

# Summary of Africa

## BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

Weekly Report 127

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### POLITICS OF SECURITY AND CONFLICT ISSUES

#### **Congo-Kinshasa: ICC Suspends Trial of Warlord Accused of Recruiting Child Soldiers**

The International Criminal Court (ICC) today suspended proceedings in the case of a Congolese warlord accused of recruiting child soldiers, saying that prosecutors have refused orders to disclose information to his defence. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, the founder and leader of the Union of Congolese Patriots in the Ituri region of the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), faces two counts of war crimes: conscripting and enlisting child soldiers into the military wing of his group and then using them to participate in hostilities between September 2002 and August 2003. His trial began at The Hague, where the ICC is based, in January 2009.

#### **Red Cross Assists Thousands of Displaced in Remote Area of DRC** **Lisa Schlein**

The International Committee of the Red Cross has begun the distribution of seed, agricultural and fishing tools to some 35,000 people in Equateur province, a remote region in northern Democratic Republic of Congo. The aid will allow tens of thousands of people in the town of Dongo and the surrounding area to plant their crops in time for the next harvest in November. Almost the entire town of Dongo, some 100,000 people, fled ethnic clashes that erupted in October.

**West Africa & East Africa:** Formal negotiations began Monday on a new international treaty to control the trade of conventional weapons. More than 190 nations are taking part at U.N. headquarters in New York. Supporters of the treaty say it would save thousands of lives every year. Vast majority of governments in Africa, Europe and Asia have voted in the General Assembly for the development of the treaty.

#### **Nigeria: Senate Panel Seeks Death Penalty for Terrorist Acts**

Death penalty seems underway for anyone found guilty of engaging in terrorism in the country. The Senate Joint Committee on Terrorism proposed the maximum penalty for anyone found guilty of engaging in terrorist acts as against five years imprisonment

recommended in the bill for an Act to provide measures to combat terrorism at present before the National Assembly.

### **Guinea-Bissau: Lack of Crucial Reforms Could Undermine Progress, Warns Ban**

The progress made by Guinea-Bissau following last year's political crisis could be jeopardized unless major reforms in the areas of defence and security are carried out, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says in a new report.

### **Mauritania: Mauritania Gov't pays imams to stop fundamentalism**

The government of Mauritania is putting 500 imams on its payroll, providing monthly "stipends" if they help stop the spread of religious extremism. The aim of the operation is to limit the recruitment of fundamentalist scholars to Mauritania and better regulate the mosques and their selection of imams, according to Ahmed Ould Mukhtar of the Nouakchott Ministry of Islamic Affairs.

**Uganda:** Africa's top security official says the deadly bomb attacks in Kampala have strengthened the continent's resolve to root out al-Qaida-linked elements in Somalia. A spokesman for the U.S. National Security Council called the Kampala attacks 'cowardly and deplorable', and said Washington is ready to assist Uganda in any way possible.

### **ZIMBABWE: Shut your mouth or else**

Jairos Mukotosi, 50, is avoiding a team of consultants, sent as part of a parliamentary outreach programme to the Rushinga area of rural Mashonaland Central Province in northeastern Zimbabwe, to find out what people would like included in a proposed new constitution. But for the past two months the members of the youth militia aligned to President Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF party - have been warning villagers to either shut up or support ZANU-PF's view on the new constitution, which includes no limit on the number of presidential terms that can be served. They have dubbed their operation "Vhara Muromo", or Shut Your Mouth.

### **SOMALIA: "Mogadishu faces a catastrophe"**

Heavy fighting in the northern areas of the **Somali capital, Mogadishu**, has trapped many residents in their homes, with some unable to bury their dead, civil society sources said on 6 July. The fighting has rendered the areas inaccessible to those who could provide help to the affected families.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL ISSUES IN DOMESTIC POLITICS**

### **Nigeria: Zoning: Third Option Emerges in the North**

A different view other than the ones making the rounds on the contentious zoning issue has been mooted by some northern politicians in Abuja. The new view said it neither supports zoning or the candidature of any particular candidate for the presidency. It however stressed the need for generational change in the next dispensation, noting that a younger candidate is more desirable.

### **Court Orders Shell to Pay Community N15.4bn**

Justice Ibrahim Buba of the Federal High Court in Asaba, Delta State, has ordered multinational oil giant, Shell Petroleum Development Company Limited (SPDC) to pay the people of Ejama-Ebubu Community in Tai Eleme local government area of Rivers State the sum of N15.4billion as special and punitive damages for oil spill in community in 1970.

