailed these guys," said the senior military official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "You think of rough seas, 75, 80 feet away, and under darkness, and they got them. Three pirates, three rounds, three dead bodies." The precision volley culminated a five-day confrontation on the pale blue seas off one of the world's most unstable nations, a place that still haunts U.S. foreign-policy makers with images of dead American soldiers being dragged through the capital during a failed U.S. intervention in the 1990s.

This time the Navy took the lead against a force of four, and then three, **Somali pirates** confined to the cramped quarters of a cargo ship's lifeboat. But the challenge of preserving the life of Phillips, a 53-year-old Vermont resident, loomed large enough for President Obama's new national security operation that he was

UNCLASSIFIED

page 202

UNCLASSIFIED

briefed as many as five times a day as three U.S. warships and an 18-foot dinghy squared off on the Indian Ocean. Three deft sniper shots ended a drama that appeared initially as another example of a muscle-bound U.S. military unable to adapt to today's unpredictable security threats. In the end, U.S. Special Operations Forces easily defeated lightly armed, untrained men in a battle that U.S. officials say will not end piracy. The pirates had probably been tracking the Maersk Alabama for days when on Wednesday four pirates in a small craft tossed ropes and grappling hooks from the shadow of the cargo ship's looming blue hull. They carried pistols and AK-47 assault rifles. The Maersk Alabama's

***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 30 *****

CITE OSC RESTON VA 701608

crew, a mix of young men and veterans, locked themselves in safe areas of the ship as they were trained to do. Some improvised.

One sailor, A.T.M. Reza, forced one of the pirates into the engine room, where he stabbed the pirate in the hand. The crew then used the wounded pirate as leverage to force his comrades from the ship. As part of the negotiations, Phillips agreed to board the lifeboat with the pirates, crew members said. The deal called for him to swim back to the Maersk Alabama once the lifeboat was safely away. The pirates never let him go. The USS Bainbridge had by then steamed more than 300 miles to arrive on the scene. Aided by FBI agents, the ship's officers communicated with the pirates by radio, eventually persuading them to allow a boat with provisions to approach.

Sometime Thursday, a desperate Phillips jumped from the lifeboat in an attempt to swim to the USS Bainbridge, only to be hauled back on board after the pirates opened fire. From then on, Phillips was tied up. One pirate radioed the Navy destroyer and demanded to know how far they were from the sanctuary of Somalia's coast. "Very far," came the reply from the Bainbridge. "Thank you," the pirate negotiator responded, according to a U.S. military timeline, his politeness masking menace. "If we cannot reach the Somali coast, we will kill the infidel." According to Somali elders and a pirate in the coastal fishing village of Harardhere, the pirates were demanding \$6 million in ransom and safe passage to shore in exchange for Phillips's release.

But the negotiations collapsed Friday over whether the pirates would be arrested, the local elders said. In Washington that Friday evening, Obama received two national security briefings on the situation. Based on those reports, the White House said, the

UNCLASSIFIED

page 203

UNCLASSIFIED

president gave "the Department of Defense policy guidance and certain authorities to allow U.S. forces to engage in potential emergency actions." Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said Monday that the Defense Department twice requested the authority to use deadly force because two groups of Special Operations Forces were involved in the operation. Each required its own sanction. He said that "the approval was given virtually immediately in both cases." A senior administration official said that the president did not deny any operational request made to him and that he knew the broad outlines of the operation that the Navy had planned. The official said that "our people tried a variety of ways to resolve the situation peacefully, and the guidance all along was that the overriding interest was the captain's life." Gates said the four pirates involved in taking Phillips hostage were 17 to 19 years old -- "untrained teenagers with heavy weapons." The pirate whom Reza wounded in the hand asked the USS Bainbridge for medical attention, effectively surrendering. On Saturday evening dozens of Navy SEALs parachuted from C-17 transport aircraft into the sea, making their way with inflatable Zodiacs to the Bainbridge.

