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UK government plans to replace House of Lords with elected chamber

The UK government plans to replace the House of Lords, the upper house of British Parliament with a duly elected one to make it "legitimate." Ministers working on this proposal plan to style this new chamber based loosely on the United States Senate.

Transport Secretary Lord Andrew Adonis said on a BBC show, "The time has now come to make it legitimate in the only way that a legislative assembly can be legitimate in the modern world, which is to be elected." He assured that there would be "firm proposals" for an elected House of Lords in the Labour Party's manifesto for the general election in May. He added "We can do it in this country as most

democracies do it: We'd have two chambers, both of which are elected but with the government accountable to the first chamber."

The Sunday Telegraph has leaked a plan which reveals that the 704 seats would be reduced to 300 seats and its members elected under a system of "proportional representation". This new chamber would no longer be known as the House of Lords and citizens will have the privilege to remove incompetent members through a "recall ballot". The paper reported that each member would serve upto fifteen vears and one-third of the chamber would be elected during the usual general elections. The salary is reported to be around £65,000 per annum. All members should be UK residents and fully domiciled for tax purposes.

The Lords scrutinise and revise government legislation and is seen by the public as an undemocratic house or a place for the aristocrats and political appointees. The chamber currently has around 740 members. 92 hold hereditary seats, and 26 are Church of England clergy. The rest are appointed for life.

Former prime minister Tony Blair with the 1999 House of Lords act, had expelled hereditary peers from the upper house, apart from the 92 permitted to remain in the House on an interim basis. Another ten inheritors were created life peers to be able to remain in the House. Lord Adonis commented that this expulsion had "fundamentally transformed" the chamber into a "workmanlike assembly".

A spokesman for the Conservative Party (which is the opposition party) alleged that Labour was playing politics with the electoral system by introducing such proposals before the General election inspite of having thirteen years to reform the Lords. " We will work to build a consensus for a mainly elected second chamber to replace the House of Lords," he added.

For centuries, the House of Lords had included several hundred members who inherited their seats: the 1999 Act removed such a right. The Act decreased the membership of the House from 1,330 to 669. The Labour Government is expected to present a bill to remove the remaining 92 hereditary peers from the House. It also introduced in 2009 the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill, which would end by-elections to replace hereditaries removing them by steady reduction instead of removing all of them outright.

Tamil party drops commitment to independence from Sri Lanka

The Tamil National Alliance (TNA), the chief political party of the ethnic Tamil group in Sri Lanka, has said in its manifesto for upcoming elections that it would accept a "federal structure" for the country. Since its formation in 2001, the TNA had previously aimed for full independence for Tamil regions. The party also stated it would encourage non-violent civil disobedience in support of Tamil rights.

Sri Lanka's civil war has killed up to 100,000 people, after the Tamil Tiger rebel group began its armed struggle in 1983. The TNA had widely been viewed as a political wing to the Tigers. In 2009 the Sri Lankan government launched a major military assault against Tiger militants in the north of the country, which displaced around 280,000 people and provoked international controversy. However it succeeded in defeating the rebels, and led to the re-election of president Mahinda Rajapaksa this year.

The TNA, a coalition of various Tamil parties, currently holds 22 seats in the Sri Lankan parliament but has been weakened by the defeat of the Tigers. Since its formation in 2001 it has pushed for independence for the Tamil dominated regions of the north and east, but has had to avoid any direct endorsement of separatism, which would be considered illegal.

In the new manifesto, released on Saturday, the party also said that it would begin a civil disobedience movement in the style of Mahatma Gandhi. One section said: "If the Sri Lankan state continues its present style of governance without due regard to the rights of the Tamilspeaking peoples, [we] will launch a peaceful, non-violent campaign of civil disobedience on the Gandhian model."

The parliamentary elections in Sri Lanka are due to occur on 8 April. The government are also hoping to strengthen their position, and achieve the two-thirds majority they need to enact changes to the constitution.

Sarkozy's party defeated by Socialists in French regional elections

he Socialist Party took a strong lead in the first round of regional elections in France on Sunday. Its main opposition the Union for a Popular Movement (UMP), which is the governing party of incumbent President Nicolas Sarkozy, is predicted to be defeated. The election results, characterized with mass abstentions, was strongly favoring leftist candidates according to official results nearing completion. This has given the ruling right wing party a stern blow in the last nationwide election before the 2012 presidential elections.

