

What's Playing in Africa: Monday, October 26, 2009

Produced by the Regional Media Hub: Africa



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On the U.S.

http://www.monitor.co.ug/artman/publish/news/Uganda_gets_Shs460b_aid_93573.shtml

Uganda gets Shs460b aid

The US government over the weekend offered Uganda \$246 million (Shs461 billion) in development assistance, mainly to revive health, agriculture and trade sector activities. The grant, announced by Mr. Johnnie Carson, the visiting US Assistant Secretary of State, during a meeting with President Museveni at State House Entebbe on Saturday is the largest such single bilateral aid to Uganda in years. Immediately after Mr. Carson and Uganda's State Micro-finance Minister, Ruth Nankabirwa signed the agreement, the government announced that part of it would be used to fund activities under the limping Shs1.1 trillion Peace, Recovery and Development Plan designed to fix dozens of districts in northern and eastern Uganda broken by LRA rebellion.

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article32903>

Janjaweds in US State Department

It's very shameful for the entire humanity to see people use the tragedies of the poor people around the world for personal interests. Most of the wars in the world erupt due to human greed which is not and will not be satisfied only when death seizes us. Unfortunately this good word "the humanity" that is always mentioned by the majority is only respected by only few handful minorities on this globe. Two days ago I was chatting with a friend in Diaspora who asked me to send him my latest articles on Sudan. In fact I am very careless to keep my published articles. Thanks to Google without it all good human works would have been lost. So searching my name on Google search to find my latest articles requested by a friend, there suddenly appeared my name in new published article which I did not remember when I wrote it. When I opened the article, I found out that it was written by a lady named Amanda Daub who contacted me through the e-mail asking about the spokesperson of Darfur Refugees and IDPs Hussein Abu Sharati.

Governance

<http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/-/2558/676850/-/qxo0hqz/-/index.html>

Integrate refugees into the host state, East African leaders told

The refugee situation in East Africa has reached alarming levels and the United Nations is urging members countries to adopt the Tanzanian formula of integration. Even though there is no armed conflict in East Africa at the moment, there are about 880,000 refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. This is because of civil war in Burundi prior to the peace talks, strife in Somalia and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, war between Ethiopia and Eritrea and the post election violence in Kenya. The latest report by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) says people fleeing their home countries cite poor human rights record, discrimination on account of ethnicity, persecution for political beliefs, lack of sound democratic ideals, poor governance and intolerance to dissent. Recently, Tanzania gave citizenship to 3,568 of 160,000 Burundi refugees who have lived in the country for over three decades.

http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/news/article03//indexn2_html?pdate=261009&ptitle=Govt%20will%20not%20meet%20MEND's%20team,%20says%20Abbe

Govt will not meet MEND's team, says Abbe

MEND offers 'indefinite ceasefire'

THERE were conflicting signals yesterday over the proposed meeting between the Federal Government and the Aaron team of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND). While the Minister of Defence, Godwin Abbe, yesterday foreclosed any parley with MEND, the militant group yesterday declared an "indefinite ceasefire" to its armed struggle "to encourage the process of dialogue between the government and the team that MEND has selected to negotiate its demands for a lasting peace in the Niger Delta region." Abbe spoke yesterday in Lagos during an interactive session with media executives, including the President of Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ), Gabir Mohammed and the President of the Nigerian Guild of Editors, Gbenga Adefaye.

http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/news/article01//indexn2_html?pdate=261009&ptitle=Anxieties%20mounts%20over%20Sudanese%20leader's%20visit%20to%20Nigeria

Anxieties mounts over Sudanese leader's visit to Nigeria

More groups urge Al-Bashir's arrest

PLAN by the Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir to attend a meeting of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) scheduled for Abuja later this week is still generating controversies at the Presidency and in the diplomatic circles. It was learnt that the embattled Al-Bashir intends to make Abuja another stop in the series of places he has been to in spite of the warrant of arrest served on him in March this year by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Last week, Amnesty International berated President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua for extending an invitation to Al-Bashir. The London-based group urged the Nigerian government to arrest the embattled president during the visit and hand him over to the ICJ.

