

What's Playing in Africa: Friday, November 6, 2009

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**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.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/682670/-/uolubd/-/index.html>

#### **Lawyers differ on Wako-US 'lawsuit'**

Attorney-general Amos Wako's threat to sue the United States government for defamation has elicited sharp reactions, with lawyers differing on whether he has a case. While lawyer Kibe Mungai insisted that the AG had a "serious case", which should be pursued to its conclusion, Law Society of Kenya vice-chairman James Aggrey Mwamu differs. "He does not have a case... if I were him, I would lie low like an envelope," Mr Mwamu told the *Nation* on Thursday. "They have already revoked his visa. How then will he file his case in the US or even testify? The US must be having concrete evidence to back their allegations," Mr Mwamu said. He spoke as the US, for the second day running, refused to be drawn into the matter with ambassador Michael Ranneberger saying when contacted: "No comment."

#### **Governance**

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article33025>

#### **Turkey defends decision to receive Sudanese president**

The Turkish government dismissed criticism over its invitation extended to the Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir to attend the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit this weekend. The controversy surrounding Bashir's visit stems from the outstanding arrest warrant for him by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes allegedly committed in Darfur. Sudan has not officially confirmed the Turkey visit though a presidential source told Reuters this week that Bashir plans to attend. Various unnamed Turkish officials speaking to media asserted that their country is not one of the signatories of the Rome Statute which is the founding text of the ICC. One official argued that they were simply hosting the OIC meeting with no say on who is invited. "The OIC is the organizer of the summit...In the past, participants not even recognized by Ankara, such as the GKRY [Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus] were present at such meetings hosted in Turkey," one of the officials told the Turkish 'Today's Zaman'.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/682718/-/1354s98z/-/index.html>

#### **Zimbabwe's MDC ends unity government boycott**

Zimbabwe's MDC has ended its boycott of the new unity government and will give President Robert Mugabe a month to fully implement their power-sharing deal, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai said on Thursday. The decision, at an extraordinary Southern African Development Community (SADC) meeting, ended the worst political crisis since the administration was formed in February.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/682566/-/1354torz/-/index.html>

#### **Summit seeks to end Harare crisis**

Zimbabwe's feuding political leaders are in Maputo, Mozambique for a Southern African Development Community (SADC) defence and security organ summit that will seek to end the three-week impasse in Harare's fragile coalition. The three principals nine month old inclusive government – President Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara are leading a team of negotiators to the summit largely seen as a make or break attempt at rescuing the marriage of convenience. The host Mozambican President Armando Guebuza has also invited South Africa President Jacob Zuma to help the troika that also has Zambian President Rupiah Banda and Swaziland's King Mswati 111 to tackle one of the region's longest running conflicts. Mr Tsvangirai

partially withdrew from the unity government on October 16 protesting against what he said was President Robert Mugabe's reluctance to fully implement their power sharing agreement.

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-11-06-zimbabwe-targets-foreign-companies>

#### **Zimbabwe targets foreign companies**

Zimbabwe plans a swift transfer of ownership of foreign companies to locals, forcing foreigners to sell 51% of their shares to locals within 60 days of publication of a set of new empowerment regulations. According to a confidential draft obtained by the *M&G* on Thursday, the government will target foreign companies valued at \$500 000 and above. The companies will be forced to transfer ownership to black "indigenous" investors almost immediately after publication of the regulations. The draft reveals Zimbabwe plans a rapid transfer, and not the gradual approach foreign investors wanted. The regulations will be a fresh knock to investors already spooked by the worsening fragility of the country's coalition government.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/politics/-/1064/682638/-/xt4vpuz/-/index.html>

#### **Ocampo leaves meeting empty-handed**

Luis Moreno-Ocampo came away empty-handed after his meeting with President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga on Thursday. That was the import of the brief statement issued on the steps of Nairobi's Harambee House by the International Criminal Court prosecutor and the two coalition government principals. Mr Moreno-Ocampo had flown into the country specifically to secure a formal referral from the Kenya government so that the ICC can officially initiate investigations and pursue prosecution for key planners of the post-election violence. By denying him the referral, President Kibaki and Prime Minister Odinga signalled that the government is not ready to cooperate fully with the ICC in investigations that could lead to the indictment and arrest of key Cabinet ministers for trial at The Hague or wherever else an international court may sit.