When 96% of votes had been counted, candidates from the Socialist and other leftist parties had won 53.6 percent votes according to the Interior Ministry. The conservative UMP party and other right-wing candidates won 39.8 percent. The far-right National Front outdid expectations with 12% of the vote. It seems to be favored by voters concerned about immigration and the growing Muslim population. According to polls the Socialists will win with a majority in the second round in all 26 regions of France. The Socialists already control twenty of the twenty two regions on the French mainland.

Sarkozy has dismissed this result as "regional voting, regional consequences," but indicated his intention to slow the pace of reforms and make a minor cabinet reshuffle. Prime Minister François Fillon said "It's not over. Everything is open" before the decisive runoff on March 21. He urged voters who missed the first round to come out for the second round, "at a moment when the economic and financial crisis demands sang-froid, courage and unity." Jean-François Copé, a leader of Sarkozy's parliamentary group said "We had massive abstention that is, an absolute record,". Sarkozy supporters argued that the "triumphalism" of the leftists had been tempered by the record voter abstention, on television debates.

Socialist leader Martine Aubry, in a speech to supporters Sunday night, called the result "encouraging". "By this vote the French people have sent a clear and strong message of refusal to a France that is divided, anguished and weakened," she said. She urged supporters to come out again next Sunday "to give a win to hope" that Sarkozy could be defeated in 2012.

Former Socialist Prime Minister Laurent Fabius called it "an excellent halftime for the Socialists," saying that voters wanted to voice their displeasure against Sarkozy's policies. He said the high rate of abstention indicated Sarkozy's failure to motivate citizens facing economic crisis and record unemployment. Ségolène Royal, expected to be Sarkozy's Socialist oppenent in 2012 called this election "a severe sanction vote" against Sarkozy.

The 81-year-old National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, said, "The National Front was declared beaten, dead, buried by the president. This shows that it is still a national force, and probably destined to become greater and greater". He appeared on national television after the vote, holding a poster banned by a court that reads: "No to Islamism." He called on voters to back the party again in round two, saying his party was "combative and capable of rebuilding this country, which is in a horrible state."

The National Front has tied for thirdplace nationally with Europe cologie, the green-minded party campaigning about climate change, each winning 12 percent of the vote."Europe Écologie is the third political force," in France, said Daniel Cohn-Bendit, a leader of the party. It has frayed a "tremendous path," he said. His candidates are expected to align with the Socialists in many regions for the runoff polls.

Sarkozy had promised reforms to make the economy more dynamic before he was elected in 2007. But he changed this free-market strategy when the financial crisis hit and called for "moral capitalism" and proposed limiting bankers' bonuses and global regulation of hedge funds. Sarkozy's successful intervention to keep carmaker Renault from outsourcing jobs to Turkey and stimulus packages failed to lower the 10% unemployment rate inviting anger of the French citizens and causing his approval rating to fall below 40 percent. He was not able to stop the numerous

strikes and protests by factory workers in recent months. He also started the 'Burqa' debate on the basis of which the far-right National Front has succeded.

Turnout was estimated to be around 48 percent of France's 44 million eligible voters, a sharp drop from the roughly 60 percent who voted in 2004.

David Beckham to miss World Cup with injury

Soccer player David Beckham has had surgery for an injury to his Achilles tendon. As a result, he has been ruled out of playing in this summer's World Cup.

Beckham, a 34-year-old midfielder who would have played for the English national team, snapped the tendon on his left leg, and underwent surgery today in Finland. The injury will end his season, and rehabilitation for the wound is expected to take up to six months. The doctor performing the operation said that training could not begin until June, and it would be at least another month before Beckham could return to playing competitively.

Despite early speculation that the injury could mark the end of Beckham's 18-year career, a spokesman rejected the claims, saying, "This is not the end of his playing career as has been suggested." In the same statement, it was said that even if Beckham is unable to play in the World Cup, he will continue to play as a member of an American team, the Los Angeles Galaxy, during the end of the season.

Beckham sustained the injury near the end of a game on Sunday night, when he suddenly stopped running and limped from the field on his healthy leg before collapsing on the sidelines. He was treated on the field for about five minutes before being carried off on a stretcher.

