

RELEASE IN PART B5, B6

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, July 23, 2011 8:33 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Fyi Malawi

From: Carson, Johnnie
Sent: Saturday, July 23, 2011 04:26 PM
To: Mills, Cheryl D; 'Yohannesdw [redacted] <Yohannesdw@[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Fyi Malawi

Cheryl: The embassy in Lilongwe issued a strong statement on Thursday under my name condemning the violence and the government's overreaction to the on-going public protests over rising fuel and food prices. Our Charge has also protested to the ministry of foreign affairs about the crackdown on the press as well as the heavy handed police and military actions. (I know the Brits have acted swiftly to cut all aid, but their issues and motivations are not the same as ours.) [redacted]

[redacted]. Finally, we have not had an amb in Lilongwe for over a year. A new amb goes out shortly. We have a lot of younger officers in the field, and sometimes having experienced and senior observers helps us stay a step ahead of these issues. But I can assure you, I and my Southern African team are watching this closely -- and taking action as required. Johnnie. I am going to try to squeeze a couple of days of leave early next week, but I will be monitoring developments in malawi.

From: Mills, Cheryl D
Sent: Saturday, July 23, 2011 07:24 AM
To: Carson, Johnnie; 'Yohannesdw [redacted] <Yohannesdw@[redacted]>
Subject: Fyi Malawi

Fyi

MALAWI

President Mutharika defended Malawi's police force after 18 people died in riots, and warned future protests would face "the wrath of government."

(France 24)

From: OpsAlert
Sent: Saturday, July 23, 2011 05:00 AM
Subject: Morning Press Highlights 07/23/I (U)



S/ES-O Morning Press Highlights

Saturday, July 23, 2011
0500 EDT

MIDDLE EAST

IRAN

Israel Radio reports Iranian FM Salehi announced Iran is “ready to negotiate with the U.S. without preconditions” on nuclear issues, as long as the dialogue is between “equals.” (*Jerusalem Post*)

OMAN

Police used tear-gas to disperse protesters in Sohar, a town roughly 140 miles north of Muscat, who demanded the release of individuals convicted for protesting in February and March. The crowds also demanded reforms, better wages, and jobs for young Omanis. According to witnesses, the number of protesters was larger than in previous weeks. (*Gulf News*)

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

PAKISTAN

Finance Minister Shaikh presented auditors’ reports for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, which unearthed massive cases of embezzlement and mismanagement of public funds. The Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly will review the report in the coming months. (*Dawn*)

INDIA

After months of intensive negotiations and scrutiny, the anti-graft Lokpal Bill is ready to be presented to Cabinet the week of July 25 and introduced to Parliament in the session beginning August 1. (*The Hindu*)

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA/CHINA

After a July 22 telephone discussion between Presidents Zuma and Hu on African Union proposals for ending the conflict in Libya, China expressed support for the AU plan. (*News 24*)

MALAWI

President Mutharika defended Malawi’s police force after 18 people died in riots, and warned future protests would face “the wrath of government.” (*France 24*)

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

VIETNAM

Nguyen Cao Ky, the former air force general who ruled South Vietnam for two years during the Vietnam War, died at the age of 80 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. (*Straits Times*)

MALAYSIA/FRANCE

Malaysian authorities deported William Bourdon, a French lawyer representing a Malaysian human rights group, alleging his involvement with a 2010 corruption case involving a \$1.2 billion purchase of submarines

from French shipbuilder DCNS. Activists claim Bourdon's arrest and deportation were unlawful. The case could embarrass Prime Minister Najib, who was defense minister at the time the submarines were purchased. (*AFP*)

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

HAITI

President Martelly announced changes to the makeup of the post-earthquake recovery commission, which he says will make it more effective. Martelly named Ann Valerie Timothee Milfort, former chief-of-staff for the Ministry of Women's Affairs, to serve as interim executive director. He also named six members of his inner circle as board members, replacing members who resigned when the previous administration handed over power to Martelly. (*Miami Herald*)

MEXICO

Following the signing of a bilateral agreement in early July, the Mexican government announced Mexican trucks will begin shipping long-haul freight far into U.S. territory by early September. (*Latin American Herald Tribune*)

EUROPE

LATVIA

A referendum on the dissolution of parliament will be held July 23. Parliament will be dissolved if half of the voters plus one support the initiative, and new parliamentary elections would be held within two months. (*RIA Novosti*)

EUROPEAN UNION

All major European markets rallied at week's end in response to the Eurozone agreement on an aid package for Greece, which included a request that the private sector contribute voluntarily to the package. (*Euronews*)

Drafted: KMSimmons

Approved: NLMacklin

**** Morning Press Highlights alerts senior Department officials to breaking news items and is a synopsis of select media stories from around the world. It solely reflects the gist of the stories as presented in their original publications and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources. ****