



The goal of the African Regional Media Hub is to increase official US voices and faces on African television, radio and other media, so that the US government message is visible, active and effective in advocating US policies, priorities, and actions with African audiences.

On the U.S.

http://www.monitor.co.ug/artman/publish/Nnyago/Afghan_war_and_Obama_s_Nobel_Peace_Prize_93401.shtml

Afghan war and Obama's Nobel Peace Prize

What is the relationship between Obama's Nobel Peace Prize and the unending war in Afghanistan? You are not the only one that is concerned about the paradox. Many people are, including UK's Defence Minister Bill Rammell. "The Taliban were underestimated by the nations fighting them in Afghanistan," he admitted in a report published on August 3 in *The Independent*. He said the "challenge from insurgents in Helmand province is greater than we anticipated." His comments came after Britain's most senior diplomat warned UK troops could be stuck fighting in Afghanistan for decades. Sir Nigel Sheinwald, the ambassador to Washington, warned Britain faced a 'long-term commitment' in the country.

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article32877>

South Sudan calls on Khartoum to fully cooperate with US new policy

The Juba-based semi-autonomous Government of Southern Sudan has welcomed the new US policy on Sudan, and called on the Government of National Unity in Khartoum to fully cooperate with it. In a press statement on Wednesday, Southern Sudan's Vice President, Dr. Riek Machar said the policy was positive and would result to the lifting of sanctions imposed on the country by the successive American administrations if Sudan responded positively.

He said there would be no logic to continue with the sanctions in the country if the issues highlighted in the policy were addressed and fully resolved.

<http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/Opinion%20&%20Analysis/-/539548/675676/-/tx00ixz/-/index.html>

Is dollar good for Kenya economy?

One of the most unpredictable factors in international transactions in the past few years has been the strength of the US dollar. Is the strong American dollar good or bad for the Kenyan economy? Any credible economist would tell us it is neither good nor bad for the economy as a whole. Some sectors of the economy benefit from a strong currency, but many others do badly. For example, most importers, including manufacturers and retail traders, gain when the dollar is weak or the shilling is strong in relation to other currencies. Most parents sending their children to start abroad pray that the shilling remains strong as it is now in relation to the US dollar. However, many exporters, including hotel owners and tourist operators, are likely to receive diminishing returns as the dollar weakens or the shilling appreciates. My local currency, the Australian dollar, has appreciated considerably in relation to the American dollar, pound, euro and yen.

Conflict

http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/africa/article02//indexn2_html?pdate=231009&ptitle=Somali%20leader%20escapes%20death%20as%20militants%20shell%20airport

Somali leader escapes death as militants shell airport

ABOUT 20 people were killed and scores seriously wounded yesterday after Islamic insurgents fired mortars at Somalia's airport as the president was boarding a plane. Police said the president was unhurt and his plane took off safely. Somalia's capital sees near-daily bloodshed as a powerful insurgent group with links to al-Qaeda tries to overthrow the fragile United Nations (UN)-backed government and push out some 5,000 African Union (AU) peacekeepers. Both sides of the conflict have been accused of indiscriminate shelling.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJQE59M03520091023>

Somalia's Shabaab rebels threaten Uganda, Burundi

Somalia's hardline al Shabaab insurgents said they will attack the capitals of Burundi and Uganda in revenge for rocket attacks by peacekeepers from those countries that killed at least 30 people in Mogadishu. "We shall make their people cry. We'll attack Bujumbura and Kampala ... We will move our fighting to those two cities and we shall destroy them," Sheikh Ali Mohamed Hussein, a senior al Shabaab commander, told reporters late on Thursday in Mogadishu.

Burundi and Uganda both have about 2,500 peacekeepers in the Somali capital for the African Union's (AU) AMISOM force. On Thursday, they fired at least 35 rockets and mortar shells into the city's Bakara market area, where al Shabaab gunmen were firing artillery at President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed's plane.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJQE59M02B20091023>

Shell offers to educate, fund ex-rebels in Nigeria

Royal Dutch Shell has offered to provide training and financial assistance to some former Nigerian rebels who recently accepted the government's amnesty, the presidency said on Thursday. President Umaru Yar'Adua met Shell's Chief Executive Officer Peter Voser in Nigeria's capital Abuja to discuss the situation in the oil-producing Niger Delta, which has seen a lull in violence in the last few months. Oil and gas production has begun to return after thousands of militants and criminals surrendered their weapons as part of Yar'Adua's amnesty programme, which aims to educate and reintegrate them.

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article32881>

Gunmen abduct Red Cross worker in West Darfur

A French aid worker of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been abducted today by unidentified armed men near the capital of western Darfur state. Gauthier Lefevre, who was kidnapped around midday, was returning with other ICRC staff to El-Geneina after completing a field trip north of the capital of West Darfur to help local communities upgrade their water supply systems.

Governance

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article32878>

AU Mbeki panel makes implicit endorsement of ICC prosecutions in Darfur

The African Union (AU) panel that was tasked with balancing peace and accountability in Darfur has made an implicit endorsement of the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutions despite unfavorable disposition to the issue by African leaders and also called for a wide range of changes to Sudanese law and criminal law system. The eight member panel headed by the former South African president Thabo Mbeki completed their [recommendations](#) and submitted it earlier this month but its contents have not been disclosed pending an AU Peace and Security meeting in Nigeria next week to discuss the report.

The AU formed the commission few weeks before the ICC was expected issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir on seven counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJQE59M03520091023>

Tandja party claims win in boycotted Niger vote

Niger's ruling party claimed victory on Thursday in a parliamentary poll that has cost the West African nation membership in the regional bloc and deepened its president's pariah status. President Mamadou Tandja's MNSD party said it had won more than half of 113 seats in parliament, an outcome widely expected by observers after opposition parties boycotted the election.

http://www.nguardiannews.com/africa/article01//indexn2_html?pdate=231009&ptitle=Guinea's%20minister.%20ICC%20prosecutor%20meet%20over%20killing

Guinea's minister, ICC prosecutor meet over killing

AMID plans by the European Union (EU) to freeze the assets and slam visa ban on Guinean leaders over the killing of opposition supporters, the country's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alexandre Loua, has held closed discussions with International Criminal Court (ICC) Deputy Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, over the issue. The prosecutor's office spokeswoman, Florence Olara, yesterday told The Guardian that the Guinea official met with officials of the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) in The Hague.

She said the Loua had closed discussions with Bensouda, who is also the OTP's focal point for issues of sexual violence, and Head of the OTP's Jurisdiction, Complementarity and Cooperation Division, Beatrice Le Fraper du Hellen.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/675504/-/135oarxz/-/index.html>

Mugabe loyalists storm out of House

The rift between Zimbabwe's coalition parties has spilled into the country's polarized parliament after legislators from President Robert Mugabe's party walked out protesting against critics of the veteran leader. Zimbabwe was plunged into a fresh crisis last week after Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change started boycotting cabinet and council of ministers meetings. Mr. Tsvangirai's party said it was suspending cooperation with Mr. Mugabe's Zanu PF eight months after they formed the unity government because it was not happy over delays in the implementation of their power sharing agreement.

Climate

<http://www.nation.co.ke/oped/Opinion/-/440808/675770/-/4p1jq9/-/index.html>

Africa, the first victim of climate change, must now speak louder

The intense debate about dealing with climate change has mostly taken place between powerful players in the rich world. The battles between coal and oil companies, whose products cause climate change, and environmentalists have largely been fought in rich countries. The US, EU and China have driven negotiations. Every top-level conversation has been about what's thought to be possible — and often what's convenient — for these strong forces.

But as the countdown begins to the decisive Copenhagen climate talks in December, new voices are making themselves heard — the voices of the first victims of climate change. The UN lists 28 countries as most vulnerable to climate change, and 22 of them are in Africa.

IN LATE AUGUST, THE AU'S CHIEF negotiator at the Copenhagen talks, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, said Africa would not only demand fair compensation for climate damage from the countries that caused the problem, but also demand that rich nations make a maximal effort to cut emissions. He has been joined by a chorus from around the continent calling for a new approach to dealing with climate change, one that takes poorer regions into account.