Brazilian President arrives in Israel to start Middle East tour

Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has arrived in Israel to start his tour of the Middle East, which will, as well as Israel, include visits to the Palestine territories and Jordan. He is also set to visit Iran in May. His vist comes at a time when Israeli-US relationships are tense over Israel's plans to build 1,600 homes for Jews in Jerusalem.

During his time in Israel, Lula will meet with President Shimon Peres and the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He is also planning to visit Israel's Holocaust museum and meet with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, as well as also spending a night in Bethlehem.

Lula will visit Iran later this year; last year, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad became the first Iranian leader to visit Brazil.

Lula is seeking for Brazil to have an expanded role in world politics and is campaigning to have a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

Wikinews interviews Peter Coti, eyewitness to north eastern US storm

Wikinews reporter Mike Morales interviews fellow Wikinews contributor Peter Coti, who is on the scene at a north eastern storm in the United States in New Jersey. Coti tells Wikinews what happened in the area of Ridgewood, New Jersey and provided pictures of the damage and area.

((Mike Morales)) Could you explain the circumstances of the incident?

((Peter Coti)) Well on the morning of saturday it was a normal storm. Bit windier then a normal one though. Then at 4:30 EST (local time) power went out because of a downed tree. I went to church. When

I got home it was like war of the worlds.

((MM)) How so?

Wind gusts up to 90MPH [~145 km/h]. And trees falling all over. And White, Red and blue explosions of transformers. All around town.

(((MM))) Do you know which areas are affected?

((PC)) All of ridgewoo NJ [*sic*, Ridgewood, New Jersey]. Actually according to many people Bergan County was affected; ALL of it and southern parts of New York.

(((MM))) Besides trees, what other damage occurred?

((PC)) Well, signs are on 45 degree angles, but trees are blocking roads and there are powerlines in [half].

(((MM))) Are there any damages to buildings?

((PC)) Not that I have seen. The major problem is the trees. They are blocking main roads.

(((MM))) Do you know of any injuries to people?

((PC)) Yes, I know of at least 3 deaths and 5 injuries.

(((MM))) Are there any details of these deaths and injuries?

((PC)) I know a tree fell on someone's car.

(((MM))) How long until power is restored[?]

((PC)) They say in 2 days. I want to add the fact transformers lit the sky up for miles. Some for a few sec[onds], some for 30 [seconds]. Also power is back for businesses.

(((MM))) How are emergency services responding?

((PC)) Well I have been told that every volunteer and cop is on duty. Also all police resources are being used from undercover cars to bikes. Anything with a siren really.

(((MM))) How are the telephone services and other forms of communication working?

((PC)) There are no phone lines working. [Wireless phones] are the only way to communicate and... Mi-Fi. It's a portable router.

Images by Coti are licensed under CC-BY 2.5.



A fallen tree from where Coti reported.



Another fallen tree in Ridgewood.



Another fallen tree.



On-scene police vehicle.

Glenbard East defeated by Benet Academy in Illinois basketball sectional

Benet Academy:	68
Glebbard East:	54

Top-seeded Glenbard East High School was expected to win the Class 4A Neuqua Valley High School Sectional championship on Friday night. Yet with a lot of determination and a strong defense, the Benet Academy varsity boys basketball team defeated the Rams 68-54.

The game marks Benet's sixteenth straight victory this season, giving the Redwings a 26–3 overall record. It is also their first sectional championship since the 1982-1983 season, which was the last time Benet advanced to the Class AA state tournament; there they lost to Thornton Township High School in the quarterfinals.

The Redwings' aggressive man-toman defense certainly kept the Rams arrested in Trombay while allegedly out of their comfort zone amidst the crowds in the sold-out Neugua gym. As Benet forward Mike Runger said, "We made them play to their weaknesses instead of letting them get comfortable doing what they want to do."

Benet scored 71 percent of its shots in the first half, while Glenbard East scored only 27. While the Rams led twice in the first few minutes (3-0 and 7–5), the Redwings led 12–7 after the first quarter. A three-point shot made by Dave Sobolewski two seconds before the buzzer gave Benet a 27–16 lead at the end of the

first half.

