

SOUTH AFRICA IN THE U.S. & U.K. NEWS

October 13-14, 2009

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- **South Africa Killing Fuels Debate About Officers' Use of Deadly Force**

FOX News (AP), Tuesday, October 13, 2009

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,565402,00.html>

JOHANNESBURG — Police allegedly fired more than a dozen rounds at a car they mistakenly thought was stolen, killing a woman and fueling a debate about whether officers should have greater leeway to use deadly force to combat South Africa's high crime rate. The shooting comes just weeks after President Jacob Zuma said in a speech that South African police should have fewer restrictions on using lethal force. Underscoring the sensitivity of the issue, South Africa's minister of police visited the slain woman's family on Tuesday.

- **Rethinking AIDS**

BYLINE: Philip Stevens [Research director at International Policy Network, in London], Providence Journal-Bulletin (Rhode Island), October 13, 2009

[Full Text available on request]

LONDON -- THE 5,000 RESEARCHERS and activists making their way home from last July's International AIDS Society meeting in Cape Town were in a fighting mood. For the last 10 years, AIDS has been the single biggest beneficiary of the hundreds of billions of dollars spent by wealthy countries to help Africa. This river of money is now under threat as donor governments begin to suspect that drowning a single disease in cash could be doing more harm than good to fragile health systems in Africa and Asia. For most AIDS activists, this shift of thinking is unconscionable. After years of campaigning, they'd convinced the world that AIDS was an exceptional disease that posed an existential threat all over the world, and thus demanded an exceptional response. This campaign gave birth to one of the biggest political mobilizations of recent history. Government sat up and took note. New NGOs started by the hundred. In 1996, the U.N. took the unprecedented step of dedicating an agency to the disease, UNAIDS. Since 2003, AIDS programs have tripled their financial support. Nevertheless, it is increasingly clear that the leaders of the AIDS industry have not been good custodians of this largess.

- **Médecins Sans Frontières Calls on Drug Companies to Pool HIV Patents**

By Donald Zuhn, Patent Docs Blog, October 13, 2009

<http://www.patentdocs.org/2009/10/m%C3%A9decins-sans-fronti%C3%A8res-calls-on-drug-companies-to-pool-hiv-patents.html>

Last month, the international humanitarian aid organization Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) -- known to many as Doctors Without Borders -- announced that it was asking nine of the world's largest

pharmaceutical companies to pool their HIV patents in order to accelerate the availability of new treatments to HIV/AIDS patients...Michelle Childs, the Director of Policy & Advocacy for MSF's Campaign for Access to Essential Medicines, said that while the creation of an HIV patent pool was "a simple idea," in which the companies would "share their knowledge in return for fair royalty payments," such a pool would have "the potential to transform companies' approaches to access to HIV medicines and foster innovation in a way that marks an alternative to the confrontation and litigation of the past."

- **Cricket stars raise awareness about HIV in South Africa**

UNICEF, 13 October 2009

http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/southafrica_51408.html

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa – Famed Sri Lankan cricketers Kumar Sangakkara, Angelo Mathews, Chamara Kapugedera and Lasith Malinga recently visited young people living with HIV at the WITSECHO Adolescent Sprint Holiday Programme near Johannesburg, South Africa. The visit took place at the Katlehong Art Centre. It was organized in collaboration with ECHO – a local UNICEF partner that helps provide anti-retroviral therapy for some 10,000 South African children – and with the THINK WISE global partnership between the International Cricket Council (ICC), UNAIDS, UNICEF and the Global Media AIDS Initiative.

- **Whale-sized Genetic Study Largest Ever For Southern Hemisphere Humpbacks**

ScienceDaily. Oct. 14, 2009

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/10/091013201754.htm>

After 15 years of research in the waters of the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans, scientists from the Wildlife Conservation Society, the American Museum of Natural History, and an international coalition of organizations have unveiled the largest genetic study of humpback whale populations ever conducted in the Southern Hemisphere. By analyzing DNA samples from more than 1,500 whales, researchers can now peer into the population dynamics and relatedness of Southern Hemisphere humpback whales as never before, and help inform management decisions in the sometimes politically charged realm of whale conservation.

- **Gay Rights Movement Gains Momentum Around The World**

By Andrew Meldrum, Huffington Post, 13 October 2009

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/10/13/gay-rights-movement-gains_n_319283.html

BOSTON -- I was standing within a few feet of Robert Mugabe when he launched a vicious attack on Zimbabwe's gays. Mugabe's hateful vitriol, in which he denigrated gays as "worse than pigs and dogs," became one of the defining issues of his repressive rule. Before that moment I questioned whether gay rights were a crucial issue for a developing democracy like Zimbabwe. It was then that I learned that gay rights were a litmus test for human rights everywhere.

- **Eager foreigners still wary of investing in Mugabe's Zimbabwe**

BYLINE: Scott Baldauf, Christian Science Monitor, October 13, 2009, Tuesday

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/1013/p06s01-woaf.html>

Johannesburg, South Africa -- Foreign investors eager to pursue tempting opportunities in Zimbabwe still seem to think business under the regime of President Robert Mugabe is a bit too risky. After Swiss food conglomerate Nestle canceled a contract with a company owned by Mr. Mugabe's wife last week, the government temporarily froze its bank account. This week, South African supermarket giant Shoprite cancelled a plan to invest in Zimbabwe.

- **Jostling Within Zimbabwe President Mugabe's ZANU-PF Over Vacant VP Slot**

By Blessing Zulu, Voice of America, 13 October 2009

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/Zimbabwe/2009-10-13-voa41.cfm>

Washington – Zimbabwe's long ruling ZANU-PF's provincial organizations in Matabeleland North and South have thrown the party into turmoil by defying a directive from the Presidium and supreme decision making body, the Politburo to nominate a candidate by Wednesday to fill the vice presidential post left vacant by the death of Joseph Msika. Only Bulawayo has nominated party chairman John Nkomo to fill the post. The three provinces met in Bulawayo last week and referred the nomination back to the politburo saying that it was a national issue not a regional issue. But on Sunday party's national secretary for

administration Didymus Mutasa said the deadline for a nomination remained in place. He said the politburo would select a candidate if the three provinces could not agree on one.

- **ZIMBABWE: Positive women's football beats stigma**

PlusNews, 13 October 2009

<http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86563>

HARARE - Janet Mpilime, 32, captain of the ARV Swallows, an all-woman football team based in the informal settlement of Epworth, 10km east of the Zimbabwean capital, Harare, has just led her team to a 2-1 victory over Sporting ART. Wearing a football kit similar to that of Spain's number-one team, Barcelona, and smiling broadly, Mpilime explained that the name ARV Swallows was chosen to help fight stigma against people living with HIV. ARV is short for antiretroviral, the life-prolonging drugs used to treat people with HIV, while ART stands for antiretroviral treatment. All the women in both teams are positive.