

Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, December 27th, 2010 (covering December 20th to December 26th 2010)

By Laura Schülke, MIGS reporter for Uganda

1) State-owned media

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. December 22, 2010, in English

"Police chief issues terror alert" by Steven Candia

- The Police chief, Maj.-Gen. Kale Kayihura, has issued a terror alert and announced comprehensive measures to forestall possible attacks during the festive season. The warning comes at a time when the country is involved in election campaigns, which come with a possibility of violence.
- On Monday, a bomb exploded in Nairobi on a Kampala-bound bus. This attack, the police chief said, is suspected to have been linked to Al-Qa'idah and Al-Shabab militants in Somalia. Kayihura emphasized neighborhood watch and increased vigilance in the public transport sector.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. December 24, 2010, in English

"UPDF sends 4,000 more troops to Somalia" by Milton Olupot

- Uganda is ready to send 4,000 more soldiers to Somalia. This follows a decision by the UN Security Council on Wednesday [22 December] to increase the number of peacekeepers supporting the transitional government against Al-Qa'idah-inspired rebels from 8,000 to 12,000.
- The council also extended the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia to 30 September 2011. The council said the increase would enhance AMISOM's ability to stabilize the lawless country.

2) Privately owned media

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. December 20, 2010, in English

"MP reports government officials to ICC" [Author unknown]

- A lawmaker has asked the International Criminal Court to investigate top government officials, including a cabinet minister and an army commander, for allegedly arming civilians in northern Uganda ahead of next year's general elections.
- In his 16 December letter to the ICC, Aswa County MP Reagan Okumu named six individuals whom he accused of arming ruling National Resistance Movement cadres in Aswa, Nwoya, Kilak, Pader and Lamwo counties - all in Acholi sub-region. Mr. Okumu was among the five MPs from northern Uganda who addressed a news conference last week over increased numbers of guns and intimidation in their areas.
- Asked why he chose to petition the ICC and not the police, Mr. Okumu said the police and the army commander are among the culprits. By dragging the six individuals to The Hague, the MP said, "we're only asking the ICC to begin following these clues seriously before it's too late. We don't want blanket accusation in case something goes wrong in future. They should know who to blame".
- Mr. Okumu said opposition campaign agents were being targeted for arrest and others have been accused of starting a rebel group.

- While the ICC is yet to respond, the officials have denied any wrongdoing and asked the ICC and other relevant authorities to investigate the matter. They have accused the MP of maligning them in an attempt to hide his guilt.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. December 22, 2010, in English

"Museveni vows to arrest Besigye" by Dalton Wanyera, Mercy Nalugo & Emmanuel Mulondo

- Dr Kizza Besigye will be arrested if he declares his own set of results for next year's presidential election, President Museveni warned yesterday.
- The president also described Dr Kizza Besigye, who is running against him in a third consecutive race, as a "comedian" on account of his defiant promise to announce his version of results.
- Ivory Coast, which is on the brink of repeat civil war after a 6 December election held in the hope of uniting the country divided since disputed elections in 2002, finds itself again facing a similar situation. The incumbent, Laurent Gbagbo, is clinging onto power even when the national electoral body has announced that he was defeated by Alassane Ouattara.
- The IPC spokesperson said the law does not bar them from announcing provisional results. The EC chairperson recently clarified that the opposition are free to set up their own tally centers as long as they state clearly that they are releasing provisional and not final results. The Constitution gives the EC official mandate to declare final results.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. December 24, 2010, in English

"Mwondha declines to hear cases of terrorism suspects" by Juliet Kigongo

- Nakawa High Court Judge Faith Mwondha will not handle cases of terrorism suspects because it will allegedly put her into what senior court officials describe as "unwarranted spotlight".
- Justice Mwondha on 22 December referred bail applications of four terrorism suspects to Principal Judge Yorokama Bamwine for reallocation.
- Last week, Justice Mwondha dismissed an application by a Kenya human rights activist, Amin Kimathi, who is also behind bars for allegedly playing a part in the bombings, citing lack of substantial sureties.