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**Subject:** RE: SPLMToday.com website [sent again]

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**From:** Wong, Robert E (WongRE@state.gov)

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**To:** jkherms@yahoo.com;

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**Cc:** mcanulty@mit.edu;

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**Date:** Sunday, January 20, 2008 1:50 AM

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Thanks.. Let me ask the people at the SPLM about their web site...

Robert Wong  
Deputy Political Counselor  
Embassy Khartoum  
[wongre@state.gov](mailto:wongre@state.gov)  
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Fax: +249-183-743-305

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

From: James Herms [mailto:[jkherms@yahoo.com](mailto:jkherms@yahoo.com)]  
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2008 12:36 AM  
To: Wong, Robert E  
Cc: daniel e mcanulty  
Subject: SPLMToday.com website [sent again]

Dear Mr. Wong:

Three interesting items (of many) concerning SPLMToday.com --

1.  
SPLMToday.com publishes information about "SPLM . . . the Sudan People's Liberation Movement," and it creates the impression of being the party's official website. But in the site header, it spells the party's name inconsistently ("People"; "People's"):

SPLMToday.com  
Official website of the Sudan People Liberation Movement . . .  
SUDAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT [seal] . . .

Cit.: SPLMToday.com Home Page, <http://splmtoday.com/index.php> (Oct. 2007- ). See also SPLMToday.com Site Header Image, [http://splmtoday.com/templates/rhuk\\_solarflare\\_ii/images/header\\_site.jpg](http://splmtoday.com/templates/rhuk_solarflare_ii/images/header_site.jpg). Compare with the site header as it first appeared (c. Sept. 2007), SPLM Today.com SPLM/A Image, [http://splmtoday.com/header\\_site.jpg](http://splmtoday.com/header_site.jpg) ("Official website of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army").

2.  
From mid-October 2007 to mid-December 2007, the SPLMToday home page included a subscription module with inputboxes for subscribing to SPLMToday Newsletter:

SPLMToday Newsletter  
Please subscribe to our newsletter.  
Lots of info..  
( 'Name' = )  
( 'E-mail' = )

. . . . .  
('Subscribe')

Cit.: SPLMToday.com Home Page (Dec. 10, 2007), available at <http://web.mit.edu/crimeclub/www/stp/index.html> (archival copy).

I submitted the form October 22, 2007 and received a "please confirm your subscription" e-mail:

Official newsletter of the SPLM/A  
SPLMToday.com

Click [\\_](#)[hyperlink  
target='http://splmtoday.com/index.php?option=com\_acajoom&act=confirm&li  
stid=1&cle=26ee9973d2d521e3df5ea03eecdee91b&subscriber=27']here\_ to  
confirm your subscription.

Cit.: E-mail from SPLMToday Newsletter, SPLMToday.com, to Subscriber  
No. 27 ["terryOroe"] (Oct. 22, 2007, 06:57:28 PDT).

The newsletter has yet to arrive. SPLMToday.com has published only one  
issue of the SPLM/A's "official newsletter" over the course of five  
months -- namely, issue 1, a template with no content.

Send date: 2007-08-13 16:28:55

Issue #: 1

Content:

Please bear this in mind

Example News Item 3

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet. . . .

Newsflash 2

Yesterday all servers in the U.S. went out on strike in a bid to  
get more RAM and better CPUs. . . .

(c) 2007 The official SPLM Website

Cit.: Pub. Archive, SPLMToday Newsl. (SPLMToday.com, n.p.), Aug. 13,  
2007, available at <http://web.mit.edu/crimeclub/www/stp/stnewsl.htm>  
(archival copy).

3.

SPLMToday.com gives out contact information for the party's general and  
sector headquarters:

The official SPLM Website

Contacts

Monday, 15 October 2007

\*SPLM General Headquarters\*

Khrt Sudan

\*SPLM HQ Southern Sector\*

email : [\\_info@splmtoday.com](mailto:_info@splmtoday.com)\_

skype: splmhq\_juba

HQ : Juba, Sudan

For any other inquiries, please fill free to mail us using

[\\_](#)[hyperlink  
target='http://splmtoday.com/component?option,com\_contact/Itemid,3/']thi  
s\_ form.

Cit.: SPLMToday.com Contacts,  
<http://splmtoday.com/index.php?task=view&Itemid=42>.

But the information it's publishing could be erroneous. The contact

form, for example, does not exist at the specified address:

The webpage cannot be found  
HTTP 404

Cit.: Status Code 404,  
[http://splmtoday.com/component/option,com\\_contact/Itemid,3/](http://splmtoday.com/component/option,com_contact/Itemid,3/) (Jan. 17, 2008).

Our group would be pleased to provide additional material or to discuss whether some of the more misleading content in the website may be having provocative effects on readers in the U.S. or Sudan.

Sincerely,  
James Herms

=====  
James K. Herms, Alumni Member  
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cell: (617) 835-2922  
fax: (617) 547-0858  
[web.mit.edu/crimeclub/www/](http://web.mit.edu/crimeclub/www/)  
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----- Original Message -----  
From: "Wong, Robert E" <[WongRE@state.gov](mailto:WongRE@state.gov)>  
To: [crimeclub@mit.edu](mailto:crimeclub@mit.edu)  
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2008 1:37:18 AM  
Subject: FROM BOB WONG US EMBASSY

Your finding that the SPLMTODAY.COM website is an e-forgery is interesting. How do you know? Please understand we are neutral in this, but are very curious about this claim (which I take very seriously).

Robert Wong  
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Embassy Khartoum  
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Fax: +249-183-743-305