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article32914>

Sudan president forms committee to study Mbeki report

The Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir ordered the formation of a committee to review the findings of the African Union Panel on Darfur (AUPD), state agency reported. Sudan official news agency (SUNA) said that the committee will be headed by 2nd Vice President Ali Osman Taha. A statement carried out by SUNA said the government "expressed deep gratitude" for the work of the panel lauding the tours it made during the course of its work. The commission will finalize the government's response and convey it at the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council session that will be held in Abuja, Nigeria next week. Sudan's delegation will be headed by Taha instead of Bashir, who has an outstanding arrest warrant for him by the International Criminal Court (ICC), amid controversy on whether Nigeria, a signatory to the ICC treaty, should arrest him. A source in the Nigerian government told Agence France Presse (AFP) this week that Bashir is "still considering the invitation, afraid we may turn him in, which will not happen". "Hand him over to who when he is invited by the AU?" he added. The invitation by extended by Nigeria to Bashir caused outcry by rights groups internally and externally. In an open letter to Umaru Yar'Adua, Nigeria's president, four national non-governmental organizations responded to Bashir's invitation to attend the African Union meeting. "We are very concerned that despite Nigeria's international legal obligations including under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which Nigeria has ratified, your government has invited President al-Bashir who is wanted by the International Criminal Court on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity."

<http://www.zimeye.org/?p=10050>

Police raid MDC offices

Zimbabwe's police raided a house used by senior members of the MDC party on Saturday in an alleged search for weapons, a move seen to be a direct result of the recent tension between the Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and racist president, Robert Mugabe. Finance Minister, Tendai Biti said police entered the house in a suburb of Harare, the capital, late on Friday. Speaking on Saturday, Biti said: "Last night, armed police numbering over 50 raided this residence on the pretext that they were looking for arms stolen from the police or the army."

Elections

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOF59P01E20091026>

Tunisian President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali has won a fifth term in office by a massive margin, near-complete results from the North African country's presidential election showed on Monday. Vote tallies from 20 of Tunisia's 26 regions showed that in two regions Ben Ali won 99 percent of the vote, and in

the rest his support did not dip below 84 percent, according to figures from the Interior Ministry, which oversaw Sunday's election. Ben Ali has been in power for 22 years.

Conflict

<http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/opOrEd/comment/-/434750/676916/-/age15m/-/index.html>

Wars have harmed Africa, but have led to a great genetic mix

The lack of citizenship rights is wrecking Africa, so said a report by billionaire George Soros' founded Open Society Institute (OSI). In the report, released in Kampala on Thursday, OSI said the denial of citizenship rights has had devastating human consequences. Millions of Africans without citizenship are deprived of the right to vote, to cross borders, and to access state health or education services. It also notes that there is a record 12 million suffering internally displaced Africans. The reality, of course, is worse. These displaced people also endure other heinous crimes like rape (not least at the hands of UN peacekeepers).

In the Democratic Republic of Congo — as in Kenya during the post-election violence of 2008, and recently in Guinea — rape is becoming a frightening medium scale industry.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8325315.stm

Nigeria militants reinstate truce

Nigeria's main armed group in the oil-rich Delta region has announced a new, indefinite ceasefire. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (Mend) said it had been encouraged by the government's "readiness to engage" in serious talks. Earlier this month a Mend splinter group lifted a ceasefire and threatened to resume a campaign of violence. But Mend said on Sunday a new ceasefire had been ordered to "encourage the process of dialogue".

Militant groups have flourished in the delta amid a lack of governance and rule of law.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/677172/-/135n04az/-/index.html>

Two young men were today executed in public at Maka, 110 km south of Mogadishu by the al-Shabaab authority in Lower Shabelle region. The men had been sentenced by an Islamic court run by the movement. Al-Shabaab officials at SYL Football Stadium, where the firing squad took place, said that the men were apprehended three months ago. They also said that Mohamed Hussein Ahmed, who came from Marka and Hussein Aba Ali from Mogadishu, pleaded guilty to charges of spying for the Transitional Federal Government.

http://www.nguardiannews.com/africa/article01//indexn2_html?pdate=261009&ptitle=Djibouti%20accuses%20Eritrea%20of%20arming,%20training%20militias

Djibouti accuses Eritrea of arming, training militias

AMID worsening relations, Djibouti has accused neighbouring Eritrea of arming and training militias to carry out sabotage in the tiny Horn of Africa country, and of fomenting chaos in the region. Eritrea's President Isaias Afwerki last week blamed the long-running conflict in Somalia on years of interference by Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti. "Eritrea is exporting chaos. Exporting chaos has become routine in Eritrea," Reuters yesterday quoted Djibouti's Foreign Minister Mahmoud Ali Youssef as telling reporters in Cairo after talks with Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa.

