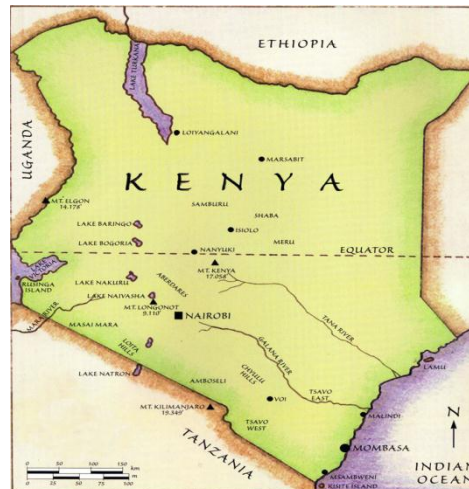


Kenya Domestic Media Monitor Report

September 21st – 26th, 2011

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Content Report:

1. ICC Hearings
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*Unless otherwise stated,
all articles were written in English*

1. ICC Hearings

“Uhuru in trouble over remark”

**The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper
September 21, 2011**

Finance Minister Uhuru Kenyatta has been accused of uttering inflammatory statements the day before commencing a pre-trial hearing at the International Criminal Court in

The Hague. Uhuru commented that he "did nothing wrong and all we did was to support our people". According to a lawyer representing 233 of the victims, the terms "our people" has certain connotations in the context of the 2007 post-election violence, and is meant to apply only to a certain tribe rather than to all Kenyans. The lawyer also accused the Government of neglect and failing to provide security at internally displaced peoples' camps.

'Militia used rape as weapon'

Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Prosecutors at the ICC began the confirmation of charges hearing against Finance Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, Postmaster-General Hussein Ali and Head of Civil Service Francis Muthaura on Thursday with accusations that all three condoned the rape, eviction, and forced circumcision of civilians in certain ethnic neighbourhoods. The lawyers claimed that they have credible evidence showing that the three suspects created a plan to allow lawlessness, and forcibly displaced members of the Luo ethnic group in Naivasha and Nakuru, northwest of Nairobi. Furthermore, they allege that there are substantial grounds to believe that the use rape and sexual violence as a crime against humanity occurred. Luo, together with the Luhyas and Kalenjin ethnic groups, are known to be supporters of Prime Minister Raila Odinga's Orange Democratic Movement.

Hearings for Uhuru, Muthaura, Ali enter day 3

KBC, state-owned broadcasting company

Friday, September 23, 2011

The confirmation of trials hearing that will determine whether three of the six suspects will face trial for crimes against humanity at the ICC entered its third day on Friday. The prosecution has alleged that all three of the suspects provided logistical support to the Mungiki, the outlawed politico-religious sect that carried out the killings, and used their authority to ensure police did not intervene in the violence. Prosecutor Adesola Adeboyejo said that "[The] attacks were not spontaneous. Mr Muthaura and Kenyatta organised and directed forces which then unleashed the attacks". The hearings are scheduled to conclude on October 5th.

Muthaura tears into Ocampo's evidence

KBC, state-owned broadcasting company

Saturday, September 24, 2011



As Francis Muthaura, Head of civil service of Kenya, began his defence at the pre-trial hearings at the International Criminal Court on Saturday, his team of lawyers began to present evidence which they hope will be enough to prevent a trial from taking place. Among the evidence given to the court was a video testimonial from President Mwai Kibaki that supposedly proves Muthaura's whereabouts and disputes the prosecution's assertion that he was involved in meetings planning the attacks.



Deputy PM and Minister for Finance Uhuru Kenyatta (R) and a member of the Defence Council (L) during the hearing at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. (1) Photo credit: Daily Nation, "IN PICTURES: Uhuru, Muthaura, Ali at ICC", September 22nd, 2011

2. 2012 Election

"Media Council new code for elections coverage"

The Star, privately-owned daily newspaper

September 22, 2011

A new media code is in the works that will focus on ethics and guide journalists in conflict reporting. The Kenya Media Council of Kenya and Internews are coordinating the code, which will replace existing guidelines on how to conduct live coverage, use of unnamed sources, how to avoid hate reporting, as well address the bribery among journalists and distinguish between opinions and news.

"Don't undermine 2012 polls"

The East African, privately-owned weekly newspaper

Sunday September 25th, 2011



An editorial in the East African weekly newspaper slams politicians who try to pressure the electoral commission into selecting certain candidates, calling their actions a “ticking time bomb”. Drawing parallels to the lead-up to the 2007 election and the violence that ensued, the article points out that one of the factors that stoked tensions before the election was that President Mwai Kibaki unilaterally chose several commissioners for the electoral commission. The new Constitution has removed the role of picking commissioners from politicians, yet many are attempting to do just that. It concludes with an ominous warning: “The whole world is watching to see how Kenya conducts the next elections. Politicians should not try to erode their credibility in advance.”

Harambees banned eight months to 2012 elections

The Star, privately-owned daily newspaper

Friday September 23rd, 2011

Politicians have been banned from participating in “harambees”, traditional Kenyan community fundraising events, eight months before the general election of 2012. Translated from Swahili as “all pull-together”, harambees for funerals, churches, schools, weddings, school or medical fees and development projects will be off-limits to anyone who intends on standing for political office in 2012. The rule comes amid allegations that politicians abused harambees ahead of the previous elections. Politicians will still be allowed to hold fundraising events if they are explicitly for their political campaigns.