By Sunday, the pirates had run out of fuel. Rising weather whipped up the seas, and the drifting pirates agreed to allow the USS Bainbridge to tow them to calmer waters. By then, the USS Boxer, an amphibious assault ship with 1,000 crew members, and the guided-missile frigate USS Halyburton had joined the Bainbridge. The lifeboat, once strung out roughly 200 feet from the Bainbridge, had been pulled to within 80 feet of the fantail, a deck at the vessel's stern. Navy SEAL snipers, monitoring the lifeboat through rifle scopes, watched as two pirates raised their heads out of a lifeboat hatch. Inside the lifeboat, the third pirate moved toward the captain, pointing his AK-47 at his back. Thinking Phillips was about to be killed, the on-scene commander gave the snipers the order to fire. When a Navy SEAL arrived at the lifeboat, Phillips was bound, according to the senior military official, who said the captain "was anchored to the interior of the boat." News of the rescue filtered out to the crew on the Maersk Alabama, docked at the Kenyan port of Mombasa, on Sunday evening. With the 18 other members of the crew around him, first mate Shane Murphy said at a Monday news conference that "right now, right this minute, ships are being taken." He called on Obama to "end this pirate scourge." In remarks Monday at the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Va., Gates said that "there is

UNCLASSIFIED

page 204

UNCLASSIFIED

no purely military solution" to a piracy problem he described as rooted in Somalia's poverty and instability.

In Somalia, in the pirate haven of Harardhere, where locals have benefited from millions of dollars in pirate ransom, the military operation seemed like a bewildering display of force against four errant young men. "It was wrong to kill those pirates," said Aisha Gurey, an Arabic teacher. "The international community is wrong, and the pirates are wrong. But in this case, the strong one has killed the weak one." The Justice Department is deciding where to send the fourth pirate for trial. Andrea Phillips, the wife of Richard Phillips, could barely speak at a Monday celebration held at the Sheraton hotel in Burlington, Vt. Her voice was almost inaudible because of laryngitis. But a look and a touch said it all. As a spokeswoman for the Maersk Line shipping company read Andrea Phillips's written statement at a podium, the captain's wife sat silently on one side, her hand grasped firmly by her daughter, Mariah. At one point, the mother looked up at her 18-year-old daughter and they smiled at each other, seemingly oblivious to the scores of reporters in the room. "I spoke to Richard earlier today," Andrea Phillips said, and he thought it "was kind of funny when I told him I was preparing a press statement today." "We did not know what Richard was enduring while being held hostage on the lifeboat, and that was really the hardest part -- the wondering," her statement said. "My family

***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 31 *****

and closest friends held on to our faith knowing that Richard would come home."

Convoys Are An Answer To Piracy

Source: Wall Street Journal, Peter D. Zimmerman, 14 Apr 09 - Page A15 (Wall Street Journal (WSJ) is an English language newspaper, located in New York City. Owned by the Dow Jones & Company, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news, analysis, and business, with a free market and pro-business bias. WSJ's estimated world-wide circulation/audience reach is 2,000,000 reaching audiences throughout America, Europe and Asia.)

The same tactic that defeated the German U-boats could work today. Piracy never really disappeared; it plagues maritime commerce as much today as it did in the Caribbean in the 18th century and on the Barbary Coast in the 19th century. But until recently,

UNCLASSIFIED

page 205

UNCLASSIFIED

modern-day pirates mostly rustled some cargo and let their captives continue, leaving the crew unharmed. That's changed. Pirates in the waters off Somalia, and from the Gulf of Aden to south of the equator, are no longer simply interested in seizing ships and cargo. Now they are out for the multimillion dollar ransoms paid by ship operators to rescue their crews. They've come up with a good business model, too, with a low cost of entry: a fishing trawler to serve as a mother ship, a few high-speed inflatable boats, weapons and crews to seize their targets. Very few of these thieves have paid for their crimes despite the presence of a small fleet of warships in the region. One way to deal with the threat is to revive convoys. To be sure, in different circumstances naval patrols have worked. Towards the end of the 20th century, pirates in the Strait of Malacca, which links the Indian and Pacific Oceans, not only captured ships, but crews that resisted were often murdered and their ships renamed and reflagged. Gradually, naval patrols by Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore made life more dangerous for the pirates and safer for mariners. In 2007, the Strait was declared "piracy free." But those patrols were feasible because the Strait is a long, narrow passage never more than 150 miles wide. Down by the Horn of Africa, however, patrolling one million square miles of ocean with the 60 vessels on station is an impossibility. A radar mounted on the top mast of a destroyer is unlikely to "see" a small rubber boat 25 miles away and can search only about 2,000 square miles -- about one-fifth of 1(-PERCENT-) -- of the sea in which pirates prowl. The rescue of Captain Richard Phillips by naval Special Forces operating from the USS Bainbridge, and the recent rescue by French commandos of a captured yacht, demonstrate that aggressive maritime policing can thwart pirate goals. But it is far better to prevent attacks in the first place.

