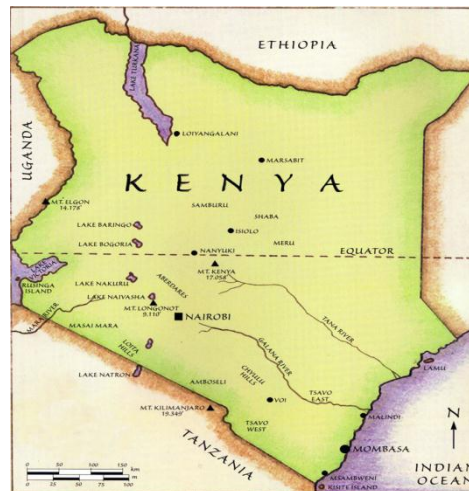


**Kenya Domestic Media Monitor Report  
September 27<sup>th</sup> – October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011  
Eric Jospe, MIGS Media Monitoring Reporter**



**Content Report:**

1. ICC Hearings
2. Economy – Kenyan shilling in free-fall
3. Second kidnapping reveals insecurity near Somali border
4. Miscellaneous violence – ethnic tension on the rise
5. Summary & Analysis

*Unless otherwise stated,  
all articles were written in English*

**1. ICC Hearings**

**“Uhuru takes to the dock to defend himself”**

**KBC, state-owned broadcasting company**

**September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

On Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta took the stand to defend himself against allegations of organizing the post-election violence in 2007 at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Dismissing claims that Uhuru financed revenge attacks and organized with the outlawed Mungiki sect, the team of lawyers questioned the credibility of the prosecution’s witnesses. Uhuru is attending the

confirmation of trial hearings along with Head of Public Service Francis Muthaura and Former Police Commissioner Hussein Ali where ICC judges will determine whether they should proceed with a trial.

**“ICC Witness Family Flee to Eldoret”**  
**The Star, privately-owned daily newspaper**  
**September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Family members of one of the key ICC witnesses at The Hague were forced to flee for safety after they were attacked Friday night. The family’s window panes were broken as a group of rowdy youths pelted rocks at their house, chanting “Hague”. The elderly father of the witness had also been harassed and threatened by some of the church elders in the area. “Life has become unbearable in the village yet I am not even aware how my son became a witness”, he said. The witness is currently under protection at The Hague.

**“Uhuru Blames Raily, ODM for Poll Violence”**  
**The Star, privately-owned daily newspaper**  
**September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Upon taking the stand at the pre-trial hearing at the ICC, Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta blamed Prime Minister Raila Odinga for the post-election violence, saying he bore ultimate “political responsibility” for failing to stop it. Uhuru attempted to present himself as a nationalist and statesmen who had no role in the violence, and cast the stone on Odinga for failing to show leadership in stopping the attacks. In his defence, Mr. Kenyatta drew on his political career, his multi-ethnic group of allies and the varied positions he has taken on national issues to paint a profile of what he hoped the judges would conclude was a civilised and urbane politician rather than a war criminal.

**“The Hague: Ali’s turn to challenge Ocampo”**  
**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper**  
**October 2nd, 2011**

Former Police Commissioner Hussein Ali, the last of the “Ocampo Six” suspects to take the stand at a pre-trial hearing at the International Criminal Court, presented his defence on Sunday. ICC Prosecutors slammed one of his witnesses for inconsistencies in his testimony and for turning to defence lawyers rather than facing the judges during cross-examination. Ali’s defence lawyer said the attacks were carried out by local residents and not Mungiki as claimed by ICC prosecutor. He presented an NTV news

clip, testimonies of victims and court records in Nakuru and Naivasha as evidence to show the violence was triggered by the displaced people who sought refuge in the towns.