3. Sinai Slum Fire

“Sinai victims’ kin to get Sh70,000 each”

The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper

Tuesday, September 20th, 2011

The government has announced that 164 families who lost relatives in the Sinai fire explosion will be given Sh60,000 each to cover funeral expenses, in addition to Sh10,000 for to enable them to rebuild their lives. Special Programmes Minister Esther Murugi said that the government has donated Sh11.5 million in response to the tragedy, and donations from Kenyan citizens, corporations and other government institutions are pouring in. 119 deaths have been confirmed and 37 of the victims died while in hospital undergoing treatment.



“We may resort to evictions for slums upgrade, says minister”

Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper

Sunday, September 25th, 2011

Responding to criticism that slammed the government for not enforcing regulations in the Nairobi slum prior to the gas pipeline explosion last week, Housing Minister Soita Shitanda announced that the government could resort to forceful evictions to improve living conditions in slums. The minister said that the government will not let “non-governmental organizations and the rich who are out to benefit from the plight of the poor” get in the way of efforts to construct better houses in slums. He also blamed politicians for inciting the government to halt progress on the slum upgrade.

“Pay slum fire survivors, say lobbies”

Daily Nation, privately-owned newspaper

Sunday, September 25th, 2011

Lobby groups urged the government to compliment any eviction of slum-dwellers with a comprehensive resettlement program. Speaking to the media on Saturday, the groups said that resettlement should not leave residents worse off than they were before the pipeline explosion. Eric Makokha, CEO of Shelter Forum noted that the government failed to ensure its citizens’ right to safe housing in a safe environment, and urged the Kenya Pipeline Corporation as well as the government to take responsibility.

4. Al-Shabaab Training Camp Story Denied, Reporter Sued

“Kajwang denies reports on al-Shabaab training”

The Star, privately-owned newspaper

September 23rd, 2011

Following a story of Somali Islamic organization Al-Shabaab training militias inside Kenya in the Star on September 17th, Immigration Minister Otieno Kajwang refuted the claim, saying that Kenyans are training troops on behalf of the Somali Transitional Federal Government. According to the Minister, the troops who are seen undergoing training at the Kenyan coast are there legally and will be sent into Somalia. He added that the government was patrolling the border to ensure that illegal immigrants do not enter the country.

“Star reporter summoned to court over al-Shabaab story”



The Star, privately-owned daily newspaper
September 23rd, 2011

Dominic Wabala, reporter of the Star who published a story of an Al-Shabaab training camp inside Kenya two weekends ago, was brought into court on September 22nd. The reporter was summoned to court because the contents of the story would seriously affect the trial of Sameer Ismail, suspected of associating with al-Shabaab and training one of their recruits in Kenya. The magistrate claimed that the story was "highly prejudicial to a fair trial".

5. Media Ups & Downs

“US praises Kenya, Dar for revealing govt data”
The East African, privately-owned weekly newspaper
Sunday, September 25th, 2011

US President Barack Obama has praised the Kenyan government for opening government data up to the public. The initiative comes after the US and Brazil called on governments to stop concealing information to their citizens. The Open Data Project is meant to commit governments to partnering with civil society to “promote transparency, increase participation, fight corruption and harness new technologies in order to strengthen governance”. The data ranges from census data, government expenditure, parliamentary proceedings and public service locations.

NSIS smuggles in new Security Bill, civil society, media caught napping
The East African, privately-owned weekly newspaper
Sunday, September 25th, 2011

According to security analysts, a new draft bill meant to amend the constitution and bring changes to the National Intelligence Service could water down some civil liberties if passed without amendments. The bill is contentious because it was written by the National Intelligence Service itself, and will not go through Cabinet. The Assistant Minister for Internal Security claimed that Cabinet has no say in anything to do with defence and security. The article claims that one reason that Kenyans demanded a new Constitution was that successive governments have used the intelligence services to suppress personal freedoms. One analyst warns that “if the NIS Bill is enacted into law, it will instantly contravene fundamental freedoms entrenched in the new Constitution and breed impunity”.



6. Miscellaneous

“KRA impounds truck with explosives in Malaba”

The Star

Monday, September 26th, 2011

National security officials intercepted a truck filled with explosives trying to enter from Uganda on Sunday. The truck had been part of a 20-truck convoy said to be contracted by the United Nations entered without documentation. Customs officials said the manner in which the convoy entered Kenya was not unorthodox. The Ugandan army had failed to hand over documents to the Kenyan authorities or alert them of the cargo. Reports describe the explosive as being transported from Southern Sudan to Pakistan through Kenya, although no one has yet been able to offer an explanation as to why.

“Fighting between Somali Islamists, army displaces hundreds near border”

IRIN, Nairobi-based news service of UN regional information network

September 22, 2011

Over 34,000 displaced Somalis taking refuge from the drought have been forced to flee fighting between the Somali Transitional Federal Government and al-Shabaab on the Kenyan border. The fighting broke out on 11 September in the town of Eil-Waq in Somalia's southwestern Gedo region. An NGO based in Eil-Waq said that many of the displaced came from the famine-stricken regions of Bay and Bakol, and that they are now dispersed on the Kenyan side of the border. Eil-Wag was rumoured to be a target of al-Shabaab, who, according to a local journalist, is more interested in creating fear and uncertainty than in holding territory.

Kenya PM signs charter to fight famine

KBC, state-owned broadcasting company

Sunday, July 25, 2011

Prime Minister Raila Odinga became the first leader to sign a charter committing his government to supporting initiatives that end the cycle of drought, hunger and famine. Odinga made the pledge at the UN General Assembly in New York, where he called on other world leaders and international governmental and non-governmental organizations to put more efforts into preventing future famines. The charter commits leaders to repair the international drought and food emergency warning system and to support local food production.