Glenbard East desperately attempted a comeback in the second half, but Benet maintained a lead ranging from 10 to 18 points. Rams guard made four three-pointers in the fourth quarter, but to no avail. As Benet coach Gene Heidkamp said, "...we knew they were going to come at us and give us a ton of pressure. We were a long, long way from being comfortable at halftime."

Benet will play Simeon Career Academy from Chicago in the supersectionals at Hinsdale Central High School on Tuesday night.

Two suspected terrorists arrested in Mumbai, India

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) arrested two men in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India on Sunday for plotting to set the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) office on fire and attack a mall and a market. They were arrested on information given by Indian intelligence agencies. The pair was arrested on Saturday, produced in court on Sunday and have been remanded to police custody till 18 March. Police have seized several maps from them.

The men, who are brothers-in-law, have been identified as Abdul Latif Rashid aka Guddu (29) and Riyaz Ali Imtiaz aka Rehan (23), and were conducting a recce of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) following a tip-off by the Intelligence Bureau (IB), according to police reports. The Esplanade metropolitan magistrate sent the pair to police custody till March 18 and charged them under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

ATS chief K.P. Raghuvanshi said Adbul and Riyaz had identified three targets in the city; the Thakkar Mall in Borivali (West), the ONGC office and the Mangaldas Market, located at the busy Crawford Market. The suspects had conducted a recce of the Nhava-Sheva area of the

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in south-east Mumbai, an ATS official said. "The two were preparing to set one of the ONGC establishments in the city on fire following instructions from someone called 'Uncle'," an ATS officer said adding "we are probing if the directions had come from across the border".

IB had intercepted suspicious phone calls, between the two suspects and a 'Chacha' (uncle) in Karachi and the ATS had put them under surveillance. They were arrested after the suspicions were confirmed and backed by solid evidence. Rehan worked as a salesman at the Thakkar Mall, which already had been surveyed by the duo and were awaiting further instructions, according to police. ATS officials did not clarify whether the two were actually going to carry out attacks or were just drawing maps and conducting reconnaissance, being a part of a greater chain of command.

"I have more information about the people arrested, but I will not reveal it at this point as their accomplices, who are still at large, may benefit from it, " said Maharashtra Home Minister R.R. Patil. He refused to tell if there was a connection between these suspects and the Pune blast last month which killed seventeen people. The Home ministry of India described these arrests as significant, saying that the conspiracy was part of the "Karachi Project".

The so-called Karachi project was revealed by David Headley, a Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorist arrested in US. It is supposedly a collaboration between Lashkar-e-Toiba and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency involving recruitment of serving and retired Pakistani army officers and fugitive terrorists from India to carry out suicide attacks in India.

Seven die in bombing in Falluja, Iraq

At least seven died in a double attack in Falluja, Iraq today. The attack occurred near a military checkpoint in the western Anbar province of the country. 29 were wounded in the attack.

According to officials, the attacks occurred successively, at around 9:00 am (06:00 GMT) in the city, 30 kilometers from the capital, Baghdad. Captain Bashar Mohammed, a police station chief in the city, said the bomber parked his vehicle full of explosives close to a military checkpoint in the central part of the city.

The attacker then left it and detonated his explosives vest near a group of laborers. The bomb in the car, parked about 150 meters from the checkpoint, exploded shortly afterwards. No soldiers were wounded, according to officials. The death toll was confirmed by Ahmed Abdul Halim, a local medic.

"The blast rocked the area and I found myself suddenly on the floor," said 30-year-old Mohammed Abdullah, a shopkeeper who was one of the victims. "Once I saw the smoke and the burning car, I immediately knew it was a bomb," he added.

Paul Schneider leaving NBC's Parks and Recreation; Rob Lowe, Adam Scott to appear in series

The NBC comedy series Parks and Recreation will experience a shakeup in its cast as Paul Schneider, a regular cast member with the critically acclaimed series, will depart at the end of this season. Indicated they will both play characters coming in from outside Pawnee to help the town deal with budget problems. Lowe, fresh off his departure from the ABC drama series Brothers &

Officials with the show have also announced this month that Rob Lowe will make an extended guest appearance on the series, and Adam Scott will join as a regular cast member.

Michael Schur, who co-created Parks

and Recreation along with The Office creator Greg Daniels, said Schneider is expected to make guest appearances in the third season.

