

**Kenya Domestic Media Monitor Report  
October 4-10, 2011  
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*Unless otherwise stated,  
all articles were written in English*

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**1. ICC Hearings**

**“ICC Judges promise impartial ruling, as hearings end”  
KBC, state-owned broadcasting company  
October 5, 2011**

Government radio station Kenya Broadcasting Company reported that judges at the International Criminal Court have assured Kenyans a fair and impartial ruling for all six suspects as their confirmation of charges trial came to an end on Wednesday. The court will now have 90 days to determine whether there is enough evidence to send the “Ocampo Six” to trial for their involvement in the post-election violence in 2007. ICC

Judge Ekaterina Trendafilova also urged Kenyans to respect life, security and property of victims and witnesses.



The “Ocampo Six” concluded their confirmation of charges hearings at the International Criminal Court in The Hague on Wednesday – Photo: The Standard website, October 5, 2011

### **“How The Hague has transformed Kenya” The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper October 7, 2011**

An editorial in the Standard daily praises the ICC proceedings as being a “watershed moment in the fight to end political impunity in the country”. Based on interviews with MPs, civil society activists, religious leaders and members of the public, the authors contend that regardless of the outcome of the confirmation of charges hearings, the country will be largely better off now that politicians recognize that hate speech will not go unpunished.

Furthermore, the ICC proceedings, which had been seen with much scepticism prior to their start, are widely perceived by Kenyans to have been neutral, fair and just, giving both sides ample time to make their case. "The message from the ICC to all leaders is that impunity cannot be allowed where lives of Kenyans are concerned. The 2012 elections should be peaceful," said an NGO director.



## **2. Economy**

### **“Cost of living to remain high up to next June, say experts”**

**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**October 6, 2011**

The Daily Nation reported of continued economic difficulties in Kenya as analysts predict the cost of living will not improve until June 2012. The Kenyan Central Bank raised interest rates by 400 points on Thursday in the hopes of stabilizing the Kenyan shilling, yet inflation is likely to keep growing and is predicted to hit 20.7% in the first quarter of next year before cooling off. The shilling has been one of the poorest performing currencies in the world this year, depreciating by up to 26 percent in value against the dollar. The drought has caused lower production of traditional cash-crops such as coffee, tea, and horticulture, raising pressure on the shilling and forcing Kenya to import maize.

### **“Weak Kenya shilling wreaks havoc on consumers”**

**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**October 6, 2011**

Rising inflation will be felt hardest by consumers, as the Kenyan Central Bank raised interest rates in an attempt to halt the currency slide. The cost of borrowing will now be higher, leading some borrowers to default and lenders to lose income. Consumers will be hurt by the rise in prices of such things as imported second hand cars, medicine, petrol and spare parts. A used Toyota Prado from Japan, which used to retail at an average Sh3.4 million just three months ago, is now retailing at around Sh4 million. For cancer patients needing chemotherapy, the cost of treatment for one month has shot up from an average Sh19,000 to Sh22,000. According to Job Omondi of International Automobile Auction, this is representative across all sectors: “Kenyans are suffering. The recent months have seen prices of virtually everything including telecommunication services going up”.

### **“Weak shilling to cost taxpayer Sh100b extra in foreign debts”**

**The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

The Standard daily details how the declining value of the shilling will cost Kenyan taxpayers an extra 100 billion shillings in foreign debt. Financial analyst Billow Kerrow said the shilling’s slump against other world major currencies means taxpayers will

shoulder a huge burden as funds are diverted from development projects to service debts. This will only add to the economic woes of the country facing rising prices of staple goods, higher interest rates and slower economic growth.

## **“Investors lose Sh20 billion at Nairobi Stock Exchange”**

**The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Due to the slumping shilling and global financial uncertainty, investors took their money out of high-risk investments in Kenya amid a Sh20 billion loss in value at the Nairobi Stock Exchange. Analysts expect this trend to continue for the better part of the year in “frontier markets” such as Kenya. The stock exchange has experienced a net foreign investor outflow of Sh2 billion in the period January to August this year, compared to net inflows of Sh8 billion in similar period last year. However, the bond market, which provides safer investment options, more than doubled in trading this week.

### **3. 2012 Elections**

## **“Presidential run-off next year could stoke a crisis, panel hears”**

**The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper, privately-owned daily newspaper, October 4, 2011**

The Standard reported that Kenya could face a “serious crisis” in the event of a presidential run-off in next year’s election. The problem, according to Mr Albert Bwire, a Credit Manager with the Development Bank of Kenya, is that the proposed timing of the elections would place them just as the mandate of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) ends, leaving no one to preside over the run-off vote. Even if the elections are pushed back to December, Bwire said that the commissioners would have only been in their positions for three months, and they would “not be competent” to run the election. Kenya’s election date is enshrined in the constitution, an issue which has caused conflict as of late.

## **“Raila: Criminal elements funding politicians”**

**KBC, state-owned broadcasting company**

**October 4, 2011**

Government-owned Kenya Broadcasting Company reported on Tuesday that Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga announced that organized crime was financing political



activities and trying to buy elections. He stated that criminals are being guaranteed protection, worsening the climate of impunity pervading Kenyan business and politics. The Prime Minister also noted that Kenya was becoming a significant transit hub for hard drugs, and that this has led to widespread availability of small arms and to an unprecedented level of wanton murder. Mr. Odinga called for urgent measures to arrest the situation saying if left unchecked, these evils can defeat the will of the Kenyan people for change and the rule of the law, and can negate the promise of a transparent and prosperous Kenya.