### **Rwanda: Ex-Kigali Official Sentenced to Life**

A former senior official in Kigali City was, on Tuesday, sentenced to life by a Gacaca court for Genocide crimes. The Gacaca Court of Gahogo Sector of Muhanga District found Sophanie Rutayisire responsible for, among others, the death of 80 Tutsis who had sought refuge at B.G.M. Rubirizi College in Kanombe, Kicukiro District, and the disappearance of several others shortly before the Genocide.

**Sudan:** The International Criminal Court (ICC) today issued a second arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, adding genocide to the list of charges for crimes he has allegedly committed in the war-ravaged Darfur region.

International peacekeepers said Sunday that 221 people have been killed in Sudan's volatile Darfur region in June. The United Nations - African Union peacekeepers in Darfur said most of the deaths were due to inter-tribal clashes. The death toll was significantly less than May, when nearly 600 people died in rebel and tribal fighting.

### **SUDAN: Clashes and demos in Abyei**

Tension over the future of Abyei, a flashpoint region roughly the size Lebanon on Sudan's north-south border, erupted into armed violence and street demonstrations this week. Gunmen mounted an attack near the village of Tajalei, about 30km northeast of Abyei town, killing five people, a police officer and four civilians.

### **Liberia: RUF Leader Testifies: Says Taylor Neither Supported Rebels, nor Receive Diamonds from Them**

A former Sierra Leonean rebel leader – released from his jail cell in Rwanda to testify on behalf of Charles Taylor – this week distanced the activities of his rebels from the former

Liberian President. Mr. Taylor did not control the rebels' actions, receive diamonds from them, nor provide assistance to them during Sierra Leone's bloody civil conflict, he said.

### **Ghanaian Government identifies key ingredient for women participation in governance**

Government on Wednesday lashed at the negative perception against women and other socio-economic barriers that continue to work against gender mainstreaming in governance. "These negative trends have eroded confidence and created fear on the part of most women to take up political or decision making position," Mrs. Juliana Azumah-Mensah, Minister of Women and Children's Affairs stated in Accra.

### **SOUTH AFRICA: Rumours of xenophobia send foreign nationals fleeing.**

The rumour mill, a few recent xenophobic attacks and memories of countrywide attacks on foreign nationals two years ago have combined to create an exodus of people from the coastal city of Cape Town to their home countries or South Africa's rural areas. A Somali trader was killed just over a week ago in the sprawling township of Khayelitsha, on the outskirts of Cape Town, and on 6 July a Zimbabwean national, Reason Wandu, was thrown from a moving train by passengers and suffered serious injuries.

**EU Urges Crackdown on West Africa Drug Syndicates:** The European Commission is seeking to dismantle the drug cartels that use West Africa as courier channel to funnel illicit drugs to Europe. The Commission therefore urged leaders in the region to increase funding for drug control stressing that funding is a reflection of political will to stop drug barons.

## **HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND DOMESTIC POLITICS**

### **Nigeria, UN Partner to Reduce Deforestation**

The Federal Government and the United Nations agency, the United Nations Development Programme yesterday commenced efforts to check forest destruction with the inauguration of the National Technical Committee on Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Abuja.

### **Uganda:**

The death toll of the two Kampala bomb blasts rose to 74. Previous reports had put the figure of the dead at 64 and casualties at 67. The explosions went off at two bars packed with soccer fans watching the final moments of the World Cup final on television in an Ethiopian restaurant in Kabalagala and at Kampala rugby club on Sunday. An American was among those killed, according to the US embassy in Kampala

President Obama, condemning what he called deplorable and cowardly attacks, said Washington was ready to help Uganda in hunting down those responsible. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton also condemned the attacks on "innocent spectators".

Kenya was on Monday under heightened security after terrorist bombs killed 74 people in Kampala. Our thoughts are with relatives and friends of the victims, and at this tragic moment the people of Kenya stand with their brothers and sisters in Uganda," the President of Kenya said in a statement.

### **Ghana near to completion of Guinea worm eradication - Dr Korkor**

Ghana has achieved 96 per cent reduction in Guinea Worm cases and is expected to hit the 100 per cent reduction mark towards completion, Dr Siedu Korkor, Guinea Worm Eradication Programme Manager said on Thursday.

### **Niger: Food Crisis Leads to Acute Malnutrition**

Nearly 17 percent of Niger's children younger than five suffer acute malnutrition, a 5 percent increase over the same period last year, according to a national survey released by the government. More than 15 percent acute malnutrition is classified as a critical emergency by the UN World Health Organization (WHO). The report links this increase to the poor 2008-2009 harvests.

### **MALAWI: There is food but no money to take it to the people.**

Another year with a surplus harvest of maize, the staple food, is good news for Malawi, but dry spells in the south have left around 700,000 people in need of food assistance.

### **EAST AFRICA: Community HIV drug distribution improves adherence**

Local East African programmes are discovering the benefits of bringing HIV services closer to rural communities, with mobile drug distribution improving HIV-positive patients' adherence to antiretroviral treatment (ART).

