

What's Playing in Africa: Monday, October 19, 2009

Produced by the Regional Media Hub: Africa



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Conflict

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/674102/-/uo1kxy/-/index.html>

Kenya steps up security at Sudan border

Kenya has stepped up security near its border with Sudan after reports of clashes between police and Toposa pastoralists. The General Service Unit, Administration Police and regular police are said to have engaged a combined force of Toposa militia for the second day running on Sunday. The fighting is reported to have taken place at Nadapal, five kilometres inside Kenya. Some Kenya Army personnel are also said to be on the ground to give backing in case they are issued with orders. Scores of people have fled Nadapal area towards Lokichogio, some 25 kilometres away following the fight which began on Thursday. The Kenyan security team, led by Lokitang police boss Ngonya Waigonya and Turkana West district officer Eric Wanyonyi, has denied claims that 16 Kenyan soldiers had been shot dead by the Toposa militiamen.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE59H06320091018>

S.Sudan attack kills 7, raises fears of escalation

Armed men raided a south Sudan village, killing seven people and burning 120 houses, a government official said on Sunday, in an attack which raised fears that inter-tribal violence will escalate. The United Nations says the violence, fuelled largely by cattle raids and revenge attacks, has already killed more than 1,200 people this year. Analysts believe that the insecurity could affect elections next year and a southern referendum on secession in 2011.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE59I02920091019>

Ethiopia's ONLF rebels disown arms cache

Ethiopia's Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) rebels denied on Monday that a weapons cache displayed by the government belonged to them and accused the authorities of trying to tarnish their image. On Saturday, state television showed what it said was more than four tonnes of explosives and thousands of bullets discovered by security forces after an ONLF leader surrendered and showed them the location of the arms dump.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8313361.stm>

Wanted Rwanda doctor denies claim

A Rwandan doctor suspended from his job in a French hospital last week after a nurse discovered he was wanted for genocide has protested his innocence. Eugene Rwamucyo, who has been wanted by Interpol since 2006, said that he was a victim of injustice. The authorities in Rwanda allege Dr Rwamucyo committed war crimes during the 1994 genocide.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8312940.stm>

Kidnapped Darfur aid staff freed

Two aid workers who were kidnapped in Sudan's Darfur region more than three months ago have said they are "thrilled" to be released. Irish citizen Sharon Commins, 32, and her Ugandan colleague Hilda Kawuki, 42, were working for the Irish charity Goal when seized by gunmen in Kutum in July. The Sudanese government confirmed the pair were freed early Sunday morning.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8313698.stm>

UN man starts Guinea deaths probe

A senior UN official has started his investigation into the killing of opposition demonstrators in Guinea. UN Assistant Secretary General Haile Menkerios is to investigate the events of 28 September, when Guinean soldiers opened fire on the protesters. They were calling on Guinea's military ruler not to stand for election. A BBC correspondent says Mr. Menkerios' arrival is the most powerful sign yet that the world beyond Africa intends to pursue the case.

Governance

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE59H06920091018>

Zimbabwe cabinet to meet without MDC: Mugabe spox

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe will chair a weekly cabinet meeting on Tuesday without members from Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's party, which boycotted the unity government last week, state media reported on Sunday. Tsvangirai announced on Friday that his Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) party would disengage from Mugabe's "dishonest and unreliable" ZANU-PF party in the country's coalition cabinet set up in February.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE59H02020091018>

Botswana's President Khama wins new term

Botswana's President Ian Khama secured a new five-year term on Sunday, extending his rule over the world's largest diamond producer, after his governing BDP party swept to victory in a parliamentary election. Chief Justice Julian Nganunu said Khama, son of the country's first president, would remain at the helm of the southern African nation, which is battling a recession and hit by internal party squabbling. "I have the honor and privilege to declare Ian Khama Botswana's president as his party has garnered more than enough seats," Chief Justice Julian Nganunu said on state radio.

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34435>

Arrest Al Bashir - ICC

The international court has urged the Ugandan authorities to arrest the indicted Sudanese President, Omar Al-Bashir if he comes to Kampala next week for the African Union meeting. The International Criminal Court statement comes a day after President Yoweri Museveni said Uganda will not execute the international arrest warrant on President Al Bashir at the summit. Uganda as a signatory to the Rome Statute, has a legal obligation to arrest the Sudanese president who is wanted by the International Court for allegedly masterminding widespread killings in Sudanese war torn Darfur region.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/673918/-/135pl9qz/-/index.html>

No end to Banda's woes after by-election rout

A split is looming in Zambia's governing party over whether or not to hold national convention next year to elect the president and national executive.

Clear divide has emerged between members of the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) supporting the holding of the convention and those advocating a postponement until after the 2011 tripartite (presidential, parliamentary and local government) elections. Zambian President Rupiah Banda, who assumed the position of acting president of the MMD after the death of Levy Mwanawasa, has challenged party members demanding the holding of the convention to resign instead of causing unrest in the governing party – which last week suffered a humiliating defeat in a by-election.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/673890/-/135plu2z/-/index.html>

The folly of giving Africa's tyrants time

West African leaders belatedly and lamely dealt with the continent's latest political punks at the weekend. However, the punks remain in power. What they do, augurs ill for West Africa. The punks are President Mamadou Tandja of Niger, 70, and 45-year-old Captain Moussa Camara in Guinea. The former qualifies as a "political dirty old man", while the latter, a self-appointed president, adds misguided youth enthusiasm to the notoriety. Both want absolute power.