Pirates, like the Nazi submarines of World War II, do not hunt for their targets; they lie across the sea lanes where ships are likely to travel and simply wait for a victim to come over the horizon. And the same tactic which defeated the U-boats can put an end to the majority of pirate attacks. Merchant ships can be ordered to form convoys for their own protection. Thirty thousand ships a year, roughly 100 a day, 50 in each direction, transit the waters off the coast of Somalia. One convoy in each direction, each day, alternating between fast ships and slower ones, and each accompanied by four or five escort vessels, would do the

UNCLASSIFIED

page 206

UNCLASSIFIED

job. There would then be only two targets a day in each area of coast for the pirates to find, instead of 100. When marauders approach a convoy, they could be warned off by the escorts or destroyed if they attack. Convoys have historically been the antidote to piracy on the open seas, and they can defend against these attacks once again. Modern naval escorts, equipped with helicopters, have the ability to establish a perimeter around the merchant ships, the firepower to stop a pirate, the legal jurisdiction to do so under the Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the ability to deliver their prisoners for trial. Shipping companies will protest that it is more economical for ships to travel alone and not be held to the speed of the slowest vessel in a convoy. And certainly the odds of any given vessel being attacked and captured are less than 1(-PERCENT-) per voyage. At that rate, a \$10,000,000 ransom is only an extra \$100,000 tacked on per voyage. But this ignores the fate of those sailors who are captured. And it ignores the corrosion of the international maritime system as pirates are seen to kidnap, and even kill, with impunity. It's time to convoy again.

Mr. Zimmerman is professor emeritus at King's College London and a former chief scientist of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Rescue At Sea Sparks Calls For Firepower

Source: Wall Street Journal, Chip Cummins & John W. Miller, 14 Apr 09 - Page A8 (Wall Street Journal (WSJ) is an English language newspaper, located in New York City. Owned by the Dow Jones & Company, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news, analysis, and business, with a free market and pro-business bias. WSJ's estimated world-wide circulation/audience reach is 2,000,000 reaching audiences throughout America, Europe and Asia.)

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 701608

Shipping groups applaud military action; Obama says U.S. will work with allies to fight piracy.

Naval officials and seafaring organizations braced Monday for reprisals from **Somali pirates**, a day after the U.S. Navy killed three in a high-seas hostage rescue in the Indian Ocean. But many maritime officials said they were encouraged by the military action Sunday, and are pushing governments to send more firepower

UNCLASSIFIED

page 207

UNCLASSIFIED

to the Gulf of Aden and the waters along the east coast of Africa. On Monday, in his first public comments on the crisis, President Barack Obama signaled his intent to continue fighting piracy at sea, saying the U.S. would work with allies to thwart further attacks on commercial shipping. "We have to continue to be prepared to confront attacks when they arise, and we have to ensure that those who commit acts of piracy are held accountable for their crimes," Mr. Obama said. The U.S., European Union and other nations sent an armada of ships to help patrol the region after pirate attacks surged last year. But some governments have cautioned that a military response isn't the answer, considering the size of the area they would need to patrol to be effective. Naval officials also blame a dysfunctional Somali government that can't rein in the pirates. Sunday night, U.S. snipers killed three pirates who were holding Capt. Richard Phillips, an American merchant captain, in a lifeboat. The pirates spirited him away from his ship, the U.S.-flagged Maersk Alabama, in an attack last week that was thwarted by the ship's American crew. Last week, the French navy killed two pirates and one hostage as they freed a sailing yacht commandeered by pirates. Details of how Capt. Phillips was rescued continued to emerge Monday. A U.S. defense official said officers on the USS Bainbridge became increasingly concerned for Capt. Phillips's safety on Sunday when one of the pirates on the lifeboat opened fire on the Bainbridge. The defense official also said a fourth pirate, who was originally believed to have moved to the Bainbridge earlier in the day to open talks with U.S. Navy officers, actually surprised sailors by jumping into an inflatable boat the Navy was using to bring food to the lifeboat and essentially surrendering. The official said three shots were fired, by three different Navy Seals. "Three Seals, three shots, three take-downs," the official said. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said the pirates were "untrained teenagers" ages 17 to 19. The lone surviving pirate is being held. So far, pirates have largely avoided killing captured crew, instead holding out for ransom. The spate of military action has raised concerns that pirates may change tactics. They could ratchet up violence in future attacks or strike out in retribution against the hundreds of hostages they still hold, officials worry. "Our main thoughts are what this will do to seafarers still in hostage situations," said Rob Lomas, secretary-general of London-based Intercargo, an industry group. The military intervention could also have economic repercussions for the