Schneider plays Mark Brendanawicz, a jaded city planner who started in the first season as a love interest for the show's protagonist Leslie Knope (Amy Poehler), the deputy director of a small town Indiana town. Currently, Schneider's character is dating Rashida Jones's character, w:Ann Perkins.

Schneider is leaving the show to focus on his movie career, following the success of such independent films as Bright Star. Schur added when the character was originally conceived, it was anticipated he would appear infrequently in Parks and Recreation, switching between his city planner job and work in the private sector.

"It's not something you usually do on TV shows but we thought it was a good way to illustrate both the positive and negative aspects of working for a government," Schur told the Los Angeles Times. "It was one of the first things we talked about with him."

Schur added, "He's going to remain in the world of the show in a way that not only allows but hopefully demands that he'll reenter it. He's not going to be killed in some weird accident."

Lowe and Scott are expected to join the show in May, during the final two episodes of the season. Schur has indicated they will both play characters coming in from outside Pawnee to help the town deal with budget problems.

Lowe, fresh off his departure from the ABC drama series Brothers & Sisters, will continue a string of guest appearances into the third season.

Adam Scott would leave his regular role on the Starz comedy series Party Down to join the permanent cast of Parks and Recreation. "Adam is one of the funniest and most versatile performers around," Schur told Variety magazine. "When we designed the character he is going to play, we used him as the dream scenario of who we could get."

Parks and Recreation received mixed to negative reviews during its first season, with detractors claiming it was too similar to The Office, and that Leslie Knope too closely resembled that show's protagonist Michael Scott), played by Steve Carell.

But The second season, despite lagging in the Nielsen ratings, has been a critical success, with several commentators declaring it a major improvement over the first season and one of the best comedies currently on television.

Church of Scientology attempting to block 'intolerant' German film

The Church of Scientology is attempting to block the broadcast of a film on the German television broadcaster ARD, claiming the film is "intolerant" and violates the broadcaster's guidelines.

The film titled Until Nothing Remains (Bis Nichts Mehr Bleibt) due to be broadcast during prime-time on March 31 tells the fictionalised story of a German family destroyed by their involvement in Scientology. It is based on the true story of former member Heiner von Rönn who lost thousands of euros and his wife and two children who are still members. von Rönn was a member of the organisation for ten years.

Scientology in Germany claims the movie is top secret propaganda and is attempting to undermine the organisation and its' adherents. Scientology spokesman Jürg Stettler told the daily Munich newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung, "What they're planning to show is a violation of ARD's programming guidelines. The station is required to support religious tolerance, not the opposite." He added, "The truth is precisely the opposite of what ARD is showing."

The film was made in total secrecy under the title The Dead Man in the Sound with the script, signs and clapboards bearing the fake title. Despite the attempts by the film crew to obscure the film's story and intent, it appears the Scientology organisation still found out about the movie. The crew says there were reports of a Scientology spokesman tailing them at one point. Notebooks were also stolen from the trunk of director Niki Stein's car. Not too long after the theft, Stein received an anonymous call whose caller stated, "We know you're making a movie about Scientology," and promptly hung up.

The film highlights concerns in Germany about the organisation which the government considers to a business, an abusive one at that and not a religion. The government is so concerned about Scientology that the group is monitored by the country's domestic intelligence services. Tensions reached a high during the making of the movie Valkyrie, which starred Tom Cruise, a well known Scientology celebrity in his role as Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg, the Wehrmacht officer who attempted to assassinate Adolf Hitler.

Carl Bergengruen, the head of TV movies for Südwestrundfunk (SWR or Southwest Broadcasting), the public broadcaster backing the project defended their secrecy practices saying, "Scientology kept trying to use a variety of methods to find out details about the project. We had reason to worry that the organisation would use all the legal means at its disposal to prevent the film from being broadcast." He added, [As such, the project was] "kept under wraps for as long as possible for security reasons."

Meanwhile, Volker Herres, programme director for ARD dismissed the charges level by Scientology at the film's screening saying, We're not dealing here with a religion, rather with an organisation that has completely different motives. Scientology is about power, business, and building up a network. Its lessons are pure science fiction, it's no religion, no church, no sect."

