

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 October 2017 17:19
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: ADDITIONAL QU FOR COMMS/SPADS - UPDATE - DAILY RECORD - RE: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount Mulanje area in Malawi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 October 2017 17:18
To: Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]
Subject: ADDITIONAL QU FOR COMMS/SPADS - UPDATE - DAILY RECORD - RE: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount Mulanje area in Malawi

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] International Development Team
International Division
Scottish Government
Area 2H North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
Tel. 0131-[REDACTED] - Blackberry [REDACTED]
Compressed working pattern: [REDACTED]
Follow us on our team twitter account @ScotGovID

Website: <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/international-development/>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 October 2017 17:07
To: [REDACTED]; Minister for International Development and Europe; Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED]
Subject: UPDATE - DAILY RECORD - RE: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount Mulanje area in Malawi

[REDACTED] / Duty Comms / spads,

To be aware, one of the team has alerted me that the Daily Record is today running a story entitled "Nine dead as crazed mobs hunt down 'blood-sucking vampires' in Malawi" - <http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/nine-dead-crazed-mobs-hunt-11382642>

I have drafted brief reactive lines to take below in case this story gains traction in the Scottish media – for comms/spads sign off.

For ease of reading on BBs, the story says:

* Around 140 people have been arrested in Malawi after deadly mob attacks on people suspected of being "vampires".

* Police said more arrests are expected after the situation spun out of control, with nine people having been killed.

* The attacks began last month after rumours of "blood-suckers" spread.

* In the latest case, a man with epilepsy was burned to death in Blantyre, the southern African nation's second-largest city. Another person there was stoned to death.

* President Peter Mutharika has appealed for calm in the four districts where the mob attacks have taken place, saying this week that "my government will offer protection from these alleged blood-suckers".

* The United Nations and US Embassy have blacklisted some of the areas as dangerous zones for staffers.

* Inspector general of police Lexon Kachama said: "The biggest challenge is that thieves and robbers have now taken advantage of the situation and are mounting illegal roadblocks at night in order to harass people."

* Government officials have said the attacks are harming the deeply impoverished country's image.

* Residents including health officials, teachers and traditional leaders have said their homes were destroyed after rumours spread that they were harbouring "vampires"

SG ID Team action taken

1. [REDACTED] had already emailed out yesterday to all SG Malawi Development Programme grant holders, bringing the FCO travel update to their attention and advising "The Scottish Government would urge all Grant holders, and other visitors to Malawi, to note this advice and act accordingly. You should also ensure that you keep yourselves and any staff travelling to the areas effected, updated on any changes to FCO travel advice."

[REDACTED]

2. We also tweeted out yesterday from @scotgovID, RT'd by @scotgovinter, a factual "Please be aware of latest @FCOtravel on #Malawi - re Mount Mulanje area, & now re Blantyre, Zomba & Nsanje districts [https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/malawi ...](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/malawi...)" and with a photo of the summary of the FCO advice embedded to ensure it was centre front <https://twitter.com/ScotGovID/status/921355960496590850>

2 issues now: next steps

1. Lines to take: in case this draws more interest in the media in Scotland, suggested brief lines for clearance by comms/spads are:

"We are monitoring this situation closely and are extremely concerned at the current violence and loss of life. The Scottish Government supports the call for calm by the President of Malawi, HE Mutharika, and his commitment to investigate the killings."

"We have issued a notice to all Scottish Government grant holders working in Malawi, to bring to their attention the recent change in FCO travel advice for Malawi. We have also issued an alert on social media. We have urged all grant holders, and other visitors to Malawi, to note the FCO travel advice and to act accordingly."

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 20 October 2017 11:44

To: Minister for International Development and Europe

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED];
Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]

Subject: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount Mulanje area in Malawi

Dear [REDACTED],

The Minister will wish to note a story running in the Press regarding people being attacked and murdered in the Blantyre/Mulanje area in Malawi, after being accused of being 'Vampires'. The President of Malawi has spoken out about this issues, and has recently visited the areas concerned calling for order. This is brought to the Minister's attention as 2 member of Police Scotland arrived in Blantyre yesterday to commence work in relation to our Child Protection and Violence against Women project.

The 2 Police Scotland officers ([REDACTED]) who deliver the child protection and gender based violence programme in our partner countries arrived in Blantyre this morning. They are scheduled to remain there until 26 October delivering a series of workshops with the Malawian Police Force as part of the pre-planned project work in country.

I have been advised by their colleague at Tulliallan that the officers experienced difficulty departing Blantyre airport as all surrounding roads were blocked by people protesting in relation to the latest murders. They have now managed to reach their accommodation and are in regular contact with the Security Manager at the British High Commission. The situation is under review and while the British High Commission have advised the officers to carry on with their in country activity as planned, they will advise them immediately if there is any escalation which means they should depart the country. Officials in the International Development Team are in regular contact with officers at Tulliallan who are keeping them up to date.

To date it is reported that 8 people have died in these attacks (see attached article in the Guardian). The FCO have changed their advice on their website yesterday:

'following unrest and violence in the Mount Mulanje area, there are reports of tensions and unrest spreading to rural parts and township areas of Blantyre, Zomba and Nsanje districts. On 19 October 2017, there are also reports of unrest and disturbances on the Chileka Road which is the main route to the airport from Blantyre; you should exercise extreme caution in these areas, especially after dark, avoid any demonstrations or large groups of people and follow local security advice.'

