



Kenya: Domestic Media Monitoring Report

Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies

Unless otherwise stated, all articles were written in English.

Mikhala Lantz-Simmons,
May 29th to June 6th

Report Content:

1. ICC proposes to hold hearings for the Ocampo Six in Kenya
2. Private and government perspectives on looming food crisis
3. Is Kenya prepared to try the Ocampo Six? Private and government standpoints
4. Reforms: the police force; ratification of the new constitution
5. Miscellaneous: Kenyan community urges relocation of British Army, Ugandan border conflict

International Criminal Court proposes to conduct hearings for the Ocampo Six in Kenya:

Privately-owned media:

“ICC seeks to hear cases in Kenya”

The Star, privately-owned daily newspaper

Written by Alex Ndegwa

June 4 2011

In a “surprise move”, the International Criminal Court judges are proposing to have the Pre-Trial Chamber hearings for the Ocampo Six, Muthaura, Ruto, Uhuru, Sang, Kosgey and Ali conducted in Kenya this September.

Quote from the article, not listed as an opinion piece: “ [Conducting the hearings in Kenya] could be a relief to the suspects who would be spared the agony of another visit to a foreign country to answer to accusations of crimes against humanity ... Given that the outcome of the upcoming hearings could potentially make or break their careers, it’s somewhat a relief to have such a momentous decision made in familiar territory.”

No reasons were given for the proposal, which comes right after Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo’s claim that Kenya was sabotaging his investigations and trying to protect the six suspects. The judges are waiting for Ocampo’s and the defense lawyers’ responses.

Government-owned media:

“ICC requests possibility of conducting confirmation hearings in Kenya”

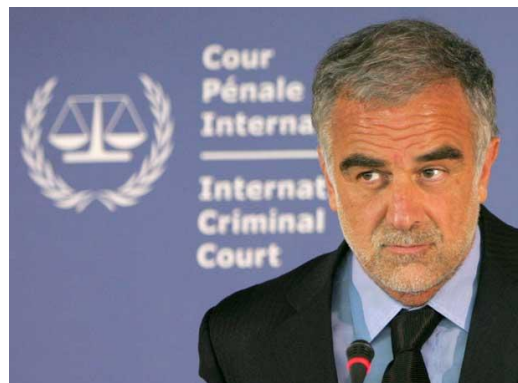
KBC News, government-owned broadcasting network

Written by Kennedy Osir

June 3 2011

The Ocampo Six suspects may not have to travel to The Hague for their hearings in September. The hearings’ goal is to determine whether there is evidence to support that each suspect committed the crimes he is accused of. The International Criminal Court’s Pre-Trial Chamber requested observations from the Prosecutor, the Defense and the victims on the desirability of conducting the confirmation of charges in Kenya. The observations must be submitted no later than Monday, June 13th

Photo: Luis Moreno-Ocampo, Prosecutor for the ICC



(1)

2. Looming Food Crisis:

Privately-owned media:

**“Hard times getting tougher for poor Kenyans”
Sunday Standard, privately-owned newspaper
May 29, 2011**

The number of starving Kenyans is estimated to cross the ten million-mark by December unless the situation is addressed immediately.

The Government attributes the problem to corn farmers holding onto their stocks until they can get higher prices for their goods.

Beans, the main source of protein in most Kenyan households, are also wanting. Kenya is currently importing beans from neighboring countries. However Tanzania and Uganda are halting food exports to Kenya so that they may stock up their equally dwindling reserves.

Corruption may have been in play. The Government is asking the Ministry of Agriculture to account for the 1.8 billion shillings that were earmarked in the last financial year to go toward breaking the cycle of hunger that hits the country every two years. The money from the 2009/2010 fiscal year is said to have been placed in private accounts by senior ministry officials. The Ministry of Agriculture is not currently able to provide accurate up-to-date data on how much food the country has.

The acute shortage has sparked panic in the Government as food shortages can lead to civil strife and political instability.

The Government is currently unable to sustain food programs already in place. The uncertainty may lead the Government to declare hunger a national disaster due to the high number of starving Kenyans in the drought inflicted-north.

Government-owned media:

**“Raila assures Kenyans on price reductions”
KBC News, government owned media
June 3, 2011**

Prime Minister Raila Odinga addressed a crowd of protestors gathered on Harambee Avenue this week. The crowd was protesting raising food prices and had crafted a memorandum calling for the nationalization of all oil companies, construction of cereal storage silos, and a reduction of the price of maize flour.

Odinga said The Government is aware of the difficulties people are suffering as a result of escalating food and fuel prices. He assured that price reductions will be included in the Budget that will soon be presented to the country. Odinga requested a little patience, saying “prices of these commodities will start coming down as soon as the budget statement is read.” The Prime Minister also asked the protesters to avoid actions that would create more suffering instead of creating solutions.

Odinga congratulated the protestors saying they were exercising the freedoms Kenyans had long sought. He stated that he could never ignore Kenyans asking to be fed nor would he allow police to chase them away.

