

Kenya Domestic Media, June 21st (Covering June 14th -20th)
By Laura Kern, MIGS Reporter for Kenya

State-owned media

Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC), Nairobi, In Somali, 1700 gmt,
25 June 10

- Viewers on a talk show regarding Somali Piracy expressed mixed views. Some commended the pirates as brave Muslims protecting their country due to the lack of government. Others reprimanded their actions as illegal, and even called for them to be driven out of the country.

Privately owned media

The Daily Nation Website, Nairobi, in English 27 June 10

- Kenya may have been coerced into accepting to host a court to try suspected Somali pirates. Two cabinet ministers stated that they new court exposes the country to terrorism. Interviews with multiple sources revealed that Kenya could have been coerced into signing the agreement that was facilitated by the Security Council. Kenya wanted some wealthy nations to help shoulder the burden of trying Somali pirates such as the US. Several nations have proposed funding but with the prospects of Tanzania and Seychelles joining in on the prosecutions, there is fear the sources of funds may dry up.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 25 June 10

- A parliamentary Committee of Defense and Foreign Relations has called for Foreign Affairs Minister Moses Wetangula to be fired in their report issued June 23rd. The report claimed Wetangula had unilaterally committed Kenya to prosecuting pirates captured by multinational forces in the Indian Ocean against the advice of the Attorney General Amos Wako. The report noted that some pirates were linked to insurgent groups affiliated with Al-Qa'idah. Some members of the committee told the Star that they were not involved in writing the report and feel that the chairman was pursuing a personal vendetta with Wetangula. One committee member even noted that the decision came after Kenya had made several previous international legal commitments to other nations. The criticism of Wetangula's actions is based on the fact that the decision was not passed through the parliamentary process. In addition, in the agreements Kenya was promised assistance by 6 countries that has not been forthcoming.

The Daily Nation Website, Nairobi, in English 25 June 10

- In effort to root out corruption, 8000 civil servants have been transferred to avoid the entrenchment of corruption networks. Under this new policy public officers will not be allowed to work in the same station for more than three years. The transfers have been taking place over the last two months.

The Daily Nation Website, Nairobi, in English 25 June 10

- Disquiet in the Police force was mounting after the finance minister Uhuru Kenyatta read the budget two weeks ago, even though it had estimates on salaries and wages remaining virtually unchanged. The reason for the dissatisfaction amongst some was due to the fact that they had expected salary increases in July. Additional funds were granted under the police reforms program to ensure police operations.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 25 June 10

- Police Commissioner Mathew Iteere has appealed to the international community to help bring law to Somalia, as it has become a threat to Kenya's stability. He stated that the lesson learned from the progress in the war against piracy is that lasting law and order can only be restored through a concerted international effort. More than 100 suspected Somali pirates have been charged at the Mombasa courts. Kenya recently threatened to stop accepting any more suspected pirates for trial citing lack of assistance from the US and EU.

Capital FM radio website, Nairobi, in English 23 June 10

- The Interim Independent Constitutional Dispute Resolution Court (IICDRC) has ruled that all prisoners should vote in the upcoming referendum. The Kituo Cha Sheria lobby group filed an application requesting the Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC) to register the prisoners as voters, leading to this ruling. The current Constitution bans prisoners in participating in an election; however, the executive director of Kituo Cha Sheria claims that there is no outright ban in law preventing the IIEC from registering the prisoners as voters, and even the sections of the constitution that prevent convicts from participating in an election are subject to more liberal interpretations. Kituo Cha Sheria is a local NGO that empowers the poor and marginalized to effectively access justice and realize their human rights.

The People, Nairobi, in English 23 June 10

- There has been concern amongst Kenyan at the use of hate speech in the campaigns on the proposed constitution. President Kibaki ordered government security agencies to take firm and decisive action on individuals who may engage in acts of hate speech. He also encouraged the media to identify and expose the

use of hate speech amongst politicians. It is the responsibility to all Kenyans to stop hate speech

The Star, Nairobi, in English 23 June 10

- The grenades used in the explosion in Uhuru Park during a church rally June 13 are suspected to have been stolen from the Kenyan Army. Each grenade has an identification number used for inventory purposes. Numbers were found on two grenade pins found at Uhuru Park. It is possible that the grenades were either stolen from the inventory in Isiolo or sold to arms dealers. Detectives who examined the inventory were unable to solve the origins of the grenades. The team believes that when they find the source of the grenades, they will be able to identify the suspects and their motives.

The Daily Nation Website, Nairobi, in English 23 June 10

- Kenyan MPs passed a bill to fight Human Trafficking bringing the country a step closer to enacting a law against it. It will be returned to the house for a third and final reading to evaluate each clause before it is granted presidential assent. The proposed law will both criminalize the act of trafficking as well as protect victims

The New Times Website, Kigali, in English 22 June 10

- President Paul Kagame and the Kenyan Minister of Foreign affairs, Moses Wetangula, met on June 21 in Urugwiro Village. The Kenyan minister denied allegations that the most wanted genocide fugitive Felicien Kabuga was in Kenya, stating that they had fully confirmed that he had left Kenyan soil. He stated that he suspected Kabuga had likely left for a European destination. Wetangula stated, Kenya has helped to arrest 14 genocide suspects and would not fail to arrest only one man with a five-million dollar US reward.

The Daily Nation Website, Nairobi, in English 21 June 10

- The Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK) will begin registration of SIM cards. This is in pursuit of a government directive that all SIM cards have to be registered in the name of national security to combat phone-related crime. The CCK states that the process is meant to help curb rising abuse of mobile phones by carjackers and abductors. The implementation is occurring a year after the president directed the CCK to set up a data base and begin to implement the registration within six months. Until now, criminals have been taking advantage of the fact that owners of the mobile phone handsets are not registered before enjoying the service