

U.S. diplomat gunned down in Sudan

by UPI

KHARTOUM, Sudan -- Sudanese and U.S. officials said Wednesday there was no immediately apparent motive in the gunning down of a U.S. diplomat and his driver in Khartoum. John Granville, 33, an employee of the U.S. Agency for International Development, and 40-year-old Sudanese national Abdel Rahman Abbas were shot multiple times and killed early Tuesday while in a car bearing diplomatic license plates, Voice of America reported. A Sudanese Foreign Ministry statement said Granville was shot in the hand, shoulder and stomach. U.S. and Sudanese officials said it wasn't apparent whether the attack was a random criminal act or had an associated political motive. Relations between Khartoum and Washington have been strained over the religious and tribal conflict in the western region of Darfur, which the United Nations claims has killed at least 250,000 people and displaced 10 times as many.

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