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/malawi>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/19/malawi-mobs-kill-two-more-people-accused-of-being-vampires>

Officials will bring the bring the updated FCO advice to the attention of our grant holders, and depending on advice from Comms colleagues, also to other interested parties via our Twitter

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | International Development Team | The
Scottish Government | Floor 2GN | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel 0131 [REDACTED] |

BlackBerry [REDACTED]

<https://beta.gov.scot/policies/international-development/>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 October 2017 14:10
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Blood Sucking

All – for info:

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED@scotland.pnn.police.uk]]
Sent: 30 October 2017 13:44
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Blood Sucking

[REDACTED]

I have been in touch with Malawi Police Service and BHC security. I am still awaiting an update from MPS, however the response from [REDACTED] (BHC [REDACTED]) is that there have been no additional incidents for about 1 week, they are still advising extreme caution in border areas.

If I get anything back from MPS I will let you know.

Regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] International Development and Innovation Unit
Scottish Police College
Tulliallan Castle
Kincardine
Fife FK10 4BE

Tel: 0044 (0)1259 732000
Direct: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@scotland.pnn.police.uk

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?S ann a-mh?in airson an neach-uidhe a tha e.

Mura tusa an neach-uidhe no mura h-eil dleastanas ort a chur air adhart chun an neach-uidhe, thathar le seo a? leigeil fios dhut gu bheil e toirmisgte am post-d seo a chleachdadh air dh?igh sam bith, no fhoillseachadh, no sgr?dadh, no sgaoileadh, no riarachadh, no lethbhreac a

dh?anamh dheth.

Ma th?inig am post-d seo thugad le mearachd, leig fios sa bhad chun an neach a sgaoil e,
a? cleachdadh a? ghoireis fhreagairt ann am bathar-bog a? phuist-d agad no le fios a chur gu
POILEAS ALBA air (+44) 1786 289070 agus cuir ?s dhan phost-d.

This email has been received from an external party and has been swept for the presence of
computer viruses.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 October 2017 11:11
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Risk Assessment Malawi Field Work ESCALATED TO RED All Activities
Must be Risk Assessed on the Day
Attachments: S20 Risk Assessment Malawi Forensic 21 Oct 2017.doc

This is [REDACTED] at Strathclyde Uni's escalation to red on his risk register - in response to vampire unrest.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@strath.ac.uk]
Sent: 21 October 2017 18:44
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Risk Assessment Malawi Field Work ESCALATED TO RED All Activities
Must be Risk Assessed on the Day

[REDACTED],

The up to date CJF Risk Assessment. We first acted on this 10th Oct.

Cheers
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 October 2017 12:39
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Risk Assessment Malawi Field Work ESCALATED TO RED All Activities
Must be Risk Assessed on the Day

Hi All,

Further to [REDACTED] earlier email: we have updated the Risk Assessment for the ongoing 'Borehole Forensic' Data Collection Programme (which has works planned in some affected areas). We will be updating all other active safety documents and procedures on Monday (23 October).

See attached updated Risk Assessment for reference, relevant updates are in the document as red text.

The situation will be reviewed daily and updates made on an ongoing basis.

We have a number of control measures in place (Page 2 of Document), however the bottom line is that works will not be carried out if there is known to be a significant risk in any planned work area. Detailed localised reports will be provided daily by Regional Level and District Level Government Staff, and decisions made off this.

Thanks, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Project Hydrogeologist - Research Assistant
[REDACTED]@strath.ac.uk<mailto:[REDACTED]@strath.ac.uk>
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering | University of Strathclyde

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 October 2017 09:46
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Risk Assessment Malawi Field Work ESCALATED TO RED All Activities
Must be Risk Assessed on the Day

Dear All,

The Bloodsucker (Vampire) Issue around Risk Assessment for Staff working on the CJF programme has been ESCALATE TO RED so that All Activities Must be Risk Assessed on the Day and appropriate action taken. The previous Risk Assessment on this issue approved T-Shirts (some are with CJF staff in Malawi) and ID cards for our activities (13th Oct). In response we have 24/7 contact via Whatsapp with UoS staff (our standard Daily H&S checks) and with BaseFlow and WFP ([REDACTED]).

Since then we have been reviewing the day to day changes in conjunction with the Gov't of Malawi and with MSF who we have been sharing knowledge and information. They have kindly provided us Daily updates on the matter (see attached). There has been an escalation in incidents in the southern region in the past 24 hours.

All activities planned for today in Chikwawa by UoS CJF Staff have been cancelled as a result and also as we were informed by the Gov't that the President would be travelling to Chikwawa to assist in calming the situation and many Gov't staff will be reassigned accordingly today. There were two serious incidents yesterday in rural Blantyre as well <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-41692944>

Project Specific Concerns

One CJF Enumerator was chased from a village yesterday as a suspected Bloodsucker. Action was immediately taken last evening to review activities.

Early this morning I have been in contact with Malawi Gov't, BaseFlow, WFP ([REDACTED]) and UoS Staff (Via Strathclyde Safety Checks Whatsapp group) and have agreed the following actions.

Strathclyde Specific Issue

- 1) Activity for UoS Staff were suspended until RA updates have been actioned, I have met with Staff by phone and are liaising with Gov't on appropriate RA revision.
- 2) Precautionary Principal Applies, do not undertake any CJF activity if any H&S issues are in doubt.
- 3) All UoS staff activities will require prior approval of village chief and Ministry Staff (DWDO and Regional) on day before activity
- 4) Any UoS activity requires prior approval when arriving on site, Ministry Staff (WMA) must seek again approval on site from Chief and Water Point Committee.
- 5) If any of the above are not met, then the site visit is cancelled until approvals are sanctioned.
- 6) No UoS staff shall travel without prior RA and no UoS staff shall travel after dark.
- 7) UoS RA to be updated daily if required.