"While there might be health facilities in rural areas, they are normally far flung; by using mobile care and treatment centres, it is easy to reach populations, many of whom are normally too poor to have transport to the established health centres," Waziri Rashid Njau from the Support for International Change (SIC), a local HIV-focused NGO in Tanzania.

### **TANZANIA: Taking the HIV risk out of road crews.**

An initiative by the Tanzanian government hopes to reduce HIV transmission along the country's expanding road network by targeting construction crews and the communities that surround them. "The government requires that road construction companies implement HIV prevention services for their workers and for the community because this

is one way through which HIV can very easily spread in a community," said Moses Kisimo, community HIV/AIDS coordinator in the northeastern district of Tanga. "The strategy is: Construct roads and also prevent the spread of HIV."

### **Ghana: The Influenza 'A' (H1N1) vaccine is safe- GHS**

The Ghana Health Service (GHS) on Wednesday gave the assurance that as far as available evidence indicates, the Influenza 'A' (H1N1) vaccine is safe. However, it was following up and monitoring reports on all adverse reactions following the vaccinations, just as being done after all vaccinations, to inform policy decisions.

### **Guinea-Bissau: Zero tolerance of cholera this rainy season**

Staffs from NGOs and the health authorities are going house-to-house to distribute thousands of bottles of bleach to residents in the Bafata area of central Guinea-Bissau, to prevent another cholera outbreak. An epidemic in 2008 claimed at least 225 lives and infected more than 13,000 people.

### **BOTSWANA: HIV treatment for refugees, but for how long?**

Until just over a year ago, people living in Dukwi, a remote refugee camp about 200km from Francistown, Botswana's second city, were burying other residents who had died from AIDS-related illnesses at the rate of about five a month.

**Botswana was the first country in southern Africa** to roll out an antiretroviral (ARV) treatment programme, which now has almost universal coverage, but is among the last to include its relatively small refugee population.

### **SOUTH AFRICA: Government green lights three-month supply of ARV**

In a bid to ease pressure on South Africa's over-burdened public health sector, the government has given hospitals and clinics permission to give patients on HIV/AIDS treatment a three-month supply of their antiretroviral medication (ARVs). In a recent memo the Department of Health said there was no legal barrier to supplying patients with multiple months of treatment, and it could lighten the burden on the health sector; an estimated 700,000 patients are currently receiving ARV treatment through monthly visits to public health facilities.

### **BURKINA FASO: Vital role for local food**

Local food - like sesame, tamarind and certain leaves - is a vital tool in the fight against malnutrition, say aid workers training families in northern Burkina Faso.

Communities who know the nutritional value of local food, and have the means to conserve and use it, are far less vulnerable, say the NGO Eau Vive and local health workers. "Nutritional foods are all around us, right here," said Balima Léopold, health worker in the town of Dori, northern Burkina, who has worked with Eau Vive to show

villagers how to incorporate locally available ingredients into meals. "For example, there are leaves rich in vitamin A for making a good sauce for children."

## **POLITICAL ECONOMY**

### **D-8 Summit: Nigeria Woos Investors for Energy, Agric Sectors**

Nigeria yesterday threw its investment window open to all member countries of the D-8 business community to avail themselves of the abundant opportunities that abound in the country in the areas of industrial development, power sector, agriculture, communication technology, oil and gas.

### **Ghana: Gold Production Increased 3.1% in the First Quarter**

Gold production in Ghana, Africa's largest producer of the metal after South Africa, rose 3.1 percent to 696,172 ounces (19,736 kilograms) during the first quarter from a year earlier, the Chamber of Mines said. Compared with the previous three months, gold output fell 8.1 percent, the industry association said in a statement handed to reporters today in the capital, Accra.

### **Ghana oil output 120,000 bpd by mid-2011**

Ghana will definitely pump its first barrel of oil in 2010 but it will take four to six months to reach its planned output of 120,000 barrels per day (bpd), its energy minister said on Thursday. "We will definitely have first oil by the end of this year," Joe Oteng-Adjei, Ghana's minister for energy told Reuters at the sidelines of an investment conference in London.

### **Liberia: EU Gives U.S. \$8.5 Million to Support Govt. Budget**

The European Union has provided its first budgetary support to the Government of Liberia in recent years, days after the country reached the HIPC Completion Point. According to the Ministry of Finance, the US\$8.59 million will go towards supporting the country's 2009/2010 fiscal year. The EU budget support has brought major relief to the US\$350 fiscal budget for 2009/2010, which suffered a shortfall of more than US\$60 million as a result of the recent global financial crisis.

