

**Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, May 21st, 2010 (covering June 14th to June 20th 2010)**

**By Laura Schülke, MIGS reporter for Uganda**

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. June 14, 2010, in English**

**"US refuses to sign as delegates endorse crime of aggression" by Solomon Muyita, Ismail Musala Ladu Angelo Izama**

- The use of violence by one state against another is now a crime that can be tried by the International Criminal Court after delegates, following a consensus agreement, included it in the Rome Statute on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of June.
- An agreement, immediately described as an anti-climax by human rights groups because it was soft on big powers, was arrived after close to a fortnight of diplomatic battles. This means that use of force in breach of the UN Charter such as an invasion, a bombardment, a blockade or a country allowing another state to use its territory to attack a third nation is now a crime.
- However, groups like Human Rights Watch said the Security Council members had complicated the entire process by seeking to retain "exclusive control" over the crime of aggression.
- "ICC as a judicial body must be independent from the political interference of the Security Council that is a political organ that takes decision for political reasons," said Mr Richard Dicker- the director for International Justice at HRW.
- But politics did prevail at the end. It was agreed, for example, that while the court now has jurisdiction over a crime of aggression it had to wait for six months before taking its action and can only do so if the United Nations Security Council failed to refer such an act to The Hague.
- The Security Council can also "veto" any prosecution on grounds that it was prejudicial to international security and keep objecting with annual resolutions.
- Delegates also conceded that the crime will not apply to non-state parties, which like America, have refused to sign on to the ICC. State parties can also submit a "non-acceptance" declaration to the court to avoid prosecution save for where it is the Security Council that has referred a case.

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**"Mao fires fresh attack on FDC" by Robert Mwanje**

- The Inter-party Cooperation (IPC) is a political platform only meant to benefit the Forum for Democratic Change, the Democratic Party president, Mr. Norbert Mao, has said. Addressing a rally in Kampala on June 12, Mr. Mao said joining the IPC is a diversionary strategy that only helps FDC to widen its political base at the expense of other political parties.
- "We know that FDC wants to build its political support using other parties. This is exactly what President Museveni did when he created the Movement system in 1986 because his party [NRM] had no support," Mr Mao said. "They should not force us to love them, as we resolved not to join NRM, we shall not join IPC".
- The IPC is a loose coalition of five opposition political parties planning to field a single presidential candidate next year. The group, which comprises the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC), Uganda People's Congress (UPC), the Conservative Party, the Social Democratic Party and JEEMA, is set to pick a joint flag-bearer on June 30.

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**"UPDF still silent on dead soldiers in Central Africa" by Risdal Kasasira and Alex Atuhaire**

- The army has remained silent, close to a week after reports emerged that fresh attacks from suspected Lord's Resistance Army rebels in the Central African Republic had left more than 10 UPDF soldiers dead.
- Sources in Central African Republic yesterday told Daily Monitor that the death toll of Ugandan soldiers had risen to 18, although the army and defense spokesman, Lt-Col Felix Kulayigye, said he knew nothing about the attack.
- Yesterday, mystery about the killers also grew when a source told Daily Monitor that a Sudanese militia, reinforced by a powerful government in the region, could be behind the attacks on the UPDF.
- "They were around 300 heavily armed militias that attacked UPDF. LRA has no such capacity. The UPDF were few. They were patrolling before they were attacked and overpowered," the sources said. Lt-Col Kulayigye insisted he was not aware of the militia attack.

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

**"4,000 Sudanese refugees reject repatriation" by Tabu Butagira**

- Nearly 4,000 mainly Sudanese refugees have declined to go home and are still holed up in Arua District [northwestern Uganda], citing inter-tribal fights and lack of HIV/Aids anti-retroviral drugs in their country.
- At celebrations on Friday to mark the World Refugee Day, which officially falls today, refugees from the restive Jonglei State in south Sudan also expressed worry about deplorable social services there.
- Mr. John Alinaitwe, the district's refugee desk officer, said whereas the Uganda government will continue to support the refugees, they have a better choice to go home and contribute towards rebuilding their country.
- United Nations High Commissioner Refugees Antonio Guterres travelled to Arua in June 2006 to launch voluntarily repatriation of Sudanese refugees living in Uganda, an exercise expected to have ended by now.
- There were more than 60,000 Sudanese refugees in Arua District alone - and 170, 000 countrywide - at the inauguration of voluntary repatriation, a year after Sudan's decades-old liberation war ended with signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.