WFP / Mapping Specific Issues

- 1) WFP to provide update RA in response to enumerator safety. UoS will provide on 21st Oct updated UoS Risk Assessment for reference.
- 2) WFP to provide indication of what steps are being taken to assure safety of enumerators.

Safety is of utmost importance so please keep staff and all those working on the CJF Programme up to date (daily) and do not undertake any CJF activities if H&S issues are in doubt.

If you have any questions, you are welcome to call me direct on [REDACTED]

Cheers
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 October 2017 22:25
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Risk Assessment Malawi Field Work

Dear All,

Given the recent announcement by the Malawi Gov't, please make sure that all staff working on the CJF project who are based in Malawi abide by the Curfew.

We have already required this morning an update of the risk assessment for the 4 Univ of Strathclyde staff currently working in Malawi based in Blantyre and I've asked them to cancel activities tomorrow to allow a full assessment of the current situation. To this effect can [REDACTED] please provide the updated risk assessment for review here in Scotland.

I would also ask that our subcontractors please review the risk assessments associated with the current CJF activity, and to inform all of the enumerators of this current announcement and to make sure that all at risk activities are halted until this current situation has been resolved and or assessed accordingly. Can WFP, BaseFlow and Bawi please confirm as we wish all those working on the project are not placed at risk.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via whatsapp, phone or e-mail.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

FROM THE BBC NEWS

At least five people have been killed in southern Malawi after they were accused of behaving like vampires.

Malawian President Peter Mutharika has vowed to launch an investigation into the killings.

A night-time curfew has been imposed by the government to prevent vigilante mobs from killing more people.

The UN says it has pulled staff out of two districts as the vampire scare swept south of the country.

The people killed were suspected of drinking human blood as part of magic rituals.

The government-imposed curfew restricts movement to ten hours from 07:00 until 17:00 local time (05:00 to 15:00 GMT) .

Meanwhile, the president's office said in a statement: "This development has been of grave concern to the president and the entire government."

The UN said in a report that the vampirism rumours appear to have originated from Mozambique, and "speared across" the border to the Malawi districts of Mulanje and Phalombe.

But, it said, it is unclear what sparked them.

"Temporary suspension of UN activities in the area until the situation is normalised," the report added.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-41574608>

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 October 2017 14:33
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Recent Attacks and Violence in Southern Malawi

Thanks [REDACTED].

Ian

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@dfid.gsx.gov.uk]
Sent: 23 October 2017 14:25
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Recent Attacks and Violence in Southern Malawi

Dear [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email. There are no additional UKG lines.

We are advising all our staff and partners to keep checking the FCO travel advice page which is being updated daily to reflect the latest information. The situation is changing and also quite localised to a few districts, so this is the best way to ensure all have access to the most recent and relevant advice.

For the full advice check here: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/malawi>

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk [mailto:[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 23 October 2017 13:15
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Recent Attacks and Violence in Southern Malawi

Hi [REDACTED],

Firstly my apologies getting back and thanking you sooner for arranging the meeting during my visit. I caught a bug and was off for a few days after my return. It was good to meet you and meeting up again with [REDACTED].

This is one of those e-mails that only Civil Servants would ever write, but could I ask what the UKG's lines are on the recent 'Vampire' issues in Malawi? I note that the FCO had changes their travel advice, and I've brought this to the attention of our grant holders. I was just wondering if there were other lines.

Any assistance would be appreciated.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | International Development Team | The
Scottish Government | Floor 2GN | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel 0131 [REDACTED] |
BlackBerry [REDACTED]

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Tha am post-d seo (agus faidhle neo ceanglan còmhla ris) dhan neach neo luchd-ainmichte a-mhàin. Chan eil e ceadichte a chleachdadh ann an dòigh sam bith, a' toirt a-steach còraichean, foillseachadh neo sgaoileadh, gun chead. Ma 's e is gun d'fhuair sibh seo gun fhiosd', bu choir cur às dhan phost-d agus lethbhreac sam bith air an t-siostam agaibh agus fios a leigeil chun neach a sgaoil am post-d gun dàil.

Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 November 2017 10:13
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED],

[REDACTED]

Vampires

The Minister will wish to note a story running in the Press regarding people being attacked and murdered in the Blantyre/Mulanje area in Malawi, after being accused of being 'Vampires'. The President of Malawi has spoken out about this issues, and has recently visited the areas concerned calling for order. This is brought to the Minister's attention as 2 member of Police Scotland arrived in Blantyre yesterday to commence work in relation to our Child Protection and Violence against Women project.

The 2 Police Scotland officers ([REDACTED]) who deliver the child protection and gender based violence programme in our partner countries arrived in Blantyre this morning. They are scheduled to remain there until 26 October delivering a series of workshops with the Malawian Police Force as part of the pre-planned project work in country.

I have been advised by their colleague at Tulliallan that the officers experienced difficulty departing Blantyre airport as all surrounding roads were blocked by people protesting in relation to the latest murders. They have now managed to reach their accommodation and are in regular contact with the Security Manager at the British High Commission. The situation is under review and while the British High Commission have advised the officers to carry on with their in country activity as planned, they will advise them immediately if there is any escalation which means they should depart the country. Officials in the International Development Team are in regular contact with officers at Tulliallan who are keeping them up to date.

