

What's Playing in Africa: Friday, October 30, 2009

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#### **On the U.S**

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/politics/-/1064/679334/-/xtlmqgz/-/index.html>

#### **Kenya blamed for US ban on official's visa**

Kenya is to blame for the action taken against a senior government official by the United States, Justice minister Mutula Kilonzo said on Thursday. The minister said that if Kenya had "kept its house in order" then the international community would not be so keen to take such actions. The US has imposed a visa ban on a senior government official. He added that this was the reason that International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo was headed for the country next Thursday. "What do you expect when you fail to prosecute people in your own country?" posed Mr. Kilonzo. The minister added that the ICC prosecutor was scheduled to meet President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga because Kenya had given up on trying the suspected perpetrators of the post-election violence suspects. He noted that the meeting —the only one that Mr. Ocampo is scheduled to have — will start the possible prosecution of post-poll chaos suspects. "Ocampo is coming to prepare the ground for the prosecution of Kenyans outside the country. This is something that should not happen since these people committed the said crime on Kenyan soil," the minister said. Mr. Kilonzo was speaking at a leadership and ethics conference hosted by Strathmore University in Nairobi. He said that Kenya had a leadership with a history of poor decision-making, leading to the immense problems that the country had faced

#### **Governance**

<http://www.zimeye.org/?p=10122>

#### **SADC troika resumes meetings in Harare**

The SADC troika on defense and politics resumed meetings on Thursday with Zimbabwe's political leadership to resolve the impasse in the inclusive government. The Troika mission to Harare is being led by Mozambique's Foreign Affairs Minister Oldemiro Baloi, includes Zambian Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Fashion Phiri and Lutho Dhlamini from Swaziland. South African facilitators to the dialogue that led to the formation of the inclusive government, Frank Chikane and Monjaku Gumbi, are also part of the review team. Speaking to journalists after meeting deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara SADC executive Secretary Tomaz Salamao said the troika will meet with the other two principals in the inclusive government and SADC diplomats.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE59T01G20091030>

#### **Mozambique's Guebuza headed for election victory**

Mozambican President Armando Guebuza appeared headed for a resounding victory in an election on Thursday that would also see his ruling Frelimo party winning parliamentary and provincial polls. Partial results showed Guebuza, seen as welcoming of greater foreign investment, taking a commanding lead over his rivals, longtime opposition leader Afonso Dhlakama, and the head of a new party, Daviz Simango. Guebuza captured 77 percent of the presidential vote in all but one of Mozambique's 11 provinces, with 15 percent going to Simango, head of the Mozambique Democratic Movement (MDM), a splinter of Renamo, a former rebel group and now the main opposition.

#### **Conflict**

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE59T01S20091030>

#### **Somali pirates say ransom agreed for Greek ship**

Somali pirates said on Thursday they had agreed a ransom for a Greek ship hijacked in May and expected to release the vessel soon. "We've agreed to take a \$3.5 million ransom to release a Greek ship. We are just waiting for the money," pirate Hassan told Reuters by phone from the coastal town of Haradheere.

"We shall get down from the ship in the coming 48 hours, if not earlier. That is, as soon as we get the cash. The crew is safe and the negotiation is over, although it has taken a long time." The Ariana was seized on May 2 north of Madagascar en route to the Middle East from Brazil with 24 Ukrainian crew aboard. The ship, flying a Maltese flag, belongs to All Oceans shipping in Greece.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E59T02420091030>

#### **Sudan cautiously welcomes African Darfur proposals**

Sudan's vice president on Thursday cautiously welcomed proposals from a panel of African leaders to end conflict in Darfur but said the question of a special court to try those charged with atrocities needed further discussion. The 15-member African Union Peace and Security Council met in Nigeria to consider the report by a team of African "wise men" led by former South African President Thabo Mbeki. The report recommends the establishment of a special court, including foreign judges, to try those charged with atrocities in Darfur, where the United Nations says hundreds of thousands of people have been killed by fighting. "We go along with the deep vision contained in the report about elections being held all over Sudan, especially Darfur," Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha said.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8333046.stm>

#### **Canada jails Rwandan war criminal**

A Rwandan man convicted of war crimes has been jailed for life by a Canadian court, without the prospect of parole for 25 years. Desire Munyaneza, 42, was found guilty in May in the first court case brought under Canada's 2000 War Crimes Act. He was convicted of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in 1994. The sentencing judge said the law considered the crimes committed by the accused to be the "worst in existence."

