

What's Playing in Africa: Thursday, November 5, 2009

Produced by the Regional Media Hub: Africa



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On the U.S.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE5A30PE20091104>

Kenya's attorney general eyes action against US

Kenya's attorney general Amos Wako said on Wednesday he planned to take legal action against the United States because the reasons it gave for revoking his visa were defamatory. The United States confirmed on Sunday it had issued Wako, who has been Kenya's top government lawyer since 1991, with a travel ban because he was considered an obstacle to the fight against corruption in east Africa's biggest economy. "In view of the reasons given, which are clearly defamatory, it is my intention to seek legal advice with a view of instituting legal proceedings in the United States of America.

Conflict

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE5A30P820091104>

Thousands flee DR Congo into Congo-Brazzaville

About 7,000 people fleeing ethnic violence in the north of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have crossed the border into neighbouring Congo Republic in the past 24 hours, state radio said on Wednesday. A total 13,000 people have now taken refuge in north-eastern Congo-Brazzaville since fighting erupted last week in the village of Dongo in Equateur province in DRC, a United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) spokesman in Kinshasha told Reuters.

At least 47 policemen were killed last Friday as they intervened in a dispute among two tribes fighting over farming and fishing rights. The violence is not related to fighting in Congo's east between government troops and Rwandan rebels.

Governance

http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/africa/article02//indexn2_html?pdate=031109&ptitle=Mubarak's%20son%20silent%20on%20presidency,%20casts%20self%20as%20people's%20man

Mubarak's son silent on presidency, casts self as people's man

GAMAL Mubarak, younger son of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, has cast himself as a defender of the poor in a speech seen by many as an attempt to hone his prospects of succeeding his father. The 45-year-old former investment banker heads the powerful policy committee in the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) and is widely tipped as the next president, although he has never admitted having presidential aspirations. Addressing the party convention a day after his father pledged a "clean and free" presidential election in 2011, Mubarak, according to Agence France Presse (AFP), held forth for more than an hour on the NDP's aims in what resembled a stump speech and attacked the opposition as contrarians without any programmes. He detailed the party's social and economic programmes and said it will step up efforts to explain its policies to Egyptians. The NDP "will especially pay attention to the poor, orphans and widows and women," he said.

http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/africa/article01//indexn2_html?pdate=031109&ptitle=Khartoum%20regrets%20south%20leader's%20call%20for%20independence

Khartoum 'regrets' south leader's call for independence

THE ruling Sudanese National Congress Party has expressed "regrets" to a southern leader's call for regional independence in an upcoming referendum, saying it contradicts a peace deal that ended a two-decade civil war. "My understanding is that these remarks contradict the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, according to which priority must be given to unity," NCP official, Mandour al-Mahdi, said in a statement reported by official SUNA news agency. Sudanese people began on Sunday to register for

the general election, the country's first in 24 years. Salva Kiir's first-ever call for the mostly Christian, oil-rich south to split off from the Moslem north could increase tension with the Arab-led northern government and further strain the fragile 2005 peace agreement that ended the more than two decade long north-south civil war and left more than two million dead.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/oped/Opinion/-/440808/681854/-/4pkc3o/-/index.html>

What Kibaki and Raila can do to check diplomatic onslaught

There is a fast but gentle breeze of diplomatic aggression blowing against President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga over their handling of Agenda Four. The bone of contention is that there is no political will to reform the country. As former Justice minister Martha Karua and Mr. Kofi Annan have often pointed out, the government is too slow in tracking its reform agenda. But more disturbing is the question of how and where to try the post-election violence perpetrators. The line of action adopted by the Western diplomats in Nairobi and by extension their governments, particularly the US, the UK and the EU is that the President and the PM must run the reform agenda faster, including delivery of a new constitution and ensuring that a local tribunal to try suspects in the post-election violence is formed. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT IS trumpeting its own glory in taking steps towards reforms, many diplomats are finding it difficult to see and feel tangible evidence to this effect. Moreover, as long as the civil society and the Press continue to impress on them to put more pressure on the principals, the government is likely to be trusted even less. And this is where the problem lies.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/682196/-/uolqg1/-/index.html>

Kibaki, Raila fallout over Ocampo averted

The government on Wednesday nipped in the bud a fall-out on the position its top leaders were to take during a meeting with the International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo who arrives Thursday morning. An early morning meeting at Harambee House meant to harmonise the position that the President Kibaki and Prime Minister were to take was almost scuttled when the ODM team reacted furiously to an opinion article written by Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Thuita Mwangi and published in the *Daily Nation* on Wednesday. Present at the meeting were President Kibaki, Prime Minister Odinga, Justice minister Mutula Kilonzo, Attorney-General Amos Wako and Lands minister James Orengo. Before any talks could start, sources told the *Nation* that the ODM team represented by Mr. Odinga and Mr. Orengo wanted to know whether Mr. Thuita's article reflected the government's position. Mr. Thuita had presented a strong position against Mr. Moreno-Ocampo's mission, arguing that The Hague did not have the power at this stage to take over prosecution of key suspects behind the post-election violence in which 1,133 people were killed and over 650,000 displaced from their homes.

<http://www.panapress.com/freenews.asp?code=eng028821&dte=04/11/2009>

BADEA DG visits Burundi

The Director-General of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), Mr. Abdelaziz Khelef, was due in Bujumbura Wednesday to attend the Great Lakes Summit being hosted by Burundi 4-5 Nov. A BADEA statement obtained by PANA here said while in Bujumbura, the Director-General would sign a loan agreement of US\$8 million to participate in the financing of "Phase II" of the Ntamba-Ndora road project.

The Director General will also use the opportunity offered by his visit to discuss the mutual cooperation between Burundi and BADEA, with the objective of exploring the various means of promoting and developing it.

<http://www.panapress.com/freenews.asp?code=eng028827&dte=04/11/2009>

ECOWAS Consultative Meeting on Niger starts Monday The ECOWAS Consultative Meeting of major Nigerien stakeholders, aimed at re-establishing political dialogue to create national consensus on the way forward for the West African nation, will now start in Abuja, Nigeria, Monday, PANA reported Wednesday, quoting sources close to the stakeholders. The meeting was originally scheduled to commence in the Nigerian capital 30 Oct, but was postponed indefinitely for undisclosed reasons. Some 50 people, comprising 15 government representatives and 35 others from the opposition and civil society organizations, are expected to attend the talks, to be presided over by the ECOWAS Mediator for Niger, retired Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar of Nigeria.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/682190/-/uolqfu/-/index.html>

Push for United States of Africa goes a notch higher

After his efforts to unite Africa from the top political leadership seemed to hit a brick wall, Libya's Muammar Gaddafi has changed tactics. He is now seeking to realize his dream of a United States of Africa from the bottom to top through traditional leaders. And so last week, a small but significant meeting took place at the offices of the National Heritage ministry headquarters, marking the Kenyan phase of a series of meetings sponsored by Col Gaddafi. Gathered in the room were councils of elders drawn from various communities, complete with the medallions and their regalia. The leaders were part of a cultural organization spearheaded by the Libyan leader.

Conflict

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article33006>

Qatar asks Chad to persuade Darfur rebels to join peace talks

Qatar has urged the Chadian government to convince Darfur rebels to participate in the upcoming of peace talks that the mediation plans to hold this month in Doha. Hamad bin Jasim bin Jabir Al-Thani, the Qatari Prime Minister and foreign minister held talks with the Chadian President today in Ndjamena where he arrived on Tuesday. "The minister expressed hope that Chad contributes to the success of the next meeting to be held in Doha" reported the official Qatar News Agency. Adding he also stressed that the end of Darfur conflict would help to improve the bilateral relations between Chad and Sudan.

http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somali_pirates_fight_over_British_couple.shtml

Somali 'pirates' fight over British couple

Rival pirate groups have reportedly fought over the custody of old British couple who were kidnapped nearly two weeks ago off the coast of East Africa and currently held near a Somali coastal town. According to pirate sources, the couple Paul Chandlers and his wife Rachel had been taken to an inland town called Bahdo some 125-miles northeast of the notorious pirate haven of Haradheere after reports emerged that a rival gang is preparing to launch assault and take over the custody of the two old Brit sailors. An associate of pirates who are holding the British couple said his team is prepared to defend the custody of the hostage at all cost from a 'hard-line group' which reportedly wants to hand over to a militant group fighting in central Somalia.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/682060/-/1354xm8z/-/index.html>