### **IMF Celebrates with Liberia**

The International Monetary Fund says debt relief will open a new financial front and opportunities for Liberia. IMF First Deputy Managing Director John Lipsky said

concessional financing from donors should be available giving the hope that critical infrastructure projects could be properly financed. Mr. Lipsky hopes that such investment in infrastructure would lead to more jobs creation, enhance growth and help reduce poverty.

## **China Africa Relations:**

### **The future is to follow china**

**Africa special:** trade - Foreign-owned companies operating in Africa and the rural poor are victims of the continent's political elite. It's time to set the producers free, argues Moeletsi Mbeki. When African and Asian colonies gained independence in the 20th century, their new leaders faced two main challenges: to consolidate quickly their political power while ensuring stability and, in the longer term, to transform their countries' economies away from colonial-era norms.

### **China scraps tariff on 60 pct of imports from 26 African nations**

China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC) announced Thursday that the country will cease levying tariffs on 60 percent of imports from 26 least developed African nations, including Ethiopia and Liberia. This policy went into effect July 1, an MOC spokesman said Thursday.

### **China's helping hand, fact or fiction?**

The media should report it all on China in Africa, the promising and slanderous. Negative media samplings like "Namibia bans Chinese investment in beauty salons", "China throws birthday bash for Mugabe", 'South African government barred Dalai Lama from peace conference", "Cheap Chinese goods flood the continent sacrifices African jobs" - all provide obvious media candy; yet they mistakenly cloud the bigger picture. Reports of injustice against Chinese immigrants in Africa are as rife as Westerners' naysaying of China's long march to economic hegemony.

## **Pan-African issues:**

### **WEST AFRICA: HOW TO: Prevent the Sahel's next food crisis**

Another food crisis is unfolding in West Africa's arid Sahel region, putting 10 million people at risk of hunger. Preventing such a scenario, or even better, avoiding it altogether, would be a noteworthy goal. Tidiane Ngaido, a researcher at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), said early warning mechanisms and crisis prevention and management had made huge advances since the 1970s. "We no longer see catastrophes leading to large-scale migration and death; we now need to assess what works, and what needs to improve."

### **Looming Hunger Threat in West Africa**

Recent reports suggest an imminent threat of hunger in several countries of the West African sub-region. Persistent drought in the region partly accounts for this. Because of the resulting poor harvests and soaring food prices, some West African countries are already experiencing the hunger crisis. According to its 2010 report, the British charity Oxfam, said that it had already launched emergency appeal for seven million pounds sterling to help about 800,000 people threatened by hunger in different countries of the sub-region.

### **AFRICA: Money not protection from HIV**

A new study has challenged widely held assumptions about income level in relation to HIV, finding that neither wealth nor poverty are reliable predictors of HIV infection in Africa. Previously, the argument that poverty drove HIV epidemics was supported by the World Bank and UNAIDS, as well as less reliable authorities like former South African President Thabo Mbeki, who told the International AIDS Conference in Durban in 2000 that the disease was a partner with "poverty, suffering, social disadvantage and inequity".

### **Africa lags behind in education gender parity**

Although about 90 percent of African constitutions endorse gender equality and affirmative action, only 11 countries have achieved parity in secondary education, a new study shows. Abdoulie Jannah of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) presented these disappointing numbers at seminar in New York.

**EU Votes 6.5 bn Euros for ECOWAS Nations:** The European Union has offered to make available 6.5 billion Euros for financing programme initiatives in West African countries under the Economic Partnership Agreement Development Programme over a four-year period (2010-2014).

## **Elections:**

### **Rwanda's Kagame to Face 3 Challengers in Election**

Rwanda's electoral commission said that four candidates, including the incumbent, are cleared to run in the August 9 ballot. The commission says some people who were expected to run, including opposition figure Victoire Ingabire, did not submit applications. Critics have accused President Kagame of stifling opposition and freedom of expression ahead of the poll. Rwandan authorities arrested Ingabire in April and accused her of working with rebels to destabilize the country.

**Somaliland**, which lies on the Horn of Africa in the north-western corner of Somalia, is not formally recognized by any country – this past week a completely peaceful presidential election was held. International observers said it met all the western standards for a free election. What's more, the incumbent president fully accepted the result the minute it was announced and handed over power to his successor and bitter political rival. It is peaceful, stable and has had several transfers of power and free elections in its 20-year history.

### **Guinea poll losers have challenged some results**

The second-placed party in Guinea's presidential vote has said it will challenge some poll results after provisional figures put veteran opposition leader Alpha Conde behind former Prime Minister Cellou Dalein Diallo. As results stand, the two front-runners will go head to head in a July 18 run-off for the presidency of the world's biggest bauxite exporter after the election commission said Diallo won the first round with 39.72 percent, ahead of Conde on 20.67 percent but short of an overall majority.