To date it is reported that 8 people have died in these attacks (see attached article in the Guardian). The FCO have changed their advice on their website yesterday:

'following unrest and violence in the Mount Mulanje area, there are reports of tensions and unrest spreading to rural parts and township areas of Blantyre, Zomba and Nsanje districts. On 19 October 2017, there are also reports of unrest and disturbances on the Chileka Road which is the main route to the airport from Blantyre; you should exercise extreme caution in these areas, especially after dark, avoid any demonstrations or large groups of people and follow local security advice.'

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/malawi>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/19/malawi-mobs-kill-two-more-people-accused-of-being-vampires>

Officials will bring the bring the updated FCO advice to the attention of our grant holders, and depending on advice from Comms colleagues, also to other interested parties via our Twitter

Lines to take: in case this draws more interest in the media in Scotland, suggested brief lines for clearance by comms/spads are:

“We are monitoring this situation closely and are extremely concerned at the current violence and loss of life. The Scottish Government supports the call for calm by the President of Malawi, HE Mutharika, and his commitment to investigate the killings.”

“We have issued a notice to all Scottish Government grant holders working in Malawi, to bring to their attention the recent change in FCO travel advice for Malawi. We have also issued an alert on social media. We have urged all grant holders, and other visitors to Malawi, to note the FCO travel advice and to act accordingly.”

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 November 2017 10:01
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thanks for that [REDACTED] – [REDACTED]

Sorry, not gone through it fully but does it cover lines on the current situation of unrest in Malawi (vampires!)[REDACTED]

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 October 2017 14:32
To: [REDACTED] Minister for International Development and Europe; Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED]; Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: UPDATE - DAILY RECORD - RE: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount Mulanje area in Malawi

[REDACTED],

Just heard back from BHC/DFID Malawi who have informed me that they don't have any additional lines on this. They are advising all their staff and partners to keep checking the FCO travel advice page which is being updated daily to reflect the latest information. They said that the situation is changing and also quite localised to a few districts, so this is the best way to ensure all have access to the most recent and relevant advice.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 October 2017 11:43
To: [REDACTED]; Minister for International Development and Europe; Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED]; Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: UPDATE - DAILY RECORD - RE: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount Mulanje area in Malawi

Thanks [REDACTED] (I'm at home today [REDACTED]).

[REDACTED]: the account, from the Malawi Times, which the UK High Commission in Malawi have tweeted out is that the President has asked people not to take the law in their hands, and that he has "appealed to the people in Limbe and Chileka to remain calm "as police work to get to the bottom of the issue". Other than that the UKG in Malawi twitter feed is just referring to the FCO travel advice.

[REDACTED] – I can't see any statements online re this situation by UKG. Once our lines are signed off by Minister, if you haven't already, could you check with UKG what lines they are holding on this, just noting the standard that we want to make sure that we are aligned with anything they are saying if we separately get asked for SG reaction by the media in Scotland.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] International Development Team
International Division
Scottish Government
Area 2H North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
Tel. 0131-[REDACTED] - Blackberry [REDACTED]

Compressed working pattern: Tuesday to Friday (Monday is my non working day)
Follow us on our team twitter account @ScotGovID

Website: <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/international-development/>

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 23 October 2017 11:35

To: Minister for International Development and Europe; [REDACTED]

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED]; Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: UPDATE - DAILY RECORD - RE: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount Mulanje area in Malawi

Hi [REDACTED],

Just gone through more of the weekends reporting of this matter and have come across a piece where the President claims that he was misquoted by the media in relation to the -“my government will offer protection from these alleged bloodsuckers.” comment.

<https://www.nyasatimes.com/mutharika-disowns-witchcraft-remarks-bloodsuckers-attacks-nonsense-malawi-media-reports/>

Would these lines meet the Minister’s concerns?

STARTS

“We are monitoring this situation closely and are extremely concerned at the current violence and loss of life. The Scottish Government condemns this violence and the taking of lives. The Scottish Government welcomes the Government of Malawi’s commitment to investigate the circumstances surrounding these killings.”

“We have issued a notice to all Scottish Government grant holders working in Malawi, to bring to their attention the recent change in FCO travel advice for Malawi. We have also issued an alert on social media. We have urged all grant holders, and other visitors to Malawi, to note the FCO travel advice and to act accordingly.”

ENDS

From: Minister for International Development and Europe

Sent: 23 October 2017 09:54

To: [REDACTED]; Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED] Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]; Minister for International Development and Europe

Subject: Re: UPDATE - DAILY RECORD - RE: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount Mulanje area in Malawi

?Thanks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, 21 October 2017 17:06

To: [REDACTED]; Minister for International Development and Europe; Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED]; Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]

Subject: UPDATE - DAILY RECORD - RE: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount Mulanje area in Malawi

[REDACTED] / Duty Comms / spads,

To be aware, one of the team has alerted me that the Daily Record is today running a story entitled "Nine dead as crazed mobs hunt down 'blood-sucking vampires' in Malawi" - <http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/nine-dead-crazed-mobs-hunt-11382642>

I have drafted brief reactive lines to take below in case this story gains traction in the Scottish media – for comms/spads sign off.

