

Kenya Domestic Media, June 21st (Covering June 14th -20th)

By Laura Kern, MIGS Reporter for Kenya

State-owned media

Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) Website, Nairobi, In Somali, 19 June 10

- Nairobi city council declined a permit for a planned meeting of church leaders at Uruhu Park Thursday. The Church leaders had planned to hold a memorial service for the victims killed in the attacks a week prior. Six people were killed in the prayer meeting in the park that turned into a rally for the NO campaign.

Privately owned media

The Daily Nation Website, Nairobi, in English 20 June10

- Israeli detectives have been sent to Nairobi to help with the investigations of the bombing on the 13 of June. The decision to seek outside help was reached at last Monday's National Security Committee meeting chaired by President Kibaki and attended to by police, intelligence and military chiefs. The Israeli experts are expected to help the investigation but may struggle to find evidence due to the way that the police initially handled the crime site. There are three major issues with the investigation; the crime scene was not preserved, the site was not closed off and inspected, and detectives did not interview injured individuals who were treated in hospital. Police have bought and are using media footage from media present during the attack.

Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 gmt 19 June 10

- The Kenyan police have reportedly arrested Somali Businessmen in Nairobi, Kenya for attempting to import illegal weapons. The police stated that the men were secretly ferrying illegal weapons into Nairobi, from Garissa in northeastern Kenya. They were arrested at a checkpoint in Matuu for possessing pistols, bullets and other weapons destined for Eastleigh, Nairobi. The event comes at a time when the Kenyan government has already deployed hundreds of troops along the Somali boarder

The Standard Website, Nairobi, in English 19 June10

- Kenyan security and intelligence agencies are under scrutiny following claims by Attourney General Amos Wako that some members of the National Security

Intelligence Services (NSIS) had approached him to effect some changes in the proposed constitution while it went to print. Although the Attorney General declined to cooperate the saboteurs managed to alter the Bill of Rights in favour of the security institution's interests by slipping in an altered constitution. According to the Ndung'u Wainaina the executive director for the International Centre for Policy and Conflict, the new law would overhaul the freedoms and loopholes that the security agencies have been accustomed to. It also gives civilians the rights to demand accountability and creates a system where hierarchy is based on merit within the institutions. The law is expected to revolutionize the police force.

The Standard Website, Nairobi, in English 19 June 10

- Kenyan leaders have expressed skepticism at the security service's abilities to properly investigate the incident at Uhuru park. Investigations into 10 similar incidents since mid last year have been routinely inconclusive, raising fears of complicity or incompetence. The attack followed only weeks after the Attorney General warned in an interview with the Standard "Kenyans had not seen the last of the powerful forces against the realization of a new constitution." The event has also rekindled fear over unchecked weapons trafficking.

The Daily Nation Website, Nairobi, in English 19 June 10

- Almost four thousand people are to be deployed across the country to monitor incitement to violence through hate speech. Monitors will record speeches for scrutiny. The NCIC is working with peace committees to identify 4000 people to employ who will be armed with voice recorders and mobile phones for the monitoring. They plan to hire the monitors for three months initially and reevaluate the needs following the referendum. The areas that lose are expected to be volatile for some time following and may require further monitoring. The monitors will be paid 5,000 shillings per month. 24 hour monitoring and reporting stations to accept monitoring reports are being set up. The program is set to run until the general election in 2012.
- In addition to monitoring, the commission is scheduled to meet with MPs to request that they restrain from using tribalism as a political mobilization tool.

Capital FM radio, Nairobi, in English 1400 gmt 17 June 10

- Tension is high at Naivasha Government of Kenya Prison after warders staged a sit in, in response to the shooting of their colleague by police June 16. Trouble began when a warder was arrested before he was shot by what authorities termed as unclear circumstances. He was shot dead after four gunmen (thought to be his accomplices) in Ruaka, a suburb of Nairobi, were shot after ambushing and killing a traffic policeman on the Nakuru-Naivasha highway.

The Daily Nation Website, Nairobi, in English 17 June 10

- Deputy Police Spokesperson Charles Owino claimed that the police force and Kenya should not be crucified based on a few criminal acts of individuals following a report from Human Rights Watch on police violence and abuse at the Somali boarder. Mr. Owino said that the Police welcomed the report and had already sent a task force to the boarder to investigate the claims composed of religious leaders, youth, women representatives and police. The human right watch report recommends that the government open a new screening centre at Liboi to investigate the alleged abuses, as well as stationing more female officers to respond to sexual violence.

The Daily Nation Website, Nairobi, in English 17 June 10

- Kenya Police have been accused of abusing and extorting money from asylum seekers and refugees at the Somalia boarder and refugee camps. Human Rights Watch reported police abuse of Somali refugees including rape, extortion, brutality, and illegal detention of Somali refugees and others crossing in for asylum. The claim was based on interviews done with 102 refugees from in and around Daadab camps in northeast Kenya. Half the refugees interviewed spoke about police violence. Fifteen said that police had arrested and detained them along with hundreds of others as soon as they entered Kenya. Eight said they had been deported along with others after failing to pay police money

The Daily Nation, Nairobi, in English 17 June 10

- MPs threatened to repeal the law establishing the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) based on its alleged impartiality. MP Sheikh Mohammed Dor, who was recently charged with hate speech by the commission. The commission's summons alleged that he made statements oh Madaraka Day celebrations that members of certain faiths would be evicted from their residences should the constitution be rejected – claims which Sheikh Dor denies. Three of his fellow MPs criticized the commission not to recklessly accuse such a responsible individual.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 17 June 10

- Detectives are questioning three men from Kinoo Nairobi arrested Tuesday evening in connection with the bombing in Uruhu park Sunday. The police received a tip off after the men sent congratulatory messages to a wrong subscriber regarding what the indented receiver had done. The sender, after being arrested, named the other two suspects. Suspects were being interrogated to establish if they had any link to the blasts. Police are now focusing on an act of terrorism by extremist groups as a possible angle. The men were still being held on the evening of June 16. Police are using “crucial” information coming from the hotline to pursue the case.

Capital FM radio, Nairobi, in English 0900 gmt 16 June 10

- Two MPs and an assistant minister have been charged with hate speech and incitement to violence. Roads assistant Minister Wilfred Machage and Mt. Elgon MP Fred Kapondi faced five accounts of hate speech while Cherangany legislator Joshua Kutuny was separately charged with incitement to violence. The police applied to the court to retain the MPs in their custody to give them more time to investigate because the MPs were arrested the day before they were arraigned in court. Their lawyers objected to this, claiming that police had been given sufficient time.

Kameme FM, Nairobi, in Kikuyu 0500 gmt 16 June 10

- Listeners welcome the arrest of MPs on hate speech charges. Comments called for the government prevention of hate mongering to ensure a free and fair vote and to avoid events like those in 2007. Other comments called for involvement from the Hague. Listeners complained that there was an inequality in prosecuting hate mongering in the NO camp vs. the Yes camp and claimed both should be treated equally. Finally, one listener commented that if violence should break out “we will all fight”.

The Standard Website, Nairobi, in English 16 June 10

- Head of public service Francis Muthaura successfully petitioned the parliament Public Accounts Committee to bar the public and press from investigations into the Anglo Leasing Scandal. The parliament members agreed to Mr. Muthaura’s demands based on the threats to what they termed “sensitive security issues”. The logic proceeds that allowing journalists to be privy to ongoing cases would potentially prejudice the results and therefore compromise national security. The only PAC member who did not support the barring of the press was MP Issac Muoki.

The Daily Nation Website, Nairobi, in English 16 June 10

- Kenyan police offered a reward for the perpetrators of a bombing in Uruhu park that took place on the 13th of June 2010. The blasts killed six and left 104 injured at a rally against the constitution, which had been called a religious crusade. Two days after there had been no arrests. Investigations are being focused on the weapons used. Police have confirmed the explosives were grenades and they are currently investigating the models and countries of manufacturing of the weapons in hope that it will lead to suspects.

The Daily Nation Website, Nairobi, in English 15 June 10

- MP Fred Kapondi was arrested for allegedly threatening violence if the constitution is passed. The search is on for other politicians who are also suspected of incitement. Kenya's National Cohesion and integration commission (NCIC) had presented hate speech evidence against six MPs including Higher Education Minister William Ruto, Assistant Minister Wilfred Machage and MPs Fred Kapondi, Dr. Julius Kones, Mohammad Sheikh Dor and Joshua Kutuny. The NCIC has written to President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Ralia Odinga requesting the suspension of referendum campaigns, which are scheduled to begin 13 July 2010.

The Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 15 June 10

- Jimmy Kibaki, the President's son resigned as Patron of high profile youth organization Simama Kenya, which he helped to found one year ago. He announced his resignation during a conflict with the chairman Tom Namwamba. Namwamba is also the chairman of the NO secretariat, an organization that is coordinating activities of the opponents of the draft constitution. The young Kibaki asked Namwamba to leave out of conflict of interest. He claimed that the position of patron was honorary not executive. The organization aims to empower youth and he insists it is non political. He resigned the day after Namwamba suspended him.