Taylor admits aiding Sierra Leone rebels

Former Liberia President Charles Taylor who is being tried by the UN-back court for Sierra Leone in The Hague for crimes he allegedly committed in the neighbouring country, has confessed to sending fighters to help rebels inflict mayhem on civilians during the 11-year war in the country. The UN Special Court report said "in a surprising move, Charles Taylor reinforced the truthfulness of his former vice president's testimony against him earlier in the trial." The report quoted Mr. Taylor as testifying yesterday that "To a great extent, Moses Blah (Taylor's former Vice President) told the court the truth." When asked by his defense counsel to give his view on his former vice president's testimony, Mr. Taylor said: "There were three areas where unfortunately, he (Blah) was wrong, but added that 90-95 per cent of what he (Blah) said is true." Mr. Taylor's analysis of Mr. Blah's testimony came as part of his ongoing effort to respond to evidence provided by several prosecution witnesses,

disputing their claims that he provided support for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone after November 1996 at the height of the civil war which left an estimated 250,000 dead

Economic

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE5A30JH20091104>

S.Africa, Eq. Guinea eye tighter ties on Zuma trip

South African President Jacob Zuma will sign bilateral deals and inspect oil projects in Equatorial Guinea during a visit on Wednesday, the central African nation said in a statement. Zuma's visit coincided with Equatoguinean President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo's release of four South African mercenaries jailed for a foiled 2004 coup led by former British special forces officer Simon Mann, who was also pardoned. Zuma was due to visit the island capital Malabo to "inspect the energy project, hold face-to-face meetings with the government and sign bilateral agreements between the two countries", Equatorial-Guinea said in a government statement.

African Media

<http://www.thisdayonline.com/nview.php?id=158990>

Over 100 newspaper and magazine publishers and broadcasting chiefs from 48 African countries have arrived the country for the two-day African Media Leaders Forum (AMFL) which begins today in Lagos. The keynotes will be delivered by the famous former ABC Nightline Anchor, Mr. Ted Koppel; co-founder of Huffington Post in the US, Arianna Huffington; Publisher of Next newspaper, Dele Olojede; and Dean of Medill School of Journalism, John Lavine. Those who had arrived the country last night included Trevor Ncube, Executive Deputy Chairman Mail & Guardian, South Africa; Linus Gitahi, CEO Nation Media Group, Kenya; Pius Njawe, Publisher Le Messenger, Cameroon; Kenneth Best, Publisher Liberian Observer, Liberia; Robert Kabushenga, CEO New Vision, Uganda; Omar Ben Yeder, Publisher IC Publications, UK; Marie Roger Biloa, Publisher Africa International, France; and Mathatha Tsedu, Chairman The African Editors Forum, South Africa. Others are Moussa Toure, Eagle Productions Cote d'Ivoire; John Bundotich CEO, The Standard Group, Kenya; Tumi Magkabo, CEO Tumi&CO, South Africa; Cherif El Walid Seye, CEO Les Afriques, Senegal; Freddy Iyonka, publisher Le Potentiel, DRC; Kaitira Kandji, CEO MISA, Namibia; Boureima Sigue, CEO Le Pays, Burkina Faso; Birima Fall, CEO, Le Republicain, Mali; Oh Yeon Oh, founder and Publisher, Oh My News, South Korea and Arlindo Lopes, Secretary General, SABA.

http://www.monitor.co.ug/artman/publish/news/Museveni_sets_tough_conditions_for_CBS_94115.shtml

Museveni sets tough conditions for CBS

Buganda kingdom's Central Broadcasting Service radio that was closed in September, will be switched back on air if its management can assure the government that their presenters will stop using 'abusive language', President Museveni has said. "Nobody and no institution has the right to abuse others. We all have our dignity which must be respected," Mr. Museveni said at Lwanda Trading Centre in Rakai District. Mr. Museveni's position was prompted by one of the people in the crowd who asked why the government was delaying to re-open the radio, a mouthpiece of Buganda kingdom. The President is on anti-poverty mobilisation tour in the area. The radio was switched off by the government on September 10, as riots broke out over the Kabaka's blocked visit to Kayunga, over allegations of inciting violence.

Health

http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/news/article02//indexn2_html?pdate=031109&ptitle=Malaria%20%20in%20Africa%20summit%20opens%20in%20Nairobi

Malaria in Africa summit opens in Nairobi

A CALL for substantial and sustained support for research to guide evidence-based policies and development of new malaria tools, to save countless lives, sign-posted the world's largest malaria conference, which opened in Nairobi, Kenya, yesterday. And pneumonia, one of the biggest causes of child death in the world, will by 2011 be controllable with the use of a Pneumonia Conjugate Vaccine (PVC) scheduled to be available for routine immunization of children below five years. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will also invest \$39 billion to tackle the disease.