For ease of reading on BBs, the story says:

- * Around 140 people have been arrested in Malawi after deadly mob attacks on people suspected of being "vampires".
- * Police said more arrests are expected after the situation spun out of control, with nine people having been killed.
- * The attacks began last month after rumours of "blood-suckers" spread.
- * In the latest case, a man with epilepsy was burned to death in Blantyre, the southern African nation's second-largest city. Another person there was stoned to death.
- * President Peter Mutharika has appealed for calm in the four districts where the mob attacks have taken place, saying this week that "my government will offer protection from these alleged blood-suckers".
- * The United Nations and US Embassy have blacklisted some of the areas as dangerous zones for staffers.
- * Inspector general of police Lexon Kachama said: "The biggest challenge is that thieves and robbers have now taken advantage of the situation and are mounting illegal roadblocks at night in order to harass people."
- * Government officials have said the attacks are harming the deeply impoverished country's image.
- * Residents including health officials, teachers and traditional leaders have said their homes were destroyed after rumours spread that they were harbouring "vampires"

SG ID Team action taken

1. [REDACTED] had already emailed out yesterday to all SG Malawi Development Programme grant holders, bringing the FCO travel update to their attention and advising "The Scottish Government would urge all Grant holders, and other visitors to Malawi, to note this advice and act accordingly. You should also ensure that you keep yourselves and any staff travelling to the areas effected, updated on any changes to FCO travel advice."

[REDACTED]

2. We also tweeted out yesterday from @scotgovID, RT'd by @scotgovinter, a factual "Please be aware of latest @FCOtravel on #Malawi - re Mount Mulanje area, & now re Blantyre, Zomba & Nsanje districts [https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/malawi ...](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/malawi...)" and with a photo of the summary of the FCO advice embedded to ensure it was centre front <https://twitter.com/ScotGovID/status/921355960496590850>

2 issues now: next steps

1. Lines to take: in case this draws more interest in the media in Scotland, suggested brief

lines for clearance by comms/spads are:

“We are monitoring this situation closely and are extremely concerned at the current violence and loss of life. The Scottish Government supports the call for calm by the President of Malawi, HE Mutharika, and his commitment to investigate the killings.”

“We have issued a notice to all Scottish Government grant holders working in Malawi, to bring to their attention the recent change in FCO travel advice for Malawi. We have also issued an alert on social media. We have urged all grant holders, and other visitors to Malawi, to note the FCO travel advice and to act accordingly.”

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 20 October 2017 11:44

To: Minister for International Development and Europe

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED]

Subject: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount Mulanje area in Malawi

[REDACTED],

The Minister will wish to note a story running in the Press regarding people being attacked and murdered in the Blantyre/Mulanje area in Malawi, after being accused of being ‘Vampires’. The President of Malawi has spoken out about this issues, and has recently visited the areas concerned calling for order. This is brought to the Minister’s attention as 2 member of Police Scotland arrived in Blantyre yesterday to commence work in relation to our Child Protection and Violence against Women project.

The 2 Police Scotland officers ([REDACTED]) who deliver the child protection and gender based violence programme in our partner countries arrived in Blantyre this morning. They are scheduled to remain there until 26 October delivering a series of workshops with the Malawian Police Force as part of the pre-planned project work in country.

I have been advised by their colleague at Tulliallan that the officers experienced difficulty departing Blantyre airport as all surrounding roads were blocked by people protesting in relation to the latest murders. They have now managed to reach their accommodation and are in regular contact with the Security Manager at the British High Commission. The situation is under review and while the British High Commission have advised the officers to carry on with their in country activity as planned, they will advise them immediately if there is any escalation which means they should depart the country. Officials in the International Development Team are in regular contact with officers at Tulliallan who are keeping them up to date.

To date it is reported that 8 people have died in these attacks (see attached article in the Guardian). The FCO have changed their advice on their website yesterday:

‘following unrest and violence in the Mount Mulanje area, there are reports of tensions and unrest spreading to rural parts and township areas of Blantyre, Zomba and Nsanje districts. On 19 October 2017, there are also reports of unrest and disturbances on the Chileka Road which is the main route to the airport from Blantyre; you should exercise extreme caution in these areas, especially after dark,

avoid any demonstrations or large groups of people and follow local security advice.’

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/malawi>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/19/malawi-mobs-kill-two-more-people-accused-of-being-vampires>

Officials will bring the updated FCO advice to the attention of our grant holders, and depending on advice from Comms colleagues, also to other interested parties via our Twitter

[REDACTED]

<https://beta.gov.scot/policies/international-development/>

From: Minister for International Development and Europe
Sent: 23 October 2017 12:41
To: [REDACTED]; Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED] Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]; Minister for International Development and Europe
Subject: Re: UPDATE - DAILY RECORD - RE: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount Mulanje area in Malawi

Thanks both,

Dr Allan has noted your update, and is also content with these lines.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 23 October 2017 11:43
To: [REDACTED] Minister for International Development and Europe; Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED] Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: UPDATE - DAILY RECORD - RE: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount Mulanje area in Malawi

Thanks [REDACTED] (I'm at home today [REDACTED]).

Just to add to what [REDACTED] has already said, and it doesn't affect his proposed tweak of the lines: the account, from the Malawi Times, which the UK High Commission in Malawi have tweeted out is that the President has asked people not to take the law in their hands, and that he has "appealed to the people in Limbe and Chileka to remain calm "as police work to get to the bottom of the issue". Other than that the UKG in Malawi twitter feed is just referring to the FCO travel advice.

[REDACTED] – I can't see any statements online re this situation by UKG. Once our lines are signed off by Minister, if you haven't already, could you check with UKG what lines they are holding on this, just noting the standard that we want to make sure that we are aligned with anything they are saying if we separately get asked for SG reaction by the media in Scotland.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Head of International Development Team
International Division
Scottish Government
Area 2H North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
Tel. 0131-[REDACTED] - Blackberry [REDACTED]
Compressed working pattern: Tuesday to Friday (Monday is my non working day)
Follow us on our team twitter account @ScotGovID

Website: <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/international-development/>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 October 2017 11:35
To: Minister for International Development and Europe; [REDACTED]; Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED] Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: UPDATE - DAILY RECORD - RE: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount Mulanje area in Malawi

Hi [REDACTED],

Just gone through more of the weekends reporting of this matter and have come across a piece where the President claims that he was misquoted by the media in relation to the -“my government will offer protection from these alleged bloodsuckers.” comment.