UNCLASSIFIED

page 208

UNCLASSIFIED

industry, officials said. Insurance rates, already higher because of piracy attacks, might go up further to take into account the possibility of lethal firefights between pirates and navies. And more companies could bypass the Gulf of Aden altogether, instead taking the long way around the Cape of Good Hope, adding to journey time and costs. "The shootings mean an increase in risk, which could see even higher insurance premiums and more ships going around the Cape," says Dirk Visser, an analyst with Dynamar BV, a shipping consultancy based in Aalkmaar, the Netherlands. Still, shipping-industry and seafaring groups have called for more military action, not less. Last week, the Council of American Master Mariners, for instance, criticized the U.S. and United Nations for not acting aggressively enough in the face of attacks. "If the world's navies can't or won't protect unarmed merchant ships, then it's time to train the crews and send them to sea," the group of current and former ship masters said in a statement. However, despite support among some sailors for arming merchant ships, the industry generally opposes such a move. Bimco, a Denmark-based industry group of independent shippers, has applauded recent naval deployments, crediting them with bringing attacks down. But the group is also calling for greater coordination among navies in the region. Noel Choong, the head of the International Maritime Bureau's Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, said despite the new risks, he supports "the robust response" in the case of the Maersk Alabama. "We can't give in to criminals," he said.

Areas of Interest Madagascar Cyclone Jade Kills 10 In Madagascar
Source: AFP, 14 Apr 09 (Agence France-Presse is an English, French, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic language news agency. AFP has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards, the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis. AFP reaches audiences in thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets.)

At least 10 people have been killed and more than 37,100 rendered homeless by tropical cyclone Jade on the Indian Ocean island nation of Madagascar, the authorities said Tuesday.

A previous toll had reported nine deaths. The latest victim died at Nosy Varika on the east coast, where a landslide seriously injured three other people, said the National Office for the Management of Risks and Catastrophes. The vast island off Africa's southeast coast is highly vulnerable to seasonal

UNCLASSIFIED

page 209

UNCLASSIFIED

cyclones. The worst affected region was Analanjirifo, north of the eastern port of Toamasina, where the cyclone has left almost
/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 33 *****/

25,000 people homeless. Jade made landfall on April 6 in the northeastern region and has now left Madagascar, but the heavy rains it left in its trail heightened fears of serious floods.

Madagascar's cyclone season is due to end soon. In January, at least nine people were killed and more than 20,000 lost their homes after two cyclones hit the island.

Mozambique UN Official Calls For Condom Distribution In Prisons
Source: AIM, 14 Apr 09 (TBD)

A senior United Nations official on Tuesday called for the distribution of condoms in prisons, to reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases among the prisoners themselves, and among their communities after their release.

Brian Tkachuk, Regional Advisor for HIV/AIDS in African prisons for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), was speaking in Maputo on the second day of a seminar on prison health. He stressed that the distribution of condoms to prisoners was essential to cut the spread of HIV infection in prisons. He stressed that this measure was required to protect not only the prisoners, but also their families and communities when they regain their freedom. The subject is not one that has been publicly discussed before, since it is an admission that inside jails men have sex with other men. On Monday Justice Minister Benvinda Levy had touched on the same subject, pointing out that the high rates of HIV prevalence in prisons is related to unprotected sexual relations, and to the sharing of needles to inject drugs.

Tkachuk said that so far condoms are the most effective means known to halt the spread of HIV, and that sexual relations in prison are a phenomenon characteristic of incarceration across the globe. Several African countries, including South Africa, Lesotho and Burundi, have recognised this reality and make condoms available in their prisons. The head of the medical assistance department in the Mozambican prison service, Gimo Cumba, who is the spokesperson for the seminar, said there is evidence of sexual relations not only between prisoners, but between prisoners and guards, and the friends of the guards. "The question has been identified", said Cumba, "but in public health this involves measuring the scale of the problem. We shall hold studies to understand the problem". The central purpose of such

UNCLASSIFIED

page 210

UNCLASSIFIED

studies, he stressed, was to interrupt the chain of transmission, and one way of doing so was to make condoms available. However, Cumba thought that prior education was necessary, both of the prisoners and of society at large, lest people imagine that by distributing condoms in prisons the government was encouraging promiscuity. There has been no recent study on HIV prevalence in Mozambican prisons, but the figure from 2002 was that 30 per cent of the prison population was infected. This is much higher than the prevalence rate among the general population, which is currently estimated at 16 per cent among people aged between 15 and 49.

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page 211

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