## **2. Economy**

### **“Kenya shilling hits new low, seen ‘out of control’”**

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

**September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Inflation in Kenya took a rapid rise this week as the shilling fell 1.86 percent against the US dollar on Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> to an all-time low of 104.15 shillings per dollar. The Kenyan currency has lost more than 30% against the dollar this year, and traders see no end in sight unless the central bank can intervene aggressively. The article claims that the drop “exposes a crisis of confidence in the central bank's ability to defend the pummelled currency, tackle inflation and close a widening balance of payments gap.” Causes noted were the Eurozone debt crisis, high demand, and panic buying.

### **“Weak currency slows down economic growth to 4.1p.c”**

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

**September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

The effect of a weak shilling on the economy became clear Thursday, with the release of the September inflation and second-quarter economic growth figures. The results show that the cost of living hit 17.32 per cent in September 2011, against 3.21 per cent recorded in September 2010, a more than fivefold increase. Furthermore, economic growth slowed down to 4.1 per cent in the second-quarter of 2011, compared to 4.8 per cent realised in the same quarter in 2010. The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) says this is due to a combination of a weak shilling, high food and fuel prices.

### **“House plans to probe weak Kenya shilling”**

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

**September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

As depreciation continues amid perceived government inaction, Members of Parliament announced plans to look into the role of the Central Bank of Kenya and commercial banks in the weakening of the shilling on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Wajir West MP Adan Keynan filed a notice of motion that proposes the formation of a committee to investigate and recommend a solution to the woes of the shilling. The committee will

table its report to the House within four months. At the same time, President Kibaki on Friday assured Kenyans that the CBK and other government agencies would implement measures to stabilise the shilling.

**“Central govt to stabilize the shilling says Kibaki”**

**KBC, state-owned broadcasting company**

**Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011**

President Mwai Kibaki has assured Kenyans that the Central Bank and other relevant government agencies will institute measures towards stabilizing the exchange rate of the Kenya Shilling and overall level of domestic prices. President Kibaki said that these measures will address the speculation in the trading of foreign exchange as well as reduce the rate of inflation. The announcement came as the President made the opening remarks at the Nairobi International Trade Fair on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. At the same time, the President directed the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance to expedite the establishment of a Fertilizer and Seeds Fund so as to provide farmers with affordable farm inputs.

**“Shilling fall linked to 2012, as House urged to investigate”**

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

**September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

The Federation of Kenyan Employers said that the timing of the depreciation of the shilling was “suspicious”, and alleged that it could be linked to the 2012 elections. A spokeswoman for the organization demanded the government explain the unprecedented fall of the currency. "An unstable shilling has negative implications on the purchasing power of the Kenyans, something that in turn impacts on savings, investment and economic growth. The challenges that come with the instability of the shilling and the exchanges rate has great impact on investment, the cost of doing business and inflation," she said.

**3. Kidnapping highlights insecurity at Somali border**

**“Kenya coastguard surrounds armed gang, hostage”**

**KBC, state-owned broadcasting company**

**October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011**



The second kidnapping incident in a month took place in Lamu County on October 1<sup>st</sup> when al-Shabaab militants abducted an elderly disabled French woman. This article reported that two Kenyan coastguard vessels had surrounded the boat with the gunmen and French woman. The latest abduction comes three weeks after a British couple were attacked in Kiwayu, when the husband was shot dead and his wife kidnapped.

**“Soldiers die in pursuit of kidnappers”**  
**The Star, privately-owned daily newspaper**  
**October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**

Al-Shabaab militants escaped with a kidnapped French woman after a Kenyan navy boat capsized and two officers died in their attempted rescue of the woman. According to the article, the capsized boat was part of a three-boat flotilla, but the team refrained from shooting for fear of harming the kidnapped woman.

**“Kidnap: Itere in Lamu to assess security situation”**  
**KBC, state-owned broadcasting company**  
**October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**

The state-owned broadcasting company reports that a high-powered government delegation is in the coastal town to assess the level of security. This comes amid widespread public sentiment that the government is not doing enough to ensure security in the region, as foreign governments are warning their citizens to stay away from the tourism-dependent area.

