

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

October 20-21, 2009

Compiled by the American Libraries in South Africa

This service provides news about South Africa in the US and major UK media. Articles for which no internet link is available may be requested by replying to this email. Please note that these articles are for informational purposes only, and should not be construed as an endorsement of the views contained therein.

The American Libraries in South Africa provides a variety of services, including free in-depth U.S.-related research and topical alerts covering a variety of key issues. Please visit our website for more information about these services and our locations: <http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/irc.html>

Compilations covering the previous two weeks may be viewed at: http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/irc_usmedia.html

Going on leave? Please inform us if you are going on leave, or would like to be removed from this list.

CONTENTS:

- **Africa: Time for front-burner attention is now**
Commentary: Ken Herman
Austin American-Statesman, Wednesday, October 21, 2009
http://www.statesman.com/opinion/content/editorial/stories/2009/10/21/1021herman_edit.html
...According to the Council on Foreign Relations, Africa has 9 percent of the world's proven oil reserves and there could be additional "significant undiscovered reserves." And that's why China (which gets about one-third of its oil imports from Africa) is so interested and involved in the continent. "Chinese leaders say human rights are relative, and each country should be allowed their own definition of them and timetable for reaching them," the CFR said in a 2008 report that also noted China's flourishing sale of arms to African nations. And that's why it's not a good thing that there was no winner of the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership.
- **Death by denial: Symposium explores HIV denial, conspiracy theories**
By Alvin Powell
Harvard Gazette, Tuesday, October 20, 2009
<http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2009/10/hiv-denial-conspiracy/>
People who deny that the HIV virus causes AIDS continue to persist in their beliefs despite overwhelming scientific evidence to the contrary, nurtured by the broad reach of the Internet and cherry-picked scientific claims, AIDS authorities said Monday (Oct. 19). Researchers from Harvard, elsewhere in the United States, and South Africa convened at the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts to decry HIV "denialism," saying that the continued questioning of HIV's role in AIDS harms those infected with the virus by discouraging both testing and treatment.
- **Full results show AIDS vaccine is of modest help**
by Marilyn Marchione [AP Medical Writer]
KeprTV (Pasco, Washington), October 20, 2009
<http://www.keprtv.com/news/health/65009722.html>
Fresh results from the world's first successful test of an experimental AIDS vaccine confirm that it is only marginally effective. Yet, the findings are exciting to scientists, who think they may show how to make a better vaccine. The results also hint that the vaccine may work better in the general population than in those at higher risk of infection, such as gay men and intravenous drug users. It was the first time an AIDS

vaccine was tested mostly in heterosexuals at average risk, and doctors have long known that how a person is exposed to HIV affects the odds of becoming infected.

- **SOUTH AFRICA: HIV-positive inmates speak out**

PlusNews, 20 October 2009

<http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86660>

DURBAN - Just over three years ago, a group of HIV-infected inmates at Westville Correctional Centre, near the South African port city of Durban, won a High Court battle that forced the government to provide them with life-prolonging antiretroviral (ARV) treatment. Judge Thumba Pillay ordered the national Department of Correctional Services to provide the medicines to the 15 prisoners, as well as to any other inmate in need of them.

- **Zimbabwe PM Begins Regional Tour**

By Peta Thornycroft

Voice of America, 20 October 2009

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-10-20-voa43.cfm>

Zimbabwe Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and Mozambican leader Armando Guebuza are to meet late Tuesday for talks on ways to implement the faltering political agreement in Zimbabwe, which gave birth to the coalition government in February... They are to discuss problems with fully implementing Zimbabwe's unity government that includes the ZANU-PF party of President Robert Mugabe.

- **Zimbabwe's Tsvangirai asks region to rein in Mugabe**

By Mxolisi Ncube

Christian Science Monitor, October 20, 2009

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/1020/p06s13-woaf.html>

Johannesburg, South Africa -- Now that he's "disengaged" with Zimbabwe's coalition government, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has embarked on a tour of the regional Southern African Development Community (SADC) bloc's member states, aimed at persuading them to rescue his country's seemingly ill-fated national unity government. After eight shaky months in a coalition, Mr. Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) announced that it was pulling back from a grudging partnership with President Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF party. The announcement followed last week's arrest of Deputy Minister of Agriculture Roy Bennett on what the MDC claims are trumped up, political charges of possessing arms for the purposes of banditry, terrorism, and inciting acts of insurgency.

- **ZIMBABWE: Cholera returns and kills five, so far**

IRIN News, 20 October 2009

<http://irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86661>

HARARE - Five people have died from cholera at two different locations in Zimbabwe, and 30 other people are undergoing treatment for the waterborne disease, raising the spectre of another epidemic. The permanent secretary for health, Gerald Gwinji... Gwinji attributed the deaths in Gokwe North, Midlands, to "religious objectors who for a long time have been reluctant to seek medical attention. We are still trying to come up with ways of addressing this special group."