

What's Playing in Africa: Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Produced by the Regional Media Hub: Africa



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On the U.S.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/677778/-/uo3ssl/-/index.html>

US slaps visa ban on govt official

The Obama administration on Monday revoked the visa of a top Kenyan government official. Three more would also be banned as soon as the paperwork was ready, the United States assistant secretary for African Affairs, Mr. Johnnie Carson, announced on Monday. The visa is intended to put pressure on government to speed up reforms. It is a particularly bold step coming so soon after President Kibaki wrote to President Barack Obama to protest against the direct targeting of individual members of his government.

Conflict

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE59Q07F20091027>

EU agrees sanctions on Guinea over crackdown

The European Union agreed on Tuesday to impose an arms embargo on Guinea over the killing of anti-government protesters and said it would restrict the travel and freeze the assets of individuals involved. The decision steps up pressure on Guinea's military junta over a crackdown in which a local rights group said more than 150 people were killed on September 28. The West Africa regional group ECOWAS has already imposed an arms embargo on Guinea, the world's biggest exporter of bauxite, the raw ore used to make aluminium.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE59Q07520091027>

Somali pirates say holding British couple

Somali pirates said on Tuesday they had seized a yacht in the Indian Ocean with a British couple aboard and were taking the vessel to the Horn of Africa nation.

"The British couple are in our hands now. We captured them as they were touring in the Indian Ocean," a pirate called Hassan told Reuters. He said the two captives were healthy and ransom demands would follow.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE59Q0AZ20091027>

Guinea's September massacre pre-planned: HRW

The killing of more than 150 people at an opposition rally by Guinean security forces on September 28 was premeditated, Human Rights Watch said on Tuesday.

The bloody crackdown has drawn broad international condemnation of the country's ruling military junta led by Captain Moussa Dadis Camara, with the European Union on Tuesday saying it would impose an arms embargo .

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34522>

Tribunal up-holds sentence for 3 former rebels

The UN backed court in Sierra Leone has upheld sentences for three rebel leaders of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) convicted of crimes against humanity during the country's 10 year civil war. The international chamber today upheld a 52-year sentence for Issa Sesay, while former rebel commanders Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao were condemned to 40 years and 25 years in jail respectively.

Governance

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/677852/-/135mtnuz/-/index.html>

Zimbabwe political deadlock worsening: MDC

Zimbabwe's political crisis deepened on Monday after the first meeting between President Robert Mugabe and Morgan Tsvangirai since the prime minister's MDC party boycotted the unity government, an MDC spokesman said. Spokesman Nelson Chamisa said the Movement for Democratic Change and Mugabe's ZANU-PF were "worlds apart" after the two leaders met to try to resolve the crisis. "If they (Mugabe and his ZANU-PF) are facing west we are facing east," Chamisa said. The crisis hit the fragile coalition earlier this month when the MDC said it would stop attending cabinet meetings in protest against the arrest of one of its senior officials and Mugabe's refusal fully to implement a political agreement.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/677654/-/135mv8pz/-/index.html>

Ruling party supporters attack Banda critic

Zambia's governing party supporters confronted a leading critic of President Rupiah Banda, Mr. George Mpombo, in Lusaka at an open forum to discuss the country's democracy. Mr. Mpombo resigned as minister of Defence in President Banda's administration last July, but remained as an MP for the governing Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD). Since his resignation, Mr. Mpombo has taken a tough stance against President Banda's management of national affairs and the party. The MMD Copperbelt Province executive committee last week suspended Mr. Mpombo from the party, but he contends that his suspension is illegal. During the discussion yesterday where Mr. Mpombo was a guest speaker, the MMD youths disrupted the proceedings and threatened to beat him up.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/677656/-/135mv8nz/-/index.html>

Sudan opposition walks out of House over security laws

Sudan's opposition parties walked out of parliament today after President Omar Hassan al-Bashir's party refused to back down on reforming the intelligence service, parliamentarians said. The powerful security forces were blamed by opponents for mass murder and torture during the north-south civil war.

A 2005 peace deal to end the north-south conflict included a new democratic constitution limiting the powers of the security service to gathering intelligence.

President al-Bashir's National Congress Party (NCP) tabled a National Security Forces law in parliament which would allow the intelligence service to retain widespread powers of arrest and search.

Corruption

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8327732.stm>

Senegal admits IMF 'money gift'

Senegal has confirmed it gave money to an International Monetary Fund (IMF) official this month, after days of speculation in local media. Officials had earlier denied money had changed hands but then said Alex Segura was given almost \$200,000 (£122,000) at the end of his three-year posting. Prime Minister Souleymane Ndene Ndiaye said it was a goodbye present - part of an African tradition. The IMF said Mr. Segura had returned the money as soon as he could.

Elections

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34518>

Ben Ali gets fifth term in presidency

Tunisian president, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, has secured a fifth term after winning 89.62 percent of the votes in the 2009 presidential election over the weekend, the Interior Ministry has announced. Local reports have said the president's landslide victory testifies to the massive adherence of Tunisians both in the country and abroad to his insightful policy guidelines and his plans aimed at hoisting Tunisia to the rank of developed nations.

Health

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34517>

HIV risk remains high in Sub-Saharan Africa, new report

A new comparative report has found persistent high levels of sexual risk-taking, low levels of condom use, and inadequate coverage of voluntary counseling and testing in sub-Saharan Africa. The report highlights large differentials between women and men and wide variations among countries in many attitudes and behaviors concerning HIV. The report, published by ICF Macro, summarizes levels and

recent changes in 69 indicators of HIV-related knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of women and men age 15-49 in 23 sub-Saharan countries. Data come from the two most recent rounds of population-based, nationally representative Demographic and Health Surveys.

Economy

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34521>

SADC states highest ranked in prosperity index

Southern African states have done it again to top the Prosperity Rankings in Africa, with South Africa, Botswana and Namibia scoring high ahead of their continental peers. According to the Legatum Prosperity Index published today, strong communities, personal freedom and democratic institutions are the recipe for success in South Africa and Botswana, while poor governance, dire health conditions and low levels of internal security has contributed to the dragging down of the rest.