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article32906>

South Sudan army free 46 Darfurians abducted by LRA rebels

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces in Raja County of Western Bahr-EI-Ghazal state has managed to free 46 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Darfur abducted by Ugandan rebel Lord Resistant Army (LRA). LRA rebels attacked a camp of Darfur IPDs at Kor-EI-Madia village, Raja County, in Western Bahr al-Ghazal state which has a long border with the troubled region of Darfur. The Ugandan rebels during their evening attack on October 21 killed three policemen from southern Sudan and two civilians. "Today, Kor-EI-madia is celebrating the return of 45 abductees who were finally reunited again with their families after they had being hostages of the troops of notorious LRA Joseph Konyi," said the spokesperson of the southern Sudan army, Maj General Kuol Diem Kuol.

Corruption

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34509>

Nigeria cracks a whip on cyber fraudsters

Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has clamp down about 800 scam email addresses and nabbed 18 people high profile syndicates who specialize in cyber crime. According EFCC

statement, the head of the anti-graft agency, Farida Waziri, said the latest crack down, is to get tough on internet fraudsters through an initiative tagged "project eagle claw". Mrs. Waziri said it is expected that the project to fight cyber fraud would be in full force in the next six months. "It will take Nigeria out of the top 10 list of countries with the highest incidence of fraudulent e-mails," she said.

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=170839>

British SFO to investigate GT Sale

The head of Britain's Serious Fraud Office has asked his officials to look into allegations of irregularities in Vodafone's African dealings. It is understood director Richard Alderman has instructed SFO investigators to gather intelligence surrounding Vodafone's £450million purchase of a majority stake in Ghana Telecom. An official SFO investigation has not been launched. However, Alderman is following the situation closely and may make contact with Vodafone's chief counsel in the coming days depending on his officials' findings, the Mail understands.

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=170849>

Rawlings Faults Support Of Corruption By Development Partners

Former President Rawlings says the failure of Africa's development partners to check corrupt leaders has led to such corruption taking a life of its own. He said it was unfortunate that some corrupt leaders rather than being exposed are rewarded with international awards and sometimes even knighted. The former President was delivering the keynote address at the second Pan African Congress in Munich, Germany on Saturday. Speaking on the theme, "How Good Governance Could Be Achieved in Africa" the former President said good governance in Africa requires the genuine support of our development partners. He said, "if they fail to support us with real intentions but rather do so on some petty and parochial agenda as experienced over the past decade it breeds corrupt leaders. When elections in a large and recognized democracy like the United States is seen as doubtful it gives room for some opportunistic African leaders to take a cue."

Climate

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34505>

Africa told to enhance actions to reduce disaster risk

Climate change will lead to ever greater numbers of people being uprooted in Africa, the top United Nations humanitarian official said yesterday, calling for enhanced and swift actions to reduce disaster risk and step up mitigation. "Too often, the humanitarian implications of climate change and the need for adaptation to the new, more dangerous reality of more frequent and intense natural disasters are forgotten as the world focuses on the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes said at the African Union (AU) Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, in Kampala, Uganda.

Food Crisis

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34506>

\$480 million to help in Ethiopia's food security

Ethiopia has been approved to receive a grant from the World Bank to help the country meet its food security challenges. The Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank yesterday approved a \$350 million grant and a \$130 million credit from the International Development Association to Ethiopia to support an innovative programme that is keeping millions of families out of extreme poverty and helping them to achieve food security. This financing is for the third phase of the government of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) which provides transfers to 7.6 million rural citizens in 292 woredas in Afar, Amhara, Dire Dawa, Harare, Oromiya, Somali, Southern Nations and Nationalities (SNNP) and Tigray Regions.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/677250/-/uo3otb/-/index.html>

Kenya needs Sh27bn for food aid

Kenya still needs help to feed its starving millions for the next four months, a new report suggests. The government, through the *Kenya Food Security Steering Group report*, says about 390,000 metric tons of food will be needed to feed 3.8 million starving Kenyans till February next year. This is expected to cost the government and donor organizations at least Sh26.5 billion. The report, which was prepared before the onset of the current short rains, paints a grim picture of the food security situation in the country. Nearly all parts of the country, with the exception of Lamu and a few other areas in the coastal strip, have been classified as food insecure. The improved situation reported in

Lamu District was as a result of the expected 23 per cent above normal maize harvest, says the report.

Of Interest

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE59P01820091026>

Libya's Gaddafi "sorry" for UK policewoman's death

Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi said "we are sorry" for the 1984 killing of a British policewoman outside the Libyan embassy in London which led Britain to suspend ties between the two countries for years. Yvonne Fletcher died after being hit by shots fired from the embassy during a demonstration against Gaddafi. "She is not an enemy to us, and we are sorry all the time and (offer) our sympathy, because she was on duty, she was there to protect the Libyan embassy, but this is the problem that should be solved -- but who did it?" Gaddafi said in an interview with Sky News, to be broadcast on Monday.