

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

November 5-6, 2009

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- **208 090 reasons to limit fire arm possession**

Blogger: Constitutionally Speaking [This Blog is written and managed by Pierre de Vos, Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of the Western Cape. It deals with social and political aspects of South African society]

Global Post Blog, November 6, 2009

<http://www.globalpost.com/webblog/south-africa/208-090-reasons-limit-firearm-possession>

Some readers of (or occasional visitors to) this Blog were rather upset when I wrote that I believed the state had both a duty and a right to place severe restrictions on the possession of firearms by private individuals...Interestingly, the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) has published some statistics this week which would come in handy if the constitutionality of a law severely restricting the private possession of firearms, is ever challenged in court. As I have argued, although such a law may infringe on some of the rights in the Bill of Rights, the state would almost certainly be able to convince a court that the limitation is justifiable in terms of section 36 of the Constitution because it is reasonable in an open and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.

- **GLOBAL: AIDS funding at "dangerous turning point"**

PlusNews, 5 November 2009

<http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86902#>

JOHANNESBURG - Wavering international support for HIV/AIDS efforts is resulting in funding shortfalls that could wipe out a decade of progress in rolling out AIDS treatment, the international medical and humanitarian organization, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), has warned. In a report called "Punishing Success? Early signs of a retreat from commitment to HIV/AIDS care and treatment", released on 5 November, MSF highlights worrying indications that the two biggest international funders helping developing countries expand their AIDS programmes are starting to scale back or flatline their contributions.

- **Zimbabwe's MDC ends unity government boycott**

Charles Mangwiro, November 5, 2009

<http://www.vision.org/visionmedia/article.aspx?id=20967>

MAPUTO - Zimbabwe's MDC has ended its boycott of the new unity government and will give President Robert Mugabe one month to fully implement their power-sharing deal, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai said on Thursday. "We have suspended our disengagement from the GPA (Global Political Agreement) with immediate effect and we will give President Robert Mugabe 30 days to implement the agreement on the pertinent issues we are concerned about," he told reporters after a regional summit.

- **Tsvangirai Announces End To Cabinet-Meetings Boycott**

Celia W. Dugger, New York Times, Friday, November 6, 2009

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/06/world/africa/06zimbabwe.html>

JOHANNESBURG - Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai of Zimbabwe announced at the conclusion of a gathering of southern African leaders late Thursday night that his party had called off its boycott of cabinet meetings with President Robert Mugabe, but it was unclear what Mr. Tsvangirai received in return for backing down. His spokesman, James Maridadi, said in an interview that leaders from the Southern African Development Community, meeting in Maputo, Mozambique, had agreed to monitor progress in resolving bitter disputes between Mr. Tsvangirai and Mr. Mugabe over crucial appointments in the government, with the aim of settling them within 30 days.

- **Zimbabwe Will Retain Approval On Diamonds**

Sarah Childress, Wall Street Journal, Friday, November 6, 2009

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125743468863131017.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_sections_world

Kimberley Process members decided against suspending Zimbabwe for its alleged production of conflict diamonds at a meeting on Thursday, which some see as a blow to the credibility of the international diamond regulatory body. The Kimberley Process members decided instead to send a Kimberley monitor to Zimbabwe to supervise the country's diamond production, according to members who attended the meeting, as well as impose a 12-month timeline for reforms.

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