<https://www.nyasatimes.com/mutharika-disowns-witchcraft-remarks-bloodsuckers-attacks-nonsense-malawi-media-reports/>

Would these lines meet the Minister’s concerns?

STARTS

“We are monitoring this situation closely and are extremely concerned at the current violence and loss of life. The Scottish Government condemns this violence and the taking of lives. The Scottish Government welcomes the Government of Malawi’s commitment to investigate the circumstances surrounding these killings.”

“We have issued a notice to all Scottish Government grant holders working in Malawi, to bring to their attention the recent change in FCO travel advice for Malawi. We have also issued an alert on social media. We have urged all grant holders, and other visitors to Malawi, to note the FCO travel advice and to act accordingly.”

ENDS

From: Minister for International Development and Europe
Sent: 23 October 2017 09:54
To: [REDACTED]; Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED]; Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]; Minister for International Development and Europe
Subject: Re: UPDATE - DAILY RECORD - RE: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount Mulanje area in Malawi

?Thanks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 21 October 2017 17:06
To: [REDACTED]; Minister for International Development and Europe; Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED] Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]

Subject: UPDATE - DAILY RECORD - RE: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount Mulanje area in Malawi

[REDACTED] / Duty Comms / spads,

To be aware, one of the team has alerted me that the Daily Record is today running a story entitled "Nine dead as crazed mobs hunt down 'blood-sucking vampires' in Malawi" - <http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/nine-dead-crazed-mobs-hunt-11382642>

I have drafted brief reactive lines to take below in case this story gains traction in the Scottish media – for comms/spads sign off.

For ease of reading on BBs, the story says:

- * Around 140 people have been arrested in Malawi after deadly mob attacks on people suspected of being "vampires".
- * Police said more arrests are expected after the situation spun out of control, with nine people having been killed.
- * The attacks began last month after rumours of "blood-suckers" spread.
- * In the latest case, a man with epilepsy was burned to death in Blantyre, the southern African nation's second-largest city. Another person there was stoned to death.
- * President Peter Mutharika has appealed for calm in the four districts where the mob attacks have taken place, saying this week that "my government will offer protection from these alleged blood-suckers".
- * The United Nations and US Embassy have blacklisted some of the areas as dangerous zones for staffers.
- * Inspector general of police Lexon Kachama said: "The biggest challenge is that thieves and robbers have now taken advantage of the situation and are mounting illegal roadblocks at night in order to harass people."
- * Government officials have said the attacks are harming the deeply impoverished country's image.
- * Residents including health officials, teachers and traditional leaders have said their homes were destroyed after rumours spread that they were harbouring "vampires"

SG ID Team action taken

1. [REDACTED] had already emailed out yesterday to all SG Malawi Development Programme grant holders, bringing the FCO travel update to their attention and advising "The Scottish Government would urge all Grant holders, and other visitors to Malawi, to note this advice and act accordingly. You should also ensure that you keep yourselves and any staff travelling to the areas effected, updated on any changes to FCO travel advice."

[REDACTED]

2. We also tweeted out yesterday from @scotgovID, RT'd by @scotgovinter, a factual "Please be aware of latest @FCOtravel on #Malawi - re Mount Mulanje area, & now re Blantyre, Zomba & Nsanje districts [https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/malawi ...](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/malawi...)" and with a photo of the summary of the FCO advice embedded to ensure it was centre front <https://twitter.com/ScotGovID/status/921355960496590850>

2 issues now: next steps

1. Lines to take: in case this draws more interest in the media in Scotland, suggested brief lines for clearance by comms/spads are:
"We are monitoring this situation closely and are extremely concerned at the current violence and loss of life. The Scottish Government supports the call for calm by the

President of Malawi, HE Mutharika, and his commitment to investigate the killings.”

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 October 2017 11:44
To: Minister for International Development and Europe
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED]
Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]
Subject: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount Mulanje area in Malawi

Dear [REDACTED],

The Minister will wish to note a story running in the Press regarding people being attacked and murdered in the Blantyre/Mulanje area in Malawi, after being accused of being ‘Vampires’. The President of Malawi has spoken out about this issues, and has recently visited the areas concerned calling for order. This is brought to the Minister’s attention as 2 member of Police Scotland arrived in Blantyre yesterday to commence work in relation to our Child Protection and Violence against Women project.

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I have been advised by their colleague at Tulliallan that the officers experienced difficulty departing Blantyre airport as all surrounding roads were blocked by people protesting in relation to the latest murders. They have now managed to reach their accommodation and are in regular contact with the Security Manager at the British High Commission. The situation is under review and while the British High Commission have advised the officers to carry on with their in country activity as planned, they will advise them immediately if there is any escalation which means they should depart the country. Officials in the International Development Team are in regular contact with officers at Tulliallan who are keeping them up to date.

To date it is reported that 8 people have died in these attacks (see attached article in the Guardian). The FCO have changed their advice on their website yesterday:

‘following unrest and violence in the Mount Mulanje area, there are reports of tensions and unrest spreading to rural parts and township areas of Blantyre, Zomba and Nsanje districts. On 19 October 2017, there are also reports of unrest and disturbances on the Chileka Road which is the main route to the airport from Blantyre; you should exercise extreme caution in these areas, especially after dark, avoid any demonstrations or large groups of people and follow local security advice.’

