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Lessons Learned from the Muleta Incident

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Muleta is a small region in Upper Nile State in South of Sudan, very close to the Palouge oil base, with distance about more than 300 Km from the capital "Khartoum". A projector that contains radioactive source (Ir- 192) of about 1.9 TBq (51.35 Ci), belongs to a Sudanese NDT company was stolen due to poor security measures. Mobile Experts Team (MET) from the regulatory body flew to the region after one day from the case, immediate meeting was held with security and HSE personnel of Palouge and Muleta regions, as a result an action plan was planned to manage the situation and mitigate the consequences, the plan depends on surveying using detection instruments, informing the public through their local language (Dennka), beside dissemination of posters contain other source photo (similar to the stolen source), more over FM Miraya Radio was used to inform the public about the case, in addition to that the people movement was supervised in the exist and entry to the region beside that the doctor in the main hospital was been informed about the symptoms of radiation . After five searching days the source was found by truck driver not far from Moleta region. Based on the recommendation from the MET, more physical protection barriers was implemented to enhance the security levels around the radioactive sources storage. another round of field works was conducted by the MET to collect the posters around the region in order to get the public confident, safe and secure.

The MET does not include expert from criminal evidence directorate in order to supervise the crime scene area to take the finger prints. Currently, effort, time and resources are made available in order to build the human resources in the field of nuclear forensic with national and international assistance through IAEA/ AFRA TC-project .

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