

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

## October 27-28, 2009

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### CONTENTS:

- **South African Poor Protest Conditions**

By Delia Robertson, Voice of America, 27 October 2009

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-10-27-voa63.cfm>

Johannesburg -- For at least three years, as the country's winter months begin to bite, poor South Africans have taken to the streets in increasingly violent protest, frustrated at what they see as government failures to address their needs. This year, those protests have continued well into warm weather. They are usually called service-delivery protests and the unstated implication that people are protesting because the South African government has failed to deliver services such as electricity, water, sanitation, health services, homes and even land.

- **Documentary tells story of South African leader**

By Danielle Nordine, The Minnesota Daily, 10/27/2009

<http://www.mndaily.com/2009/10/27/documentary-tells-story-south-african-leader>

When Carleton College professor Cherif Keita began researching South African leader John Dube, he had no idea the research would lead him back to his Northfield, Minn. home. Now, 10 years after beginning his research, Keita will debut two documentaries about Dube's life and accomplishments Wednesday at the Oak Street Cinema.

- **AFRICA: Digesting a "mouthful" of climate change**

IRIN News, 27 October 2009

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86774>

MIDRAND - Disaster risk reduction as a tool for climate change adaptation is a "technical mouthful" said Rachel Shebesh, chair of the African Parliamentarian Initiative for Climate Risk Reduction. Members of the Pan-African Parliament thought so too. The legislative body of the African Union met in Midrand, halfway between Johannesburg and Pretoria in South Africa, for a parliamentary debate on climate change in Africa.

- **Roundup -- Historians' Take: LeeAnna Keith: Not Just Another (Black Is) Beautiful Face**

Oxford University Press blog (10-26-09), History News Network, Wednesday, October 28, 2009

<http://hnn.us/roundup/comments/119086.html>

[LeeAnna Keith teaches history at Collegiate School in New York City. She is the author of 'The Colfax Massacre: The Untold Story of Black Power, White Terror, and

the Death of Reconstruction.' In the article below, Keith reflects on the role race may have played in the decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize to President Barack Obama.] Even the most outspoken critics of this year's Nobel Peace Prize have hesitated to suggest that President Obama was rewarded simply for his good looks. He won the prize "for awesomeness," at least, according to Republican objectors, who have hesitated to introduce race in their prize critiques. As a student of the history of racial violence in America, however, I embrace the taboo notion that the Nobel committee tapped Obama because he is black. As a symbol of overcoming prejudice, the first black president of the United States embodies an ideal of peace in a still turbulent world.

- **Bill Gates casts self as 'impatient optimist'**

by Ina Fried, October 27, 2009

[http://news.cnet.com/8301-13860\\_3-10384483-56.html](http://news.cnet.com/8301-13860_3-10384483-56.html)

Describing both the need for improvements in global health and the technologies that could create those gains... "When it comes to global health, Bill and I are optimists--but we're impatient optimists," Melinda Gates said in a statement ahead of a speech on Tuesday. "The world is getting better, but it's not getting better for everyone, and it's not getting better fast enough." Melinda Gates pointed to a program in South Africa where antiviral treatments are helping those living with HIV, but she said that for every two getting the treatment, there are five others that are missing out.

- **Combination Antiretroviral Therapy Effective At Reducing HIV Resistance In Mothers And Babies Following Mother-to-child Transmission**

ScienceDaily, October 28, 2009

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/10/091026220007.htm>

In a clinical trial investigating mother-to-child HIV transmission in South Africa published this week in PLoS Medicine, Neil Martinson (of the Perinatal HIV Research Unit, Soweto, South Africa) and colleagues find that adding two other antiretroviral drugs to single dose nevirapine -- an antiretroviral drug given to women and newborn children during labor and delivery to prevent transmission -- is effective in reducing the drug resistance that nevirapine causes when used by itself.

- **Analysis: African IDP convention fills a void in humanitarian law**

IRIN News, 27 October 2009

<http://irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86762>

KAMPALA - The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa is a comprehensive document that will, if ratified, fill a void in international humanitarian law, say experts. Whereas the rights of people who flee across national boundaries are protected under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and a similar instrument introduced 18 years later by the Organization of African Unity (now the African Union), there has been no international legislation catering specifically for people displaced within their own country (IDPs).

- **Can Mutambara save Zimbabwe's power-sharing government?**

By Scott Baldauf, The Christian Science Monitor, October 27, 2009

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/1027/p06s13-woaf.html>

Johannesburg, South Africa; and Harare, Zimbabwe - For the second week running, President Robert Mugabe's coalition partners -- the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) -- have boycotted cabinet meetings. It's the latest sign that the country's fragile power-sharing agreement could collapse. But this doesn't mean that Mr. Mugabe's ZANU-PF party has the government all to itself. Arthur Mutambara, the country's deputy prime minister and leader of a smaller faction of the MDC, and other members of his party attended cabinet meetings this week in a bid to hold the so-called Government of National Unity together. Mr. Mutambara this week portrayed

himself as a mediator, while heaping criticism on both Mugabe and his own fellow opposition leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, for their obstinance.

- **ZIMBABWE: Violence spikes after MDC's withdrawal from government**

IRIN News, 27 October 2009

<http://irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86773#>

HARARE - Violence and intimidation against members of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) increased sharply within days of the party "disengaging" from Zimbabwe's unity government, MDC spokesman Luke Tamborinyoka told IRIN. In one incident three armed men accosted MDC security official Edith Mashaire, 32, and tried to force her into a waiting vehicle as she walked towards her office in the capital, Harare, during working hours.

**Susan Dymond**

Information Resource Center Director

U.S. Consulate General

Cape Town, South Africa

Tel: 27-21-702-7463

Fax: 27-21-702-7307

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

<http://southafrica.usembassy.gov>