

What's Playing in Africa: Thursday, October 29, 2009

Produced by the Regional Media Hub: Africa



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On the U.S.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/678370/-/uo4eyp/-/index.html>

Kenya hits back over US visa ban

We will hit back *mundu khu mundu* (man to man), Kenya's Foreign Minister Moses Wetang'ula said on Wednesday over the US decision to impose a visa ban on a senior government official. Addressing the Press at his office, Mr. Wetang'ula described the US move, the second such action within four weeks as "meddlesome". He said: "It is unacceptable that an assistant minister walks into our country, makes a statement and walks out. The statement made by Johnnie Carson is totally out of order." The minister said Kenya has options. "In diplomacy, we have the doctrine of reciprocity and we have our options", but he did not say which action the government planned to take against the US.

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article32939>

US came on the verge of military clash with Sudan in 2006: report

The United States and Sudan came close to a military confrontation in 2006 after Sudanese authorities held eleven US military personnel for five hours at Al-Fasher airport in Darfur, a US defense magazine reported today. The Air Force Times online magazine reported that the standoff between both sides was an unexpected development in the course of events from a semi-routine mission planned by the US military base in Camp Lemonier, Djibouti. The assignment objective was humanitarian in nature which is to pick a US military liaison from the capital city of North Darfur and fly him back to Djibouti to reunite with pregnant wife who was sick. The military command assembled a team consisting of eight crew members, six members of the Guam National Guard and three engineers as a precaution in the event of a mechanical emergency.

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article32942>

Renewal of US sanctions threatens peace - Sudan

The renewal of U.S. economic sanctions against Sudan does not support the peace process or stability in Sudan, the foreign ministry said on Wednesday.

US President Barack Obama yesterday renewed U.S. sanctions imposed on Sudan since 1997 in order to have leverage on Khartoum and keeping up pressure to ensure the implementation the CAP implementation and Darfur resolution. Muawiya Osman Khalid, the spokesperson of the foreign ministry said the decision was expected but regrettable. He further said it would not contribute to support the peace process and stability in Sudan, but on the contrary, it threatens the peace and stability.

Conflict

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article32946>

AU chief hits at ICC indictment of Sudan's president

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Jean Ping reiterated his position regarding the indictment of the Sudanese president by the International Criminal Court (ICC). Ping questioned at a press conference on the sidelines of the Pan African Parliament in Midrand, South Africa as to why cases in Africa are the focus of international justice. "Why Africa only? Why were these laws not applied on Israel, Sri Lanka and Chechnya and its application is confined to Africa?" he said. The AU official also suggested that former US president should be prosecuted for invading Iraq in 2003 saying that it was based on "false claims" and a "violation of international law".

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE59S04020091029>

Israel says does not trade in Ivory Coast diamonds

Israel rejected on Wednesday accusations by a U.N. panel of experts that the Middle East nation may be involved in the illegal export and sale of so-called "blood diamonds" from the Ivory Coast. Israel's Diamond Controller Shmuel Mordechai said he was shocked by what he called "false accusations" in the experts report to the U.N. Security Council on international compliance with U.N. sanctions imposed on the Ivory Coast. Along with Israel, the panel on Tuesday also named the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Guinea and Liberia as some of the countries that needed to step up efforts to enforce a four-year-old U.N. embargo on buying rough diamonds mined in the Ivory Coast.

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34551>

Ivorian foes re-arming ahead of polls

A UN report has accused the former Ivorian enemies of violating the arms embargo imposed on the country, ahead of the envisaged elections next month.

According to a new United Nations report the rebel-held north by the Force Nouvelles and the government-controlled south are stocking up on weapons, ahead of the much delayed national polls scheduled for 29 November.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/kent/8331139.stm

Ransom alert over 'hijacked' pair

The family of a British couple feared kidnapped by Somali pirates have been warned a ransom would have to be paid for their safe return. Paul and Rachel Chandler, aged 59 and 55, of Kent, sent a distress signal on Friday from the Indian Ocean. The yacht was later spotted by the European Union Naval Force Somalia. Hostage negotiator Dr James Alvarez said it was unlikely the couple would be harmed but their kidnappers would expect to get money for them.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/678332/-/135m9bqz/-/index.html>

AU to discuss Darfur report in Abuja

African Union's Peace and Security Council member states are scheduled to meet in Nigeria, Abuja on Thursday to discuss the Darfur panel report on justice and reconciliation. The report seeks the establishment of an international hybrid court to prosecute war criminals. According to AU Security Council sources, the meeting hosted by Nigeria will discuss the investigation report done by Darfur panel chaired by former South African president Thabo Mbeki, which proposes ways to ensure peace, justice and reconciliation.

Governance

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE59S00420091029>

UN human rights expert Nowak deported from Zimbabwe

United Nations human rights expert Manfred Nowak was deported from Zimbabwe on Thursday after being detained by security officials on arrival overnight, a U.N. official said. "We are boarding the plane to Johannesburg now," the official said by mobile phone from Harare airport. Nowak said he had been invited to Zimbabwe by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai whose power-sharing deal with President Robert Mugabe is under severe strain. The Austrian academic, reached by Reuters on his mobile phone late on Wednesday, said: "I had not anticipated this. This is a serious diplomatic incident." A Reuters reporter saw the U.N. Human Rights Council's special rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment being approached by four security officials at Harare airport after he had cleared immigration.