The Parliamentary Committee of Agriculture’s Vice Chairman, Ababu Namwamba is calling for drastic measures to help curb inflation and the rising price of maize. He challenged the Government to alert the country of the current maize crisis and to apologize for poor planning, poor forecasting and procrastination.

3. Is Kenya prepared to try the Ocampo Six?

Privately-owned media:

“Kenya not prepared to prosecute Ocampo Six”
The Star, privately-owned Kenyan daily newspaper
June 1, 2011

Attorney-General Amos Wako has indicated that he will appeal the ICC’s ruling, stating that the government was not given an opportunity to respond to some of the ICC’s concerns.

Quote from the article: “As it is, not many Kenyans have any faith that anything will come out of the fresh investigations into the violence as ordered by the attorney-general”. Delays in the appointment of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the suspicions concerning the appointments of the chief justice are cited as reasons for the lack of confidence.

The Ocampo Six:



William Ruto

Uhuru Kenyatta



Henry Kosgey

Francis Muthaura



Hussein Ali

Joshua Sang

(2)

Government-owned media:

“Kenya to appeal admissibility ruling”
KBC News, government-owned media
Written by Glenna Nyamwaya and Wangari Kanyongo
May 31, 2011

Attorney General Amos Wako says Kenya will appeal against the ICC’s refusal to allow the Kenyan Government to try the Ocampo Six themselves.

Wako stated his surprise at the ICC’s decision saying that the court did not even accord an oral hearing to the Government of Kenya.

Wako added that the Government is confident that by the time of the hearing, yet further reform will have occurred within the Kenyan judicial system, demonstrating that these cases can indeed be tried in Kenya.

According to Wako, the success of the Government’s application to personally “deal with past injustices” will depend on the manner, speed, determination and unity with which Constitutional reforms are carried out, notably the Judicial and Police Reforms (*see next section*).

4. Reforms

Privately-owned media:

“Vetting of top police officers kicks off”

Sunday Standard, privately-owned newspaper

June 5, 2011

June 6 will mark the beginning of a purge of undesirable officers in the police force.

All officers of the police force will appear before a panel made up of people from the Public Service Commission, the Police Reform Implementation Committee, the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission, the National Security Intelligence Service, the Administration Police, and the University of Nairobi.

Police Commissioner Mathew Iteere assured the 814 officers that they will not be victimized. However those that do not meet the required standards will be asked to leave the force. The report stated that those found unfit for retention will be retired with sufficient safety nets. The criteria for retention includes professionalism, integrity, track record and psychological fitness.

About 200 different reform initiatives for the Regular and Administration Police are supposed to come about in the next four years.

Government-owned media:

“Kenyan premier urges speedy implementation of new constitution”

KBC Radio, State-owned, transmitted in Swahili

June 1, 2011

“Kenya has changed for the benefit of all its citizens ...

The MPS should unite and stop the jostling here and there, put aside politics or political differences so that we can enact the legislation faster,” said Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga. His brief address in Swahili was broadcast live by the main television channels. Odinga made his address at a celebration for Kenya’s 48th anniversary of self-governance. The goal of the speech was to urge parliamentarians to implement the country’s new constitution.

5. Miscellaneous

“Samburu community bears brunt of uncollected military ordinances”

**Sunday Standard, [privately-owned newspaper](#),
Article by Job Weru, May 29, 2011**

Members of Parliament visiting Laresoro, Archers Post and Losesia, settlements in Kenya’s eastern province, saw for themselves groups of people who have been burned, maimed or developed acute hearing problems due to explosive devices left behind by the British military.

Community leader Lokopiro Lekolel is urging the Parliamentary Committee to relocate the British soldiers. Lekolel accused the British soldiers of lacking concern for the locals.

Mr. Johnson ole Kaunga, the executive director of an Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation (Impact) said an estimated 4,000 people have been victims of explosive devices carelessly left behind on British military training grounds.

Ole Kaunga says that this is a human rights issue that should be dealt with immediately.

Government response:

Brigadier Tai Gituai from the Department of Defense absolved the military from blame, saying that the officers clean up ammunition and other explosives before leaving their training grounds.

More Ugandan soldiers land on Migingo Island

The Standard, [privately owned newspaper](#)

Written by Mangoa Mosota, June 4, 2011

President Kibaki has asserted that the Migingo island belongs to Kenya and not Uganda. The conflict began two years ago when Ugandans laid claim to the island, for fishing purposes. A survey team (*not stated where from*) found that the island is on the Kenyan side of the lake. According to Paul Odhiambo, a local, nine Ugandan security officers arrived on the island in a motor boat with heavy weapons that included rocket launchers.

Photo credits :

(1) International Criminal Court
Prosecuter Luis Moreno-
Ocampo, lavdc.net

(2) The Ocampo Six suspects,
ocamosix.blogspot.com