

Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, March 8th, 2010 (covering March 1st to March 7th 2010)

By Laura Schülke, MIGS reporter for Uganda

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. March 1, 2010, in English
"Disarm or face jail, Karamojong warned" [Author unknown]**

- Karamajong warriors who do not voluntarily surrender their guns risk being court-martialed, the government has warned. Information minister Kabakumba Masiko said about 70 warriors who refused to surrender their guns had been tried in the Court Martial.
- Kabakumba noted that the disarmament exercise in Karamoja had been successful, with 275,340 guns collected over the last three years.
- The government estimates that about 2,000 guns are still in the possession of the Karamojong warriors.
- Kakakumba said calm had returned to the region due to the disarmament program. She noted however that cross-border rustling had taken a twist, with rustlers from Kenya conniving with those in Uganda to raid neighboring tribes.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. March 2, 2010, in English

"450,000 sign to kill anti-gay bill" by Yasiin Mugerwa

- Almost half a million people have petitioned Parliament to drop debate on the Anti-Homosexuality Bill. Religious leaders and HIV/AIDS activists handed a copy of the petition with signatures, collected mainly through the Internet from all over the world, including Uganda, to Speaker Edward Ssekandi on Monday [1 March].
- Canon Gideon Byamugisha, the first practicing African religious leader to declare he was living with HIV, and a prominent campaigner against the disease, handed over the petition. Retired Anglican Bishop Christopher Ssenyonjo accompanied him and the two men described the law as "draconian" and demanded for its withdrawal.
- The latest opposition to the Anti-Homosexuality Bill comes after the US government threatened to expel Uganda from the African Growth and Opportunities Act trade arrangement if the bill became law.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. March 5, 2010, in English

"Army to recruit 3,800" [Author unknown]

- The army is preparing to recruit at least 3,850 officer cadets and general recruits in 2010, the defense and army spokesperson said on Thursday [4 March].
- The recruitment exercise, which also targets professionals like engineers and doctors who are insufficient in the UPDF [Uganda People's Defense Forces], has kicked off with nation-wide meetings with all district leaders.
- With this figure which is a third of the total soldiers passed-out last year, the army will have recruited at least 13,000 soldiers in two years.

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

"President Obama asked to watch Uganda closely" by Angelo Izama and Gerald Bareebe

- Just weeks after a senior government minister warned the United States to butt out of Uganda's political affairs, an American senator has warned the Barrack Obama administration about the "fragile" state of democracy in the country.
- In a statement prepared for the Congressional record this week, Senator Russ Feingold who chairs the Senate's sub-committee on Africa said the intelligence community in the US had concluded that Uganda was "essentially" a "one party" state and that the government was "not undