

Kenya Domestic Media, May 31st (Covering May 24th -30th)
By Laura Kern, MIGS Reporter for Kenya

State-owned media

Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) Website, Nairobi, In Somali, 28 May 10

- Callers to Kenyan state radio's Somali language talk show voiced mixed views on piracy in the Indian ocean. Some claimed their actions were deplorable and worthy of punishment, while others commended the pirates as patriots acting justly.

Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) Website, Nairobi, In English, 24 May 10

- Vice president Kalonzo Musyoka denied divisions in the 'yes' team for the constitution campaigns. The vice president claimed the Yes team would work in unity to ensure the constitution was passed.

Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) Website, Nairobi, In English, 24 May 10

- Charles Onyancha was kidnapped by gangsters in Nairobi on the night of May 23 before being robbed. He was left in Gigiri when the gangsters took off with his car and firearm. A police hunt has been launched

Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) Website, Nairobi, In English, 24 May 10

- Kitui-based journalist with the Standard was beaten by youths during a pro-draft constitution demonstration in Kitui town and his camera was destroyed on May 22. The 'Yes' demonstrators were protesting after the 'No' group held a prayer meeting in which they were addressed by Higher Education Minister William Ruto and other leaders. A report was filed with police to arrest the perpetrators of the violence

Privately-owned media

KTN TV, Nairobi, in English 0000 gmt 30 May 10

- The review of the ICC in Kampala, although intended to reevaluate the effectiveness of the ICC, other nations, Kenya in particular, may be harbouring a

different agenda altogether; clipping Moreno Ocampo's influence and seeking the postponement of trials against suspected architects of Kenya's post-election violence. Kenya has sent a delegation to the ICC review conference in Kampala to seek to defer the ongoing ICC investigations for up to one year because of the ongoing constitution review politics.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 29 May 10

- The North Eastern PC [Provincial Commissioner] James ole Serian said suspected Al-Shabab militia attacked Dadajabula Village because they believed a local trader was a sympathizer of Ogaden National Liberation Front, which has an alliance with Hisb al-Islam, splinter group of Al-Shabab. He believed this rivalry between Hisb al-Islam and Al-Shabab exist over differences in how to implement Islamic rule in Somalia. Serian also warned Kenya of taking sides in the conflict.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 28 May 10

- Seven Somali men facing piracy charged were put on trial on May 27. This is the fourth group to be placed on defense; two previous received 7 year jail sentences and another group 20 years.

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

- Somali Militia shot and injured five people after crossing the border to Kenya. The militas open fired in Dadajabula village around midnight May 27 while residents were asleep in their homes. The raid happened four days after the insurgent group Al Shabab threatened to carry out attacks in Kenya based on its interference in Somalian affairs. Various reports were being investigated to establish the motives of the raid. A similar incident happened in May 2008 in which the same village had been attacked by Al-Shabab militants to free three suspected members of Al-Qa'idah being held by police.

Capital FM radio, Nairobi, in English 25 May 10

- The legal fraternity in Kenya has claimed that the ruling on the Kadhi's courts is illegal and mischievous. The Law Society of Kenya (LSK), the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) and the Kenyan Section of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) have claimed that the ruling raises questions of competence and independence of the Judiciary. There are questions regarding the timing of this ruling as coinciding with the vote on the proposed constitution. Deputy executive director of FIDA claims that the ruling is meant to create disharmony between Christians and Muslims. The LSK announced their appreciation for the speed with which the attorney general moved to challenge the ruling.

The Star, daily newspaper, Nairobi, in English 25 May 10

- A prominent cabinet minister is reportedly recruiting youth to cause chaos in case the International Criminal Court arrests him over the 2008 post-election violence. The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) reports that youth are being recruited in batches of 50 from the constituency of the minister.
- The KNCHR report has caused some turmoil within the commission and may be a contributing factor to the resignation of vice-chairman Hassan Omar Hassan last week.
- Moreno-Ocampo has received the report, who has promised to prosecute anywhere from two to six cases. Many witnesses have also been threatened with violence if Moreno-Ocampo takes action
- Witnesses have agreed to testify in spite of violence and intimidation

KTN TV, Nairobi, in English 1800 gmt 24 May 10

- The ruling on Kadhi courts has created an uproar amongst legal experts who claim that the law is legally defective as well as reckless, mischievous and politically inspired.
- Several organizations and experts have warned of repercussions of this ruling on the constitution-making process, on the basis that the ruling is constitutionally flawed
- Muslim leaders went into a crisis meeting to discuss the ruling, two interviewed claimed that it was a very serious issue

The Daily Nation Website, Nairobi, in English 24 May 10

- A Kenyan constitutional court composed of three Judges has declared Muslim Kadhi courts illegal. They also decided that public funds could not be used to run the courts as such practices do not adhere to the separation of church and state. The issue of Kadhi courts has been raised by a group of political and religious leaders who are against the proposed constitution. The courts are meant to apply to Muslims who choose it for application of family law

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 24 May 10

- The Standard Group launched a new Kiswahili radio station Radio Maisha on May 24. It is opening in the middle of a crucial process of constitution-making, in which the media house is known for having an authoritative and bold opinion in regards to public issues

