

Kenya Domestic Media, January 14th 2011 (Covering Feb 8th – Feb 14th)

By Fatima Arkin, MIGS Reporter for Kenya

Private Owned Media

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 13 Feb 2011

"ICC judges criticise Ocampo over suspects' list" by Cyrus Ombati and Alex Ndegwa

ICC judges criticised Ocampo for disclosing Kenyan suspects' names, citing exposure to prejudicial publicity. Judges took exception to the public naming of Kenyan Postmaster General Ali prior to a verdict reached by the prosecutor for summons. However, Ali was prevented from defending himself before the court rules on his summons. The judges also dismissed a second attempt by MP Ruto to delay his summons.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 13 Feb 2011

"Envoy: US will veto deferral of Kenyan ICC case" by Murithi Mutiga

US Ambassador Michael Ranneberger told the *Sunday Nation* that Washington doesn't support deferring the ICC process. A local tribunal would be susceptible to manipulation and lack of a witness protection program would further undermine such an entity. Weighing in on the controversy surrounding nominations to constitutional offices, Mr. Ranneberger said the proper procedure wasn't followed. Top diplomatic sources indicated that neither Britain nor France would support a deferral.

The People, Nairobi, in English 12 Feb 2011

"Britain in permit saga arraigned in city court"

British national Michael Scanlon was charged with engaging in construction and real estate business as a director of Canuck Holdings Limited without legal permit. Appearing before Kibera Chief Magistrate Cecilia Githua, Scanlon denied the charges and was granted a cash bail of 50 000 shillings. The chief magistrate said the case will be heard on March 4th.

KTN TV, Nairobi, in English 1800 gmt 11 Feb 2011

"Mauritius airliner forced to make emergency landing in Kenya 11 February"

Passengers aboard Air Mauritius escaped unhurt when the plane was forced to make an emergency landing at the Moi International Airport in Mombasa. The plane, en route to France from Mauritius, was emitting heavy smoke. Mombasa Airport Manager Yatich Kangundo said that bomb experts were called to assess the situation.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 11 Feb 2011

“Kenya petitions UN organ to delay trials” by Peter Leftie, Sam Kumba and Kevin Kelley

Kenya formally wrote to the UN Security Council asking for a one year deferral on the Hague trials. Kenya argued that the ICC already stigmatised them and compromised their right to a fair trial by publicizing the names of the Ocampo six prior to issuing summonses. The outcome depends on the AU. UN spokesman Yves Sorokobi said that the AU hasn't formally requested a deferral from the UN Security Council adding that this would mark "the first time for the council to arbitrate a dispute between an ICC state party and the ICC". The Kenyan government denied summoning envoys from select missions abroad to strategise on ways to lobby for a deferral.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 11 Feb 2011

"Kenyans' faith in Ocampo unwavering" by Peter Orenge and Mutinda Mwanzia

An opinion poll conducted by Synovate Kenya showed that most Kenyans still favour the ICC process and don't support efforts by the government to pull out. Additionally, the latest executive nominations gave the impression of a grand scheme to shield the six from The Hague. VP Musyoka's efforts to convince African governments to support postponement of the trials elicited heated debate in parliament as MPs wanted to know whether the mission was worthwhile and its value on taxpayers' money. The poll showed that 85% are against the use of taxpayers' money to defend the suspects.

"Somali pirates release 39 Kenyans" by Martin Mutua

Seafarers Assistance Programme co-ordinator Andrew Mwangura said that the FV Golden Wave was spotted sailing towards Mombasa and will dock in 2 to 3 days. The ship requested armed escort out of Somali waters, but Mwangura couldn't confirm if ransom was paid. One woman was overjoyed upon hearing the news as her husband James Yavesa, brother Christopher Mwamburi and brother-in-law Mark Ingosi are on board the ship. A Kenyan woman is still being held hostage aboard the Al-Zoulfecar ship, which was hijacked and taken to Somalia.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 10 Feb 2011

"MPs protest 'power' vested on Executive in judges Bill" by David Ochami and Peter Opiyo

The bill proposes that a panel be chosen from a list prepared by the Public Service Commission (PSC) out of which the president will make formal appointments in consultation with the prime minister. MPs object a provision that allows the president and the prime minister to disregard the PSC and name their own candidates. MPs want the bill to define "consultation" in relation to public appointments and complained that the final list is appointees made by the Executive. The Commission on the Implementation of the Constitution objected to this Executive discretion in a

previous bill that was withdrawn from parliament and advised Justice Minister Kilonzo to delete or amend appropriately.

"NGOs launch drive against bid to withdraw from Rome Statute" by Titus Too

National Council of NGOs Chairman Ken Wafula said they're targeting more than a million signatures from the public in a nationwide campaign launched in Eldoret town. The NGOs also wrote to Chinese, Russian, UK, US and French embassies to gather support in preventing Kenya from withdrawing from the ICC.

"Kenya recalls envoys for confidential brief" by Beuttah Omanga and Ben Agina

President Kibaki recalls envoys to Nairobi for "secret brief" on ICC deferral strategy. Some are already in town and scheduled to attend two meetings next week. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Patrick Wamoto called the meetings "routine". It's believed the cabinet will form a new team to spearhead diplomatic efforts. A Presidential Press Service statement announced that the president and prime minister agreed to increase efforts to establish a local tribunal as the government seeks deferral of the cases. VP Kalonzo said he will embark on shuttle diplomacy targeting UN Security Council state members. France promised to look objectively into Kenya's request once it is presented at the council. Plans to obtain a deferral push forward despite denunciations from Justice Minister Kilonzo and Prime Minister Odinga's camp that cabinet sanctioned his trips. A diplomat also revealed that Kenya's targeting G77 countries (Latin America and Caribbean States) for support. Constitutional lawyer Yash Pal Ghai led a demonstration to oppose the government's request for a deferral.

Capital FM radio, Nairobi, in English 1300 gmt 9 Feb 2011

"Kenyan minister said receives death threats, apologizes over recent remarks"

Agriculture Minister Sally Kosgey claims to have received death threats over remarks she made upon defecting to Ruto's political camp. Speaking at the opening of a national fertilizer conference in Nairobi, Kosgey apologized to those she offended claiming that she wasn't interested in a ministerial post.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 9 Feb 2011

"Uhuru calls for Kikuyu unity: Ethnic alliances banned"

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission declared ethnic political alliances illegal. A few hours earlier, Deputy Prime Minister Kenyatta said the Kikuyu need to rally behind a single leader in order to increase their negotiating power. He criticized the prime minister for not accepting the president's nominations referring to Odinga as "kimundu" meaning "big man" with derogatory connotations of empty or stupid. The spokesman for Kenyatta said the word "kimundu" was not insulting. NCIC Vice-Chairperson Mary Onyango said those forming alliances along ethnic lines before the 2012 election would be prosecuted in collaboration with law enforcement agencies. The NCIC statement was prompted by separate complaints from

Kalonzo and Kenyatta who said the phrase "KKK Alliance" qualified as hate speech that stigmatized their communities.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 8 Feb 2011

"Uhuru says Hague case 'political'" by Oliver Mathenge

Finance Minister Kenyatta called Hague case a "political strategy" by his detractors to lock him out of the 2012 elections. He also dismissed Ocampo's application that the six suspects shouldn't meet with each other. Kenyatta asserted that he is officially still in office and that any intentions of manipulating the ICC process are misplaced. On politics, Kenyatta lashed out at those fighting his association with MP Ruto and VP Musyoka. He said that leaders from central Kenya and those from Rift Valley had a right to sit down and discuss issues that affected them in the past.

"Kibaki hails new S Sudan state"

The president said Kenya's proud to have been an honest broker of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and wishes to see a cordial relationship develop between north and south Sudan. Kibaki singled out President Omar al Bashir and Southern Sudan Leader Salva Kiir for their commitment to the CPA as well as the late John Garang, who played a pivotal role in the peace process.

"Kenya media reject new law" by Alphonse Shiundu

Kenyan media reject proposed laws on self-regulation with Media Council of Kenya chairman Dr. Obonyo calling the the draft Media Bill "retrogressive". The Kenya Correspondents Association, the PRSK and representatives of media training schools have been locked out completely from sitting in the proposed council or even from being involved in its constitution. Similarly, the Media Owners Association (MOA), the Kenya Union of Journalists (KUJ), the Editors Guild of Kenya, and the Law Society of Kenya, will no longer have automatic representation in the council. Dr. Obonyo said there's a likelihood of having strong government representation in the media council although the bill seeks to guard against "commercial" and "government bias". The media industry players agreed to form a 10-member taskforce to help map out the consultation process with the Ministry of Information and Communication. The taskforce should be in place by Tuesday.

"Egypt mayhem hits Kenyan tea deliveries" by Tom Matoke Gerlad Andae

Delivery of Kenyan tea to Egypt is delayed due to internal chaos in the latter country. Agriculture Minister Sally Kosgei ensured that the government will not let the shipment, worth millions of shillings, go to waste. Dr. Kosgei urged the Kenya Tea Development Authority to produce high quality products to attract more foreign earnings and boost the country's economy. She also called on farmers to increase tea production.

"Kenya asked to help smash cartels trafficking Somalis into country" by Galgalo Bocha

Somali Ambassador Mohamed Ali Nur said human traffickers make a lot of money promising Somalis jobs and a better life in South Africa and the US. They also rape women smuggled into Kenya. There are four known victims in Nairobi. The ambassador hinted at talking to the Kenyan police and appealed to the Kenyan government to release suspected illegal immigrants as the majority are children.

"UK 'confident of Kenya's ability to fight terrorism'" by Fred Mukinda

Dismissing assertions in a leaked US diplomatic cable, UK High Commissioner in Nairobi Rob Macaire said the document was "insolent". Mr. Macaire was speaking at the International Peace Support Centre where senior security officers started a two-week course sponsored by the British government.