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Officials will bring the bring the updated FCO advice to the attention of our grant holders, and depending on advice from Comms colleagues, also to other interested parties via our Twitter

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | International Development Team | The Scottish Government | Floor 2GN | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel 0131 [REDACTED] | BlackBerry [REDACTED]

<https://beta.gov.scot/policies/international-development/>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 October 2017 17:07
To: [REDACTED]; Minister for International Development and Europe;
Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED];
Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]
Subject: UPDATE - DAILY RECORD - RE: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount
Mulanje area in Malawi

[REDACTED] / Duty Comms / spads,

To be aware, one of the team has alerted me that the Daily Record is today running a story entitled "Nine dead as crazed mobs hunt down 'blood-sucking vampires' in Malawi" - <http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/nine-dead-crazed-mobs-hunt-11382642>

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 20 October 2017 11:44

To: Minister for International Development and Europe

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED];
Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]

Subject: Reported Unrest and Violence in the Mount Mulanje area in Malawi

Dear [RESDACTED],

The Minister will wish to note a story running in the Press regarding people being attacked and murdered in the Blantyre/Mulanje area in Malawi, after being accused of being ‘Vampires’. The President of Malawi has spoken out about this issues, and has recently visited the areas concerned calling for order. This is brought to the Minister’s attention as 2 member of Police Scotland arrived in Blantyre yesterday to commence work in relation to our Child Protection and Violence against Women project.

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<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/malawi>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/19/malawi-mobs-kill-two-more-people-accused-of-being-vampires>

Officials will bring the updated FCO advice to the attention of our grant holders, and depending on advice from Comms colleagues, also to other interested parties via our Twitter

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | International Development Team | The Scottish Government | Floor 2GN | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel 0131 [REDACTED] | BlackBerry [REDACTED]

<https://beta.gov.scot/policies/international-development/>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 October 2017 10:23
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Violence & unrest in Malawi

[REDACTED]

Following on from my update at Team Leaders' mtg this morning, I spoke to [REDACTED] who returned from Malawi on Saturday. He advises that the situation with regards to vampires/blood sucking has been relatively calm for the last week. While they were there, the Govt and Police were very active and visible in communities affected (south of the country). The President and the Inspector General of Police both travelled to the south and issued statements saying that blood suckers do not exist. Police officers have been sent in to the more rural areas to cascade that message, however the belief still remains due to it being so deeply ingrained.

There have been no attacks on NGO employees. Police and BHC advice remains that they (and tourists) should not travel to the border area with Mozambique. [REDACTED] (sp?) the [REDACTED] at the BHC is reasonably relaxed about the situation and are happy to accept the Malawian Police Service's (MPS) advice as it currently stands.

Apparently a number of the attacks are not in fact blood sucking related, instead organised crime groups are using them as an excuse to attack people and steal their possessions. The incident of the doctor being attacked was in fact a robbery but some of this seems to have been lost in possibly sensationalist reporting.

[REDACTED] is going to speak to the MPS today and let me know if there are any updates.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] International Development Team
International Division I Directorate for External Affairs I Scottish Government I Area 2H North |
Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ
T: 0131 [REDACTED] | BB: [REDACTED] | E: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Follow us on Twitter: @ScotGovID

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 October 2017 16:08
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Witchcraft and local beliefs in Malawi and southeast/ central Africa

[REDACTED]

<http://scotland-malawipartnership.org/news-events/all-news/understanding-the-blood-sucker-attacks-in-malawi/>

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | International Development Team | The
Scottish Government | Floor 2GN | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel [REDACTED] |
BlackBerry [REDACTED]

<https://beta.gov.scot/policies/international-development/>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 October 2017 08:46
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Another day, another Vampire story

We'll continue to monitor this.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5009691/Doctors-accused-vampires-attacked-Malawi.html>

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED | International Development Team | The
Scottish Government | Floor 2GN | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel 0131 244 [REDACTED] |
BlackBerry [REDACTED]

<https://beta.gov.scot/policies/international-development/>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 October 2017 12:11
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reported Unrest and Violence in Southern Malawi

Dear Grant Manager,

We would like to bring to your attention a recent change in FCO travel advice for Malawi. As some of you may be aware it has been reported that 8 people have recently died in attacks in Southern Malawi. In response the FCO yesterday, update advice on their website as follows:

‘following unrest and violence in the Mount Mulanje area, there are reports of tensions and unrest spreading to rural parts and township areas of Blantyre, Zomba and Nsanje districts. On 19 October 2017, there are also reports of unrest and disturbances on the Chileka Road which is the main route to the airport from Blantyre; you should exercise extreme caution in these areas, especially after dark, avoid any demonstrations or large groups of people and follow local security advice.’

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/malawi>

The Scottish Government would urge all Grant holders, and other visitors to Malawi, to note this advice and act accordingly. You should also ensure that you keep yourselves and any staff travelling to the areas effected, updated on any changes to FCO travel advice.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | International Development Team | The
Scottish Government | Floor 2GN | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel 0131 [REDACTED] |
BlackBerry [REDACTED]

<https://beta.gov.scot/policies/international-development/>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 October 2017 15:23
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Reported Unrest and Violence in Southern Malawi

Hi [REDACTED],

I agree this is tragic. We can only hope that things calm down in the near future and more importantly that there are no more fatalities.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@oxfam.org.uk]
Sent: 20 October 2017 14:19
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Reported Unrest and Violence in Southern Malawi

Thanks for sending on [REDACTED] - I'm in Malawi now, but as you can imagine was made aware of the issue immediately by Oxfam security briefing.

The news of the mob violence is horrible, panic about the rumours of blood suckers is spreading and innocent people are being accused. One of the killings in Blantyre yesterday was a 22 year old man with epilepsy - so tragic and cruel.

Anyway, I'm in Lilongwe for most of this visit so I'm hoping the unrest does not continue to spread, and for the sake of those further south I hope things calm down there soon.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]
Oxfam Scotland | Glasgow | +44 (0)141 [REDACTED] | +44 [REDACTED] |
www.oxfam.org.uk/scotland | twitter.com/oxfamscotland

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: 20/10/2017 12:15
Subject: Reported Unrest and Violence in Southern Malawi

Dear Grant Manager,

We would like to bring to your attention a recent change in FCO travel advice for Malawi. As some of you may be aware it has been reported that 8 people have recently died in attacks in Southern Malawi. In response the FCO yesterday, update advice on their website as follows:

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | International Development Team | The Scottish Government | Floor 2GN | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel 0131 [REDACTED] | BlackBerry [REDACTED]

<https://beta.gov.scot/policies/international-development/>

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Tha am post-d seo (agus faidhle neo ceanglan còmhla ris) dhan neach neo luchd-ainmichte a-mhàin. Chan eil e ceadaichte a chleachdadh ann an dòigh sam bith, a’ toirt a-steach còraichean, foillseachadh neo sgaoileadh, gun chead. Ma ’s e is gun d’fhuair sibh seo gun fhiosd’, bu choir cur às dhan phost-d agus lethbhreac sam bith air an t-siostam agaibh agus fios a leigeil chun neach a sgaoil am post-d gun dàil.

Dh’fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh’fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a’ phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot]

Sent: 20 October 2017 12:11

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Reported Unrest and Violence in Southern Malawi

Dear Grant Manager,

We would like to bring to your attention a recent change in FCO travel advice for Malawi. As some of you may be aware it has been reported that 8 people have recently died in attacks in Southern Malawi. In response the FCO yesterday, update advice on their website as follows:

‘following unrest and violence in the Mount Mulanje area, there are reports of tensions and unrest spreading to rural parts and township areas of Blantyre, Zomba and Nsanje districts. On 19 October 2017, there are also reports of unrest and disturbances on the Chileka Road which is the main route to the airport from Blantyre; you should exercise extreme caution in these areas, especially after dark, avoid any demonstrations or large groups of people and follow local security advice.’

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/malawi>

The Scottish Government would urge all Grant holders, and other visitors to Malawi, to note this advice and act accordingly. You should also ensure that you keep yourselves and any staff travelling to the areas effected, updated on any changes to FCO travel advice.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | International Development Team | The Scottish Government | Floor 2GN | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel 0131 [REDACTED] | BlackBerry [REDACTED]

<https://beta.gov.scot/policies/international-development/>

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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

Glasgow - UK Council of the Year 2015

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 October 2017 14:33
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Recent Attacks and Violence in Southern Malawi

Thanks [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@dfid.gsx.gov.uk]
Sent: 23 October 2017 14:25
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Recent Attacks and Violence in Southern Malawi

Dear [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email. There are no additional UKG lines.

We are advising all our staff and partners to keep checking the FCO travel advice page which is being updated daily to reflect the latest information. The situation is changing and also quite localised to a few districts, so this is the best way to ensure all have access to the most recent and relevant advice.

For the full advice check here: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/malawi>

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk [mailto:[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 23 October 2017 13:15
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Recent Attacks and Violence in Southern Malawi

Hi [REDACTED],

Firstly my apologies getting back and thanking you sooner for arranging the meeting during my visit. I caught a bug and was off for a few days after my return. It was good to meet you and meeting up again with [REDACTED].

This is one of those e-mails that only Civil Servants would ever write, but could I ask what the UKG's lines are on the recent 'Vampire' issues in Malawi? I note that the FCO had changes their travel advice, and I've brought this to the attention of our grant holders. I was just wondering if there were other lines.

Any assistance would be appreciated.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | International Development Team | The
Scottish Government | Floor 2GN | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel 0131 [REDACTED] |
BlackBerry [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@scotland-malawipartnership.org>
Sent: 20 October 2017 16:03
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Reported Unrest and Violence in Southern Malawi

Thanks [REDACTED],

Good to have this flagged to grant-holders. We've been monitoring closely, with daily updates with MaSP and the High Commissioner. Very sadly, the situation has worsened this week, spreading out to the outskirts of Blantyre.

Obviously we don't give security advice but have been alerting members working in the area and encouraging everyone to get the FCO auto alerts. We then feed news we receive from the area to the High Commission, which in turn feeds into the advice.

A number of visiting Scottish groups have diverted to, for example, treks on the Zomba plateau rather than the Mulanje massif. While not giving security advice or stirring alarm, we are welcoming such precautions.

We've also been keen this week to support members to understand the cultural context behind these attacks, which are tied to traditional belief systems. This is a very similar situation to one fifteen years ago and, very sadly, these sort of issues are more common in times of social and economic stress.

We invited a prominent anthropologist with expertise in this area, who was previously a SG-funded fellow in Malawi, to write a guest blog to provide some insight for members and counter some of the sensationalist reporting. We've published this today and have had good feedback so far:
<http://www.scotland-malawipartnership.org/news-events/all-news/understanding-the-blood-sucker-attacks-in-malawi/>

Hopefully in the coming days we will have a Malawian anthropologist also writing a guest blog.

Good to keep in touch on this

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Scotland Malawi Partnership

City Chambers

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www.scotland-malawipartnership.org

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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot]

Sent: 20 October 2017 12:11

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[REDACTED]

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