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-11-06-police-see-papers-alleged-to-link-thatcher-coup-plot>

#### **Police see papers alleged to link Thatcher to coup plot**

Documents detailing Sir Mark Thatcher's alleged involvement in the botched coup in Equatorial Guinea are among evidence being examined by Scotland Yard.

The counter-terrorism command has yet to interview Thatcher or the businessman Ely Calil, who were named by the mercenary Simon Mann as the organisers and bankrollers of his failed plot to overthrow President Teodoro Obiang Nguema in 2004. Codenamed Operation Antara, the police inquiry began in 2004 after Equatorial Guinea wrote to the Yard alleging that the men planned the operation on British soil. The inquiry was considered political and highly sensitive. Among the evidence are several statements made by Mann (56) when British police visited him three times in prison in Equatorial Guinea. In these Mann, who was jailed for 34 years for his involvement in the plot, is understood to have openly implicated Calil and Thatcher, an allegation he had previously made at his trial last year and repeated as he left Equatorial Guinea on Wednesday after being pardoned

#### **African Media**

<http://www.thisdayonline.com/nview.php?id=159074>

Media Owners Seek Integration of Old, New Media

Various speakers at the second African Media Leaders Forum (AMLF), which began in Lagos yesterday, have called for an integration of the old and new media in presenting information to the people of the continent. The traditional media of printed newspapers, magazines and broadcasting are referred to as "old media" while the modern Internet-driven sources, such as web publishing, Twitter and webcasting are referred to as "new media". The debate has been on the front burner over the future of the old media given the rising popularity of the new media, which is also considered to be cost-effective. The forum hosted by THISDAY and attended by media owners and practitioners from 46 African countries, also urged the industry in Africa to hold their governments accountable.

Speaking before the first session, Chairman/Editor-in-Chief of THISDAY Newspapers, Mr. Nduka Obaigbena, who is also the Founding Chairman of AMLF, said the forum was designed to create a new experience to chart the course of development on the continent. Obaigbena said the second forum became imperative to build on the outcomes of the maiden conference in Dakar, Senegal last year in such a way that it would be beneficial to practitioners on the continent. In his remarks, Mr. Eric Chinje, Co-President AMLF and Manager, External Relations of the Africa Region of the World Bank, said the forum was aimed at critical reflection and common problem-solving along with concerted

high-profile advocacy for an enabling macro-economic and socio-political environment where media institutions could thrive.

#### **Economic**

<http://www.nguardiannews.com/news/article02//indexn2.html?pdate=061109&ptitle=Why%20deregulation%20is%20essential%20for%20Nigeria,%20by%20Yar'Adua>

#### **Why deregulation is essential for Nigeria, by Yar'Adua**

PRESIDENT Umaru Musa Yar'Adua yesterday said that deregulation of the petroleum sector was inevitable to curb corruption and other abuses in the system. His Special Adviser on Petroleum Matters, Dr. Emmanuel Egbogah, spoke in a similar vein, saying that it was the only panacea for concrete reform in the sector and the sure guarantee for long term stability and lower prices for petroleum products. According to the President, his Administration is holding consultations and dialogue with all stakeholders to explain the necessity of the action. Yar'Adua told the visiting British Minister of State for Africa, Baroness Glenys Kinnock, at the Presidential Villa Abuja that "we are committed to deregulation, because we are convinced that subsidy distorts the system, encourages corruption and creates more problems than it solves. We are aware that initially, there will be pain, but these will be temporary and the whole nation will be the better for it.

<http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/-/539552/682570/-/59wdba/-/index.html>

#### **EAC fails unity test ahead of common market launch**

Fresh differences have emerged among East African Community member states over the planned launch of a common market early next year. Trade experts said the protocol that establishes the regional market has left room for national governments to erect new trade barriers without breaching the accord – posing new threats to the free flow of goods and services. Sharp differences among member states have forced negotiators to leave room for different standards regulation, varying immigration procedures in the protocol that heads of state are due to sign later this month. A central revenue body is also yet to be established as is the practice in other common markets. "Partner states are still reluctant to change from national to regional orientation as manifested in the form of non-compliance with regional laws, and in duplication of activities that would be better handled at regional level," said Evarist Mugisa, a trade economist and lead researcher in a survey that evaluated the impact of the EAC customs union.

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34628>

#### **Somalia's main export market reopened**

Saudi Arabia officials have announced that the 9-year ban on import of livestock from Somalia, including Somaliland, is lifted. Thus, Somalia's main export trade may be resumed, promising much needed revenues for Somali farmers. Following an outbreak of Rift Valley Fever on the African Horn nine years ago, the Saudi government placed a ban on livestock imports from the region. Livestock represents the major export commodity from Somalia, with Saudi Arabia being the main market. Thus, the ban, which was expected to be short-lived, strongly affected the rural economy of Somalia.

#### **Conflict**

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/682562/-/1354tovz/-/index.html>

#### **Somali pirates take Spanish crew ashore**

Somali pirates said today they had taken three hostages from a Spanish fishing vessel ashore and may hand them to the families of two suspected pirates being held by Spain. The Spanish navy captured two Somalis in the Indian Ocean shortly after pirates overran the tuna boat Alakrana on October 2 and took its 36 crew hostage. The two suspects are set to face trial in Spain on charges of terrorism and robbery. Somali pirates have said previously they will not negotiate a ransom for the release of the ship until their two colleagues have been freed by the Spanish authorities. "Our friends have taken three Spanish males from the Spanish ship to land," pirate Hassan told Reuters by phone from the pirate haven of Haradheere. "They are still in our hands and they have already been taken out of Haradheere by car. I will not tell you where we are taking them, but we may hand them over to the families of our two friends held by Spain -- in revenge," he said. Pirates have plagued the busy shipping lanes off the coast of Somalia for years. Foreign warships from 16 nations are patrolling the area to try and prevent hijacks, but the sea gangs are now hunting for ships far into the Indian Ocean.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/682460/-/1354uhez/-/index.html>

#### **Thousands flee DR Congo as battle rages in region**

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 yesterday. 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 Kinshasa 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.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE5A501D20091106>

#### **UN court hands Rwanda tea boss 8 year prison term**

A U.N. genocide court on Thursday sentenced a former tea industry official from Rwanda to eight years in prison for ordering subordinates to kill hundreds of minority Tutsis hiding in a church. Michel Bagaragaza, a former director general of Rwanda's tea industry regulator, was found guilty on one count of complicity in genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in Tanzania. "The Trial Chamber found him guilty of the charge of having substantially contributed to the killings of more than one thousand Tutsis who sought refuge at Kesho Hill and at Nyundo Cathedral," the court said in a statement.

#### **Health**

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34631>

#### **Dengue epidemic paralyses Cape Verde**

A first-ever outbreak of dengue fever in Cape Verde, already causing four deaths and infecting 9,000 persons, has caused panic on the archipelago. Tomorrow, everybody is urged to kill mosquitoes instead of going to work, and both the police and army are sent out to root out the disease. Cape Verdean José Maria Neves has used the last two days to demonstrate his ability to act. The nation is gearing up to tomorrow's great national campaign of cleaning and eradication of the mosquito that carries the dengue virus. The entire population is asked to participate in the campaign, rather than going to work tomorrow.