

Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, June 14th, 2010 (covering June 7th to June 13th 2010)

By Laura Schülke, MIGS reporter for Uganda

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. June 7, 2010, in English

"RDC blacklists four opposition members from talking on air" by Warom Felix Okello

- The Arua [northwestern Uganda] RDC [Resident District Commissioner] has ordered that no opposition politician should be hosted on any radio talk show because they were becoming a security threat and misleading voters.
- In his 26 May letter sent to the managing director of Nile FM, RDC Ibrahim Abiriga, has blacklisted Mr Bernard Atiku (FDC [Forum for Democratic Change]), Mr. Nelson Cemari (UPC [Uganda People's Congress]), former ambassador Harold Acema (UPC) and Titia Kamure (UPC). He was incensed by the failure of the talk show host, Mr. Clement Aluma and Mr. Kamure, who defied the police summon to record a statement over alleged seditious speech made against President Museveni.
- Mr. Abiriga, who chairs the district security committee, argues that some of the statements made by such politicians pose a security threat. According to the RDC, the four opposition politicians have a criminal record and any further hosting of them on the radio could cause criminal charges against the radio if the management does not act on his directive.
- The acting station manager, Mr. Kenneth Sebinya, said the directive could not stop them from hosting politicians even from NRM [ruling party].

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. June 10, 2010, in English
"Police cane Col Kizza Besigye" by Taddeo Bwambale and Brian Mayanja

- Forum for Democratic Change president Dr Kizza Besigye was yesterday beaten by the police and stick-wielding men at the Clock Tower [grounds] in Kampala. Besigye and other leaders of the Inter-Party Coalition had tried to hold a rally at the Clock Tower.
- The police said the group did not get permission to hold the rally. The police had earlier blocked the political opposition leaders from holding the rally at the Railways grounds on Jinja Road.
- Besigye was beaten by the anti-riot police, who were chasing a youth carrying placards with messages condemning the Electoral Commission.
- A journalist, Yusuf Muziransa, was also assaulted and his camera destroyed as he attempted to take photographs of the scuffle.
- The IPC had organized a procession to the Railway grounds to demand a replacement of the commission before next year's general elections.
- He dismissed the beating as "immaterial in the fight for free and fair elections".
- "I will not be intimidated by the beating, even if it means death," he charged. "If anybody dies in the quest for free and fair elections, it will be blamed on the Electoral Commission."
- Police Spokesperson Judith Nabakooba and the deputy director of operations, Grace Turyagumanawe, said the police would investigate Besigye's alleged assault. Nabakooba, however, disowned the stick-wielding men, saying they were not part of the police. She blamed the rally organizers for not seeking permission from the police.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. June 10, 2010, in English

"US delegation softens stance, ICC to handle crime of aggression" by Cyprian Musoke

- State representatives attending the International Criminal Court review conference at Speke Resort Munyonyo [in Kampala], yesterday agreed that the court should prosecute the crime of aggression. The decision followed a compromise paper, presented by Argentina, Brazil and Switzerland, which changed the position of the US delegation.
- The team was opposed to giving the ICC jurisdiction over the crime, saying it is a preserve of the UN Security Council. The paper, however, proposed that where the council has noted an act of aggression, it will refer the matter to the ICC prosecutor.
- The paper, whose proposals were adopted in the ICC legislation, added that the prosecutor will notify the UN secretary-general on any cases of aggression, with relevant information and documentation.
- Any organ outside the court can determine an act of aggression, but this should not prejudice the court's own findings, it added.
- In a paper presented by the assistant deputy state secretary, William Lietzau, the US said: "An act cannot be considered a violation of the law before proving that it was undertaken without the consent of the relevant state, the UN Security Council or if it was taken in self-defence." "An act undertaken to prevent committing crime should not constitute an act of aggression," he added.
- The Kuwait delegation proposed that the period within which the ICC should act after notifying the Council be reduced from six to three months.
- The Cyprus team proposed that permission should not be sought from aggressor states before the crime is investigated and prosecuted.