

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

## October 23- 26, 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](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:

- **African Leaders Adopt Landmark Refugee Convention**  
By Emmanuel Goujon, AFP, October 24, 2009  
[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20091023/wl\\_afp/africanunionsummitrefugees\\_20091023191414](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20091023/wl_afp/africanunionsummitrefugees_20091023191414)  
African leaders on Friday adopted a convention -- billed as the first of its kind worldwide -- on the protection of the 17 million people on the continent who have fled their homes.
- **The Nobel Antidote: an honorable decision not to award a prize [Editorial]**  
Wall Street Journal, October 24, 2009  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704224004574489802792690672.html>  
The decision by the Ibrahim Prize to wait until someone deserves it suggests Africans are serious about a future that extends past promise to performance. Nothing would help them more than a partnership with this American presidency that was similarly committed to performance.
- **From U.S. to Africa, With a Fortune and a Tractor**  
By Celia W. Dugger, New York Times, October 24, 2009  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/24/world/africa/24buffet.html?ref=world>  
Mr. Buffett's engagement with Africa began serendipitously in the late 1990s, when he began coming to South Africa on business as a partner in a company that sold grain silos. Back home, flipping through television channels, he caught a program on cheetahs. "I'm watching the credits and I see it's in South Africa," he said.
- **Experts want African aid funds channelled away from HIV**  
By Alex Duval Smith, The Observer, October 25, 2009  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/oct/25/aids-hiv-africa-aid-scientists>  
Top scientists are demanding a controversial overhaul of health spending in Africa, arguing that the billions of pounds targeted at HIV during the past 20 years have led to a neglect of other killer diseases and basic health problems such as diarrhoea.
- **SOUTHERN AFRICA: Life insurance for HIV-positive people, at a price**  
PlusNews, October 22, 2009

<http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86698>

The availability of antiretroviral (ARV) treatment and legislation prohibiting discrimination have helped turn HIV/AIDS into just another chronic disease, but an HIV-positive status can still be an obstacle to getting a loan or buying insurance.

- **GLOBAL: HIV vaccine trial results raise more questions**

PlusNews, October 22, 2009

<http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86685>

The recent news that for the first time an HIV vaccine had shown some protective effect generated widespread excitement, until it emerged that the results were based on the most promising of three different analyses of the trial findings.

- **USA looks set to repeal HIV travel ban**

By Nellie Bristol, The Lancet, October 24, 2009 - October 30, 2009

The USA seems to be in the final stages of lifting a 22-year-old ban on HIV-positive travellers and immigrants—a move that would repeal one of the last vestiges of the country's 1980s-based discrimination against those with the disease. The repeal would not only ease HIV-related stigma but could also open the door for the USA to host its first international AIDS conference since 1990.

- **South African Township Playwright Shakes Status Quo**

By Darren Taylor, Voice of America, October 25, 2009

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2009-10-25-voa4.cfm>

A young South African playwright has risen from the poverty and violence of a Johannesburg township to receive one of her country's most prestigious theatre awards. Ntsheng Mokgoro is the 2009 winner of the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Drama

- **Zimbabwe Police Raid Prime Minister Aides' House**

By Chengetai Zvauya, Associated Press, October 25, 2009

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091024/ap\\_on\\_re\\_af/af\\_zimbabwe](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091024/ap_on_re_af/af_zimbabwe)

Police loyal to President Robert Mugabe raided a house used by the prime minister's supporters Saturday and accused them of hoarding weapons in a move that is likely to push Zimbabwe's fragile coalition government closer to collapse.

- **Repent or Resign, Bishops Tell African Politicians**

By Rachel Donadio, New York Times, October 24, 2009

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/24/world/africa/24bishops.html?\\_r=1&ref=world](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/24/world/africa/24bishops.html?_r=1&ref=world)

Declaring that Africa needed more "saints" in public life, African bishops issued a strong statement on Friday calling on corrupt Catholic politicians on that continent to "repent" or leave office.

- **For Zimbabwe's deportees, shame at empty-handed return**

By Griffin Shea, AFP, October 25, 2009

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iDk394E8-JDHjAF6LFoHnwEkwkzQ>

"I left everything in Botswana. I was working as a hair stylist, and now I've come back empty-handed," said a woman who gave her name only as Molly. She was arrested in eastern Botswana town of Serowe, but said her family in Zimbabwe would never learn of her deportation. "I have to go back to my business," she said.

- **In giving, she found strength; Aid to orphans outlives patient**

By Ruth Sheehan, The News & Observer, October 24, 2009

[http://www.newsobserver.com/news/columnists\\_blogs/sheehan/story/155929.html](http://www.newsobserver.com/news/columnists_blogs/sheehan/story/155929.html)

Having lost her parents in a plane crash at age 16, Beth Rettig knew the pain of becoming an orphan. That may be why she was so profoundly touched by the plight of an estimated 2 million South African children orphaned by AIDS when she visited there in August 2007.

- **Felix Varela High School students have a vision of their futures**

By Briton Alonso, The Miami Herald, October 24, 2009

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/miami-dade/east-kendall/story/1297823.html>

Their campaign for better vision does not stop at the doors of the school. For the last four years, the students of the Optical Assisting program have sent at least 200 pairs of eyeglasses collectively to South Africa, Ghana, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and this year, India.

- **One laptop per child meets reality**

By Geoffrey York, Providence Journal-Bulletin (Rhode Island), October 23, 2009

In a dusty corner of a Soweto youth center, a stack of laptop computers is sitting idle. For the dozens of Johannesburg kids playing soccer outside, the laptop revolution is temporarily stalled. The computers were supposed to set the children free. Instead on this day they are gathering dust in a back room. A shortage of gas for the generator, a common occurrence in Soweto, has left the youth center without any power or Internet connections. So the laptops are piled up on the floor to conserve their fading battery power.

-----  
Ruth Koko

U.S. Embassy Pretoria

The American Library

877 Pretorius Street, Arcadia, 0083

Tel: (012) 431-4022

Fax: (012) 342-5502

Email: [kokorm@state.gov](mailto:kokorm@state.gov)

Official website: <http://southafrica.usembassy.gov>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/USinSouthAFrica](http://www.facebook.com/USinSouthAFrica)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/USEmbPretoria](http://www.twitter.com/USEmbPretoria)