

Summary of Africa

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

Weekly Report 131

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POLITICS OF SECURITY AND CONFLICT ISSUES

West Africa:

In Ghana Parliament on Monday passed the Organized Crime bill which seeks to establish a comprehensive legal framework to monitor, investigate and facilitate the prosecution of organized crime.

Still on **Liberia former President** case in Hague, **Supermodel Naomi Campbell** testified this week before the Special Court for Sierra Leone judges in The Hague about allegations that she received a gift of blood diamonds from former Liberian **President Charles Taylor** while they were both present in South Africa in 1997.

Also this week, **Issa Hassan Sesay**, the former convicted interim leader of the **Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group**, told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges in The Hague that RUF fighters have been framing stories against Mr. Taylor because the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) made promises to them and that some of them saw the Special Court as a place to make money for their evidence.

Nigeria Lacks Peace-keeping Policy, Loses 2,000 men in conflict zones a communiqué issued at the end of a two-day international seminar on peace support operations organized by the Ministry of Defence, has said.

Also in **Nigeria** zoning of **Presidential Flag bearer** continues to divide the core north and Northern minorities in the build-up to the 2011 elections, the pro and anti-zoning forces in the region have begun meeting to forge a common front.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL ISSUES IN DOMESTIC POLITICS

West Africa:

Chinese Suspects for Trial in **Nigeria** over N4 Billion Cocaine, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Ahmadu Giade, has said that all suspects arrested in connection with the unlawful importation of 450.400kg of cocaine will be prosecuted in the country.

This month marks the sixteenth anniversary of the military takeover in **The Gambia**, in which **President Yahya Jammeh** ascended to power via coup d'état. A former wrestler and soldier, Jammeh has proven himself a tough man to deal with, as the Gambian media has discovered.

Turmoil in poverty-stricken **Guinea-Bissau** has forced the EU to end its mission to reform the country's security forces - a move that may further embolden powerful generals and drug traffickers.

South Africa:

Rwandan political fugitives in his country is complicating bilateral relations soon worsening ties between the two countries **South African** High Commissioner to Rwanda Gladstone Dumisani Gwadiso was summoned back to Pretoria amid growing concerns about Kigali's repressive policies as the country prepares for presidential elections.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND DOMESTIC POLITICS

West Africa:

A ministerial committee in **Ghana** established to probe into the spillage of toxic substances into the country's oil fields by oil drilling giant, Kosmos Energy, has slapped a punitive fine of €400bn on the company. Within five months, Kosmos spilled a total of 699 barrels of Versaclean, a type of drilling fluid or oil based mud, which contains poisonous heavy metals, on three occasions.

In Niger, seeking for Aid: Parts of sparsely populated and arid eastern Niger, north of the city of Diffa, are strewn with putrid dead cows: Pastoralists travelled great distances to find food and water for their animals but in the end had to watch their most prized assets die.

East Africa/Horn of Africa

In Rwanda: The Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Jean d'Arc ujawamariya, has commended Project Ubuzima for the clinical research its carrying out in microbicides, as an alternative HIV prevention tool especially for women, terming it as "a new initiative that could help protect millions of women against contracting HIV/AIDS."

POLITICAL ECONOMY

West Africa:

Ghana Company AngloGold Ashanti, Obuasi, increase production from 383,000 ounces to 500,000 within the next three years, Mr. Kwesi Enyan, the Managing Director, has announced.

Nigeria: Stock Market Loses N51 Billion Transactions on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) opened the week on a negative note as most blue chip companies suffered considerable losses while the All-Share index shed 209.79 or 0.8 to close at 25,634.39 as against 25,844.18 as its opening index.

The **Nigerian** Federal Government met with some members of the National Executive Council (NEC) of the National Union of Petroleum & Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) in a bid to avert a strike targeted at stopping the lifting and supply of fuel to the nation's capital city, Abuja.

Central African Republic:

President Museveni's government is paying \$14.2 million (about Shs31.3 billion) to the **Burundi government** as compensation for material and financial support offered to the National Resistance Army (NRA) before the rebel group seized power in 1986.

China Africa Relations:

China, an emerging global superpower which will likely become the world's biggest economy within fifteen years, has planted itself deeply into the vast continent of Africa a land of huge untapped natural resources and incredible growth potential.

Chinese entrepreneurs and small private companies are seeking opportunities in Africa that they cannot find in China.

Pan-African/AU issues:

Ten African countries ranked in order from most to least progressive are vying to be among the most progressive nations on the continent in accordance with the 2010 State of the Union Continental Report, these countries are **Nigeria, Rwanda, Mozambique, Ghana, Algeria, Egypt, Cameroon, Kenya, Senegal and South Africa.**

Framework for **ECOWAS** Single Currency Regime out Soon to speed up the process of actualizing a single currency regime in **West African states**

African countries should invest in broadband infrastructure to improve the welfare of their people and not Roads to Transform **Africa**, according to Ajai Chowdhry, co-founder and CEO of HCL Info systems, the global IT services provider.

The recent seizure of more than two tonnes of cocaine, worth an estimated \$1bn (about £675m) in **The Gambia** has once again shone a light on **West Africa** as a major transit point for narcotics making their way from **Latin America to Europe**.

Africa Cooking up a Climate Deal with Another round of negotiations towards a global treaty on climate change concluded in **Bonn** on Aug. 6, with activists calling on parties to rediscover a spirit of compromise and make offers rather than demands

Elections:

West Africa:

Liberia: The standard-bearer emeritus of the opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), **George Weah**, has accepted a petition to run for president in the 2011 presidential elections.

Ivory Coast's President Laurent Gbagbo pledged on Friday that his nation would hold elections this year at last, despite many years of missed electoral deadlines and political crisis.

Ivory Coast should be able to hold long overdue presidential elections in October, the electoral commission said on Wednesday five years after they were first meant to happen.

West Africa's mediator for **Guinea** called on Tuesday for the second round of presidential elections to be held soon to ensure that the attempt to return power to civilians stays on track.

Nigeria: The 2011 Elections Feasible in January if the new voters' registration exercise is completed on time by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

East Africa/Horn of Africa:

Kenya: CONTROVERSIAL CONSTITUTION referendum goes to poll.

* Reduces president's powers, * Devolves power to regions, * Creates commission to manage public land, * Creates senate, * Recognizes Kadhi (Muslim) courts

SUDAN: Key post-referendum issues

Southern Sudan will in early 2011 hold a referendum to determine whether to remain part of a united Sudan or become a separate state. The referendum was a core component of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended decades of conflict between the Southern Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Khartoum government.

Central African Republic:

A long-standing ally of successive U.S. governments **Rwandan President** Vows to Crush Troublemakers Ahead of Monday's Vote. Finding himself in the middle of a controversial election campaign, marked by media repression, jailing of opposition leaders, threats of war, attempted assassinations and several killings of political opponents.