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RELEASE
NEWS

THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION / EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Statement on Juma Mosque

July 1, 2004

The U.S. Embassy is carefully following the events unfolding at the Juma Mosque. Embassy personnel have personally witnessed the activities surrounding the court-ordered eviction on June 30. The U.S. Embassy welcomes the fact that the activities proceeded calmly and peaceably. We also welcome that fact the congregation has been allowed to continue worshipping at the mosque.

However, we will continue to follow with concern the question of the leadership of the community at the Juma Mosque. This matter should be consistent with Article 6 of the UN General Assembly's Declaration On The Elimination Of All Forms Of Intolerance And Of Discrimination Based On Religion Or Belief. The US Embassy has long been and continues to be in touch with all parties involved in this issue, and we will continue to monitor the situation closely.