Judge Andre Denis described the sentence, the harshest possible, as "severe". The trial took place over two years, and heard emotional testimony from 66 witnesses about the atrocities.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/england/kent/8332163.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/kent/8332163.stm)

#### **Yacht couple 'well and being fed'**

A British man kidnapped with his wife by armed pirates while they slept aboard their yacht in the Indian Ocean has said they are being treated well. Paul Chandler, from Tunbridge Wells in Kent, speaking by phone to the BBC's Somali Service, said: "We are well and being looked after okay." He added they were being fed, and "food is okay at the moment". Mr. Chandler, 59, and his wife, Rachel, 55, were taken hostage by gunmen in the early hours of Friday.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/679090/-/135lm7oz/-/index.html>

#### **Banda, Burundi ex-leader discuss regional conflict**

Former president of Burundi Jean-Baptiste Bagaza and Zambian leader Rupiah Banda met today and discussed the security situation in the Great Lakes Region, ahead of next week's summit. President Banda, who is the chairperson of the International Conference on Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), held a closed-door meeting with Mr. Bagaza at State House in Lusaka where they discussed various issues affecting the Great Lakes Region. President Banda's special assistant for press and public relations Mr. Dickson Jere said President Banda told Mr. Bagaza and his delegation that he would do everything possible during his chairmanship tenure to help find a lasting solution to various conflicts in the Great Lakes Region. Mr. Jere said President Banda thanked Mr. Bagaza and his delegation for briefing him on the security situation in the Great Lakes region. Great Lakes Region heads of state and government will hold a high-level meeting to be chaired by President Banda in Bujumbura, Burundi on 5th and 6th November, 2009 which is expected to help to raise funds for the implementation of the 2006 Pact on Security, Stability and Development.

#### **Economic**

<http://www.thisdayonline.com/nview.php?id=158467>

#### **Shell Vows to Fight off Chinese over Nigeria's Oil**

Royal Dutch Shell Plc has said that it will fight any possible efforts by the Federal Government to hand over the control of its Nigerian oil fields to Chinese oil companies. This is coming as the Europe's

largest oil company by market value said its restructuring programme was yielding results with operating costs reduced by \$1 billion in the first nine months of 2009 and with around 5000 jobs cut. The oil major also said that its crude oil output in Bayelsa State had increased from 12,000 barrels per day at the height of militancy in the Niger Delta to 100,000 barrels per day in the last few weeks. According to a Reuters report, when asked about recent Chinese approaches to the Nigerian government, newly-appointed Chief Financial Officer of Shell, Mr. Simon Henry, told analysts yesterday on a conference call that the oil major would resist the Chinese move.

#### **Climate**

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE59T02H20091030>

#### **Chad, Cameroon to fight for lake at environment meet**

The presidents of Chad and Cameroon will use the December Copenhagen climate change summit to try and save Lake Chad, which is rapidly shrinking largely due to changes in weather, the leaders said on Thursday. Chad's President Idris Deby and Cameroon's President Paul Biya said climate change was responsible and the world should quickly provide the resources to save the lake, which covered 25,000 square km in 1964 but now only covers 3,000 square km.

The Lake Chad Basin Commission, which regulates water in the basin bordering between Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria and Niger, has warned that 30 million people's livelihoods depend on the lake's ecosystem and its disappearance would have be a catastrophe.

Of Interest

<http://www.zimeye.org/?p=10130>

#### **UK gvt to resume Zimbabwe deportations**

The British government announced on Thursday that it is planning to resume deportation of thousands of Zimbabweans from the United Kingdom whose asylum status applications were turned down by the Home Affairs office. In a statement released by the Home Office, Immigration Minister Phil Woolas also announced that government was offering money for any Zimbabweans willing to voluntarily return to their own country. The new plan would see returnees being offered up to £2 000 or US\$3 274 in cash and a further £4 000 (US\$6 548) support-in-kind for education or for starting a business.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/679192/-/uo52rs/-/index.html>

#### **Illegal migration thriving at far-flung border with Somalia**

Along Kenya's border with Somalia is a point where illegal immigration thrives.

At the Liboi Border Control in Lagdera, one should not be misled by the implied function of the Immigration office at this far-flung part of the country.

Within a time-span of 30 minutes, the Nation crew came face to face with an illegal immigration syndicate of a mind boggling scale this week.

Everybody, it appears, benefits from this business.

Kenya closed its border with Somalia in January, 2007.

Five kilometres away from the Immigration offices, we bumped into a rusty matatu with no number plates. It stood right in the middle of the road.