Scientology has recently endured controversy once more. Back in October of last year, Paul Haggis, director of the Oscar-winning film Crash and writer of Million Dollar Baby, which also won an Oscar, quit the Scientology organisation over it's stance on same-sex marriage. Then last week, a feature article in The New York Times highlighted fraud and abuse that had occurred to a couple who were members of Scientology's high ranking Sea Organization or SeaOrg.

Four arrested in three Naperville, Illinois prostitution stings

An undercover investigation by Naperville, Illinois law enforcement has led to the arrest last Thursday of four people allegedly involved in prostitution. The stings came after police received tips that people were using websites like Craigslist and Backpage.com to sell sexual performances in Naperville hotels.

Patricia H. Scoleri of Naperville was arrested after an unidentified neighbor observed consistently suspicious activity at Scoleri's home. Traffic was unusually heavy and consisted mostly of luxury cars in an otherwise quiet, middle-class neighborhood. Also, the visitors were mainly middle-aged men, and an odd string of lavender-colored lights were hung on the front window.

Police say Scoleri worked alone. She was arrested at 2 p.m. local time (2000 UTC) and is charged with violation of anti-prostitution laws, anti-cannabis laws, and the Massage Licensing Act. She apparently has four children, but the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services has neither Wikinews

contacted her nor received a police report on her.

The second sting occurred at 5:30 p.m the same day (2330 UTC) and resulted in the arrest of Chicago resident Tonya M. Adams. She is charged with prostitution and driving without a license. Another sting about an hour later resulted in the arrests of Jessica M. Walley, a Skokie contemplating plans regarding resident, and Mark A. Williams, a self-admitted Schaumburg gang member. "Walley was charged with prostitution and unlawful possession of cannabis. Williams was charged with pimping, obstructing a peace officer, driving with a suspended license and driving without insurance," reports WBBM News Radio 780.

All four suspects are free, having paid the required ten percent of their \$1,000 bail. They may face additional charges related to crack cocaine discovered during the police investigation. Arraignment is scheduled for next month at the DuPage County Circuit Courthouse in Wheaton.

Nigerian city hit by bomb blasts after rebel warning

Nigerian officials have said that at least two bombings struck a government office building in the African nation on Monday, after a rebel group warned that it had placed explosives around the perimeter.

The incident occurred in the city of Warri in the Southern Delta province. No government officials were killed or injured in the blasts, spokesman Linus Chima told the international media. However, it was not immediately clear whether there were any civilian casualties.

"Everybody is safe. There was an explosion but the security people are taking care of it," the public relations aide to provincial Governor Felix Ofou told the Financial Times by telephone.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) rebel group claimed responsibility for the explosions. In a statement, the Delta State Commissioner for Information, Oma Djebah, said the bombs were placed in vehicles around 200 meters from the building.

Officials were meeting in the offices, amnesty given to Nigerian rebels who agreed to stop fighting. The meeting "has been put off," Djebah noted, and officials were evacuated. He did not specify when the gathering would be resumed.

The Delta State Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan and the minister for the Niger Delta were among those at the meeting. "It was a plan to scuttle the peace talks," Chima went on to say of the blasts.

"The people of the Niger Delta will not be intimidated or deterred by the act of a few opposed to a peaceful and non-violent approach to resolving the historic grievances of the region. We assure all that we will not be deterred in our determination to fast-track our development for our people," Chima continued.

The MEND group said in an e-mail statement that it had placed three bombs, with two to be blown up remotely at 11:30 local time. Officials did not immediately comment on a third bomb. The rebel group has said it wants fairer distribution of Nigeria's oil.

MEND spokesman Jomo Gbomo remarked in the email message that "[i]n the coming days, we will carry out a number of attacks against installations and oil companies across the Niger Delta, and [the attacks] will spread out to companies such as Total which have been spared in the past. We hope the actions which will follow will persuade Mr. Uduaghan that we exist outside of cyberspace."

The e-mail further read that "[t]he deceit of endless dialogue and conferences will no longer be

tolerated. The lands of the people of the Niger delta [were] stolen by the oil companies and northern Nigeria with the stroke of a pen."

Commons Picture of the Day



Hrabovo, part of city Ružomberok, Slovakia. Image credit to Marcin Szala, under the terms of CC-BY-SA 3.0

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