**“New security measures unveiled”**  
**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper**  
**October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**

Police Commissioner Mathew Itere announced on Monday a series of security measures to deal with attacks and kidnappings by Al-Shabaab militants in northeast Kenya. The government will conduct intensified aerial surveillance and sea patrols in Lamu to enhance security following the kidnapping of a French woman on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. There would be a police helicopter and 24 patrol boats brought in, and all vessels entering Lamu would be subject to thorough security searches. The police chief admitted that the two kidnappings in the last month were “partly due to lack of a coordination mechanism. We are not going to allow that to happen again”.



#### **4. Miscellaneous Violence – ethnic tension on the rise**

##### **"Tension high over leaflets circulating in Mombasa"**

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

**October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011**

Leaflets threatening to “eject” non-natives have been circulated in the Mishomoroni neighbourhood of Mombasa. The leaflets read: “It is now time for upcountry people to leave. We are tired of the government of Kenya. Coastal residents are not interested in campaigns or elections. Goodbye, pack your things and go back to your homes.” Mombasa is home to the Mombasa Republican Council, a group aiming for self-government of the coastal region and charged with promoting war-like activities and attempted murder. The circulation of the leaflets comes two days before Prime Minister Raila Odinga and Eldoret North MP William Ruto, who are both 2012 presidential aspirants, arrive in Mombasa for a series of public rallies.

##### **“Thugs lynched in Nairobi as cases of mob injustice increase”**

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

**September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Cases of mob vigilante justice have been on the rise in Nairobi as three more suspected thugs were killed on September 27<sup>th</sup> after they attempted to rob bars and members of the public. In the past three months, as many as 150 people have been killed by public mob lynching. The Nairobi Police Commissioner said he was concerned that society seems to “implicitly support the violence and actively take part in covering up the perpetrators”.

##### **“Two hurt in matatu-Mungiki clash”**

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

**September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Members of the outlawed Mungiki sect responsible for carrying out Kenya’s post-election violence in 2007 clashed with mini-bus operators on the Nairobi-Nakuru highway on Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. The matatu drivers were first assaulted during a protest against Mungiki extortion, and then fought back by setting fire to kiosks and houses. The article claims that Matatu drivers are forced to pay Sh100 a day to Mungiki members operating in the Free Area region.



**“Devolution should never lead to violence”****Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper****September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Five counties have been put on alert for potential ethnic clashes by Kenya’s National Cohesion and Integration Commission. The tension stems from the fear of minority ethnic groups of being dominated and exploited by larger, neighbouring communities. The article states that the fear of ethnic domination is “real given the political history of this country... This happened in the past and chances of it recurring are real”.

Devolution, the transfer of powers from a central government to a local level, is supported in several counties across Kenya due to marginalization of one ethnic group by another. The article warns that some politicians try and use devolution as a chance for ethnic mobilization, and underscore the urgent need to set up structures for implementing devolution in a manner that promotes good governance and equitable utilisation of public resources.

**“Tension high at Kenya-Ethiopia border”****The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper****October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**

Members of the ‘Merille’ militia from Ethiopia continued their attack on Kenyan security forces at the border in the Todonyang area of Turkana North District. For the past three months, flooding of River Omo has displaced the Merille from their grazing fields in Ethiopia, and they have continuously attempted to cross over into Kenya to graze their animals. The militia is responsible for the displacement of more than 3,000 people from Todonyang, following attacks that left 50 dead. The displaced population expressed fear of returning to their homes and demanded to be assured of their security.

**“Fresh evictions leave 600 displaced”****Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper****October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011**

Police officers evicted 600 people in the environmentally-sensitive Maasai Mau forest region, demolishing their houses and setting them on fire. They will join the 19,000 people evicted from their homes 2 years ago, who are still living in transit camps around the Mau complex, Kenya’s largest forest block and East Africa’s largest single block of closed canopy indigenous forest. Although no prior notice was given, the officers informed the families that they were illegally occupying part of the Maasai Mau.