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34549>

Angola slams French ruling on arms deal

The Angolan government has lashed at the French court ruling that convicted the son of ex-French President Francois Mitterrand and an ex-government minister for their roles in illegal arms sales to Angola. The Paris court slapped Jean-Christophe Mitterrand with a two year suspended sentence and a fine of \$590,000, while the ex-Interior Minister Charles Pasqua was jailed for one year by the Paris court and fined about \$157,000 for accepting bribes to facilitate arms deals to Angola in 1993-1998.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/678338/-/135m9bkz/-/index.html>

Mozambique holds poll, Guebuza expected to win

Voting began in Mozambique's presidential, parliamentary and provincial elections on Wednesday that are expected to return President Armando Guebuza to power on promises to attract more foreign investment. The millionaire businessman and his ruling Frelimo party are not expected to face any

serious challenge from the opposition in a country with tourist potential and untapped mineral and energy resources that have started to draw foreign companies and investors, particularly from neighbouring South Africa. Long lines formed at polling stations. Just under half the population of 22.9 million are registered to vote. Full official results are not due until November 12. The Mozambique Democratic Movement (MDM), a splinter of Renamo, a former rebel movement and now the main opposition, had been seen running Guebuza close until many of its candidates were barred from the contest due to registration irregularities.

Guebuza, running on a "Force of Change" ticket, faces only two challengers -- Renamo head Afonso Dhlakama and MDM leader Davis Simango.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/678388/-/135m975z/-/index.html>

Mugabe may replace MDC ministers

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe may appoint acting ministers in place of officials from Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's party who are boycotting cabinet meetings, local media said on Wednesday. The rival leaders formed a power-sharing government in February to ease a decade-long political and economic crisis, but they have been arguing over how to share executive power, the appointment of senior state officials, the pace of reform and Western sanctions against Mugabe's ZANU-PF party. The dispute deepened this month when Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Party (MDC) said it would stop attending cabinet meetings in protest against the arrest of one of its top officials and what it called Mugabe's refusal to fully implement the power-sharing pact.

Economic

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE59ROV720091028>

Nigeria okays \$1.34 bln for oil delta development

Nigerian President Umaru Yar'Adua on Wednesday approved 200 billion naira in federal funding to build roads, hospitals and schools in the oil-producing Niger Delta. The funding is the latest effort by the president to develop the impoverished region and halt years of unrest that has kept Africa's biggest energy industry from pumping above two thirds of its installed capacity. "The projects range from the construction of bridges, roads, hospitals and schools. These projects will definitely accelerate the pace of development in the region," said Minister of Information Dora Akunyili. A presidency source said the money would come out of the federal government's share of a \$2 billion economic stimulus package released earlier this month. Decades of neglect and frustration in the Niger Delta sparked a rise in militancy and criminal activity.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE59S03U20091029>

Italy's ENI finds oil offshore in Angola: Sonangol

Italian energy giant Eni has made an offshore oil discovery in Angola, Angolan state-owned oil company Sonangol announced on Wednesday. The deepwater oil discovery was made in the Cabaca Norte-1 well at a depth of 2,830 metres below sea level in Angola's block 15/06, Sonangol, which is the concessionary of the block, said in a statement. Eni is the operator of the bloc with a 35 percent stake, Sonangol Sinopec International Limited holds 20 percent, Sonangol P&P 15 percent and Tapa Block Total 15 percent. Falcon Oil Holding Angola, Petrobras Internacional and Statoil Angola each hold 5 percent, according to the Sonangol statement published on state-owned news agency Angop.

<http://www.thisdayonline.com/nview.php?id=158368>

FG Approves N200bn Projects for N'Delta

The post-amnesty plans of the Federal Government were given more teeth yesterday as the Federal Executive Council (FEC) approved about N200 billion for the execution of 44 projects in the nine states that make up the Niger Delta region. The states are Akwa Ibom, Abia, Bayelsa, Cross River, Edo, Delta, Imo, Ondo and Rivers. The projects involve the construction of bridges, roads, hospitals, provision of potable water, environmental impact assessment, among others, as reported exclusively by THISDAY last week. Information and Communication Minister, Professor Dora Akunyili, who disclosed this at the end of the FEC meeting, said the projects would go a long way in opening up the Niger Delta and creating jobs in the region.

Of Interest

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34546>

SA racism case back in court

The racism case against four University of the Free State (UFS) students is expected to get back in court following consultations today in the Free State city of Bloemfontein. According to media reports, the university rector today re-opened a consultation process regarding the re-admission of four students who allegedly abused cleaners while video-taping the whole incidence. The Vice-Chancellor of UFS, Professor Jonathan Jansen, announced recently that he would re-admit the four students to the university and withdraw the complaint against them, a decision he was criticized for having taken unilaterally without consulting other stakeholders, especially the victims.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8329645.stm>

'No consent' for Mandela auction

Hollywood actress Charlize Theron did not have the consent of South Africa's Nelson Mandela to auction off a meeting with him, his office says. She reportedly sold a trip to the 2010 World Cup, a meeting with the anti-apartheid icon, and a kiss from her for \$140,000 (£85,000) at a charity event. But the Nelson Mandela Foundation told the BBC it has yet to receive a request from the South African-born actress. A meeting with Mr. Mandela required "a rigorous process", the foundation said. "Not even the charity foundations Mandela himself established are allowed to auction off time with him," the NMF's chief executive Achmat Dangor said in a statement.