

**Update Note for the Secretary-General**  
**23 November 2010**

**1. Lebanon**

In a press statement released today, the Prosecutor of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon states that he is extremely disappointed about the recent reports by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), broadcast at a time when the Office of the Prosecutor is "working flat out to ensure that a draft indictment is submitted to the Pre-Trial Judge for confirmation in the near future."

The Office of the Prosecutor's decision not to comment on matters relating to the investigation will "not change." Preserving confidentiality is essential for the success of the investigation. The Prosecutor also notes "It will be for the Judges, and the Judges alone, to assess the evidence and reach conclusions based on the facts as established at trial, and the law."

In the meantime, the Office of the Prosecutor is assessing the impact of these reports on the investigation. "The most serious impact of the CBC reports is that their broadcast may put people's lives in jeopardy".

**2. Pakistan**

Pascoe transmitted<sup>1</sup> the second report of the Special Envoy for Assistance to Pakistan, Mr. Rauf Engin Soysal.

In his report, Soysal informs of the discussions held during a 6 November working dinner at the Ambassadorial level with President Zardari and friends of Democratic Pakistan (FoDP). The President remarked that he looked forward to a solid and, comprehensive partnership with the international community and that the war against terrorism and the floods created a situation that no country could handle on its own without proactive assistance from the international community.

The Finance Minister spoke at the Pakistan Development Forum (PDF) which took place on 14-15 November, stressing that the PDF was not only about floods but an opportunity for Pakistan to present a broader strategy and vision. He identified several areas which the international community and Pakistan could work together such as the rehabilitation and reconstruction phases. He remarked that Pakistan did not need reprioritization but fresh input from donors.

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<sup>1</sup> (10-10738 of 15/11/10)  
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Prior to the PDF meeting, the Finance Minister met with donors and international organizations, emphasizing the importance of shifting focus from short-term to medium and long term assistance. He raised the need to understand the shift in powers within Pakistan to the provinces.

### **3. Colombia**

On Saturday 19 November, the Colombian Air Forces probably killed “Fabián Ramírez” (real name José Benito Cabrera), a member of the FARC Secretariat and commander of the group’s Southern Front. The precision-bombing operation took place in a remote forested area in the department of Caquetá and also killed four or five others.

While the identity of the deceased is still undetermined, the Government already let know that Mr. Ramírez’ laptop has been found. In previous attacks against FARC encampments laptops have been recovered and the information contained therein later used to substantiate allegations made against countries and personalities (Piedad Córdoba was stripped of her parliamentary seat because of her alleged correspondence with FARC leaders contained in one of those laptops).

The strike represents the latest in a series of blows suffered by the FARC in a context of escalating military operations and casualties. Through Vice President Garzón, the Government expressed its openness to negotiate an end to the conflict while stepping up military pressure on the ground.

The sophistication and capability of Colombia’s military won’t go unnoticed. This is the second major precision-bombing strike successfully carried out under President Santos, who took office last August and was Minister of Defence under the previous administration. Last September, Colombian forces launched similar air attack in which “Mono Jojoy”, another top FARC leader and commander of the Eastern Front, was killed in the Meta department.

Besides its stated openness to negotiate an end to the conflict, while increasing military pressure against the guerrillas, President Santos has reoriented Colombia’s foreign policy to secure the cooperation of neighbouring countries and close off the guerrillas rear-guard in Ecuador and Venezuela. Since the President’s inauguration, Colombia held security consultations with both neighbours at presidential and ministerial levels and steered relations with Venezuela towards a positive turnaround. Santos also increased contacts other with South American countries and has committed to promote Colombia’s ratification of UNASUR’s constitutive treaty.

President Santos’ Government is enjoying significant domestic popularity due to its internal policies and this successful strike will certainly provide a further boost. For the armed guerrillas this cannot but represent yet another serious military and psychological blow although not necessarily is a sign that the end

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of the conflict is nearer. As the consensus view goes, there is no military solution to the Colombian conflict.

#### **4. Iran human rights**

UNHCHR issued a press release in which Pillay expressed her concern on the increasing difficulties and crackdowns faced by human rights defenders in Iran. Among the human rights defenders who have been arrested is Ms. Nasrin Sotoudeh, a prominent human rights lawyer handling high profile cases who was on hunger strike for several weeks in protest against her detention. Members of other human rights organizations also face arrest or conviction including the Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners in Iran and the Committee of Human Rights Reporters, along with individual lawyers representing clients in sensitive cases and student activists and leaders.

Of note is that on 1-2 December OHCHR is scheduled to hold a judicial colloquium in Tehran with more than 30 Iranian judges and prosecutors on issues relating to the right to fair trial and the treatment of detainees.

#### **5. Disarmament/IAEA's report on Iran's nuclear programme**

On 23 November, IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano submitted to the Board of Governors a latest report on Iran's nuclear programme. Contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Board of Governors and the Security Council, Iran has not suspended enrichment related activities at its Natanz nuclear site. Iran is estimated to have produced 3,183 kg of low enriched UF6 since February 2007. Iran has also announced that it has selected the venues for new enrichment facilities and that construction of one of these facilities will start around March 2011, but has not provided the Agency with the necessary relevant information and access in accordance with Iran's Safeguards Agreement.

With respect to available information related to possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear programme, the report raises concerns about the possible existence in Iran of "past or current undisclosed activities related to the development of a nuclear payload for a missile." The report notes that certain alleged activities related to nuclear explosives "seem to have continued beyond 2004."



Political Unit  
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cc: DSG, VN, KWS