

DCS
Barnard

UN

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Note to the Chef de Cabinet

28-04-08

Abduction in Somalia ✓

Further to my note of 7 April 2008, there is no information to indicate that the abductors carried out their threat to kill one of the hostages yesterday. However, we do not have confirmed current proof that both hostages are alive and well.

The crisis team operating from Nairobi under the leadership of the UN Designated Official has been reinforced by Kenyan staff and UK staff (sent from London). The responsibility for family liaison and support has been assumed by the member states (Kenya and UK). Consultation continues on continuity of shared responsibility. I met yesterday evening with representatives of the permanent missions of Kenya, Somalia and UK to brief them and to reinforce co-ordination.

Contact with the probable abductors continues via an intermediary and various mediators. The agreed strategy of securing safe release without substantive concessions remains in place. The crisis team continues to explore options of contacts with persons who may be able to exert direct influence on the abductors.

On the advice of OLA, endeavours are being pursued to achieve closer engagement of the company contracted by FAO on whose behalf the abductees were working.

I will chair a meeting with concerned UNHQ entities tomorrow to address broader UN security questions in Somalia.

I will continue to advise developments.

D Veness

David Veness
8 April 2008

14-5-08

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