### **“Parliament and Supreme Court headed for clash over polls date”**

**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**October 10, 2011**

According to the Daily Nation, the issue of the election date could see the Kenyan Parliament conflicting with the Supreme Court when the House resumes sitting on Tuesday. The Constitution stipulates that the election be held on the second Tuesday of August every five years, but Cabinet is trying to amend that to the third Monday of December. The Supreme Court is scheduled to begin preliminary hearings on the matter on Thursday. Justice Minister Mutula Kilonzo said that there was no contradiction in both bodies working on the same issue, but recognized that the House could throw out the bill if it finds it has sinister intentions.

## **4. Somalia**

### **“Kenyans Behind Coast Kidnaps”**

**The Nairobi Star, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**October 4, 2011**

The Star reported on Tuesday that Kenyans and Tanzanians may be behind the recent kidnappings of tourists in Manda and Lamu Island in northeastern Kenya. The kidnappers are members of the Al-Qaeda affiliated Islamist group Al-Shabaab, as well as a rival militia. The article claims that the abductions are intended to “sabotage the tourism sector and simultaneously make money”. Both militias denied responsibility.

### **“French forces plan tricky rescue of tourist”**

**The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**October 4, 2011**



French Special Forces are undertaking a rescue operation of Marie Dedieu, the disabled French woman kidnapped from Ras-Kitau and taken into Somalia last week. The Standard reported that this comes to light after it emerged that the Kenya government does not have the capacity to carry out the mission. An attempt by the Kenyan Navy to intercept the kidnappers met with disaster last week when one of the ships capsized, leading to the deaths of two officers.

## **“Tourists flee Lamu as residents express fear for their own safety”**

**The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**October 5, 2011**

The tourist sector is taking a big hit in northeastern Kenya following several kidnappings and amid widespread public sentiment that the government is not doing enough to ensure the security of people in the region. There has been massive cancellation of hotel bookings and exodus of tourists from Lamu, a region that relies heavily on tourism for the economy. Hundreds of hotel workers have already lost their jobs, and many more are at risk due to the decline in tourism. A Government official in Lamu told The Standard a notice had been issued by the Tourism ministry to hoteliers not to close their establishments as the action could trigger panic and have a long term effect on the industry.



Police commissioner Mathew Iteere (saluting) arrives in Lamu for a meeting with tourism stakeholders this week after suspected Somali militiamen kidnapped a British tourist and a French resident. Photo credit: Daily Nation, October 7, 2011

## **“Kenya police arrests seven over Frenchwoman kidnap”**

**KBC, state-owned broadcasting company**

**October 7, 2011**

KBC reported that Kenyan police have arrested seven people suspected of collaborating with the armed gang in the kidnapping of a French woman in Manda Island last week. A police official who wished not to be named said that "investigators are interrogating them to establish if they know how the abduction occurred or have any link with the abductors because the foreign gang must have been working with some locals in the region."

**Leaders protest over Lamu security clampdown**

**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**October 7, 2011**

Residents and leaders of Lamu region in northeastern Kenya protested over the government's security measures imposed there in response to the recent abductions of tourists. The leaders were furious at the curfew on deep sea travel at night, as many residents are fishermen who would lose their livelihoods as a result. Lamu leaders also denied that locals were involved with the kidnappings.

## **5. Media**

**"KBC honored for promoting Kiswahili"**

**KBC, state-owned broadcasting company**

**October 8, 2011**

The government-owned Kenya Broadcasting Company was awarded with the "consistent efforts award" in promoting the Kiswahili language through its TV language talk show program. Several newscasters also received awards for their contribution to the growth of the Kiswahili Language. During the ceremony, which was attended by academics, researchers, students and media personalities, KBC acting Editor in Chief Ngulam Mwaviro said that KBC will continue to be in the forefront in rallying a cohesive nation through the use of Kiswahili.

**"Social media will help truth team reach more Kenyans"**

**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**October 6, 2011**

In a letter to the editor published by the Daily Nation on Thursday, a member of the public urged Kenya's Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission to utilize social media to reach more people leading up to the 2012 elections. The truth commission has

been holding public hearings across the country to determine what occurred during the 2007 post-election violence. The concerned citizen wrote that many Kenyans, young and old, now have access to social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter through their mobile phones, and that the truth commission should lead the way in campaigning for a peaceful 2012 election.

## **6. Miscellaneous**

### **“South Sudan annexes Kenyan territory – minister”**

**Text of report by Kenyan private Kiss FM radio**

**October 5, 2011**

Privately-owned Kiss FM radio reported on Wednesday that South Sudan has annexed part of western Kenya, as indicated in the nation’s new maps. This comes after Ethiopia and Uganda claimed Kenyan territory and are still occupying some regions, according to the radio program. Lands Minister James Orengo said that defence and foreign affairs ministries are handling the matter.

### **“New law expected to ensure order in towns”**

**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**October 6, 2011**

In a response to governmental criticism following the recent pipeline explosion in a Nairobi slum this month, the government has passed a new law designed to ensure that settlements in Kenya’s towns and cities are well-planned, thus helping avert disasters related to poor design. The Urban Areas and Cities Act results from consultations with experts to help avoid another disaster, as well as a need to grow the real estate sector.

### **“Mungiki go underground amid tough police crackdown”**

**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**October 7, 2011**

Police strategies aimed at diminishing the ability of the outlawed Mungiki sect to operate appear to be working, as members of the politico-religious organization have kept low profiles. Police have been conducting raids in local hideouts and Matatu (bus) stations, where sect members run extortion cartels. This strategy differs from previous initiatives where police were largely reactionary to the sect, only targeting members after they had committed major criminal activities. Central Provincial Criminal Investigations officer Henry Ondiek said that several Mungiki members had been



arrested recently and prosecuted under the Organized Crime Act, which is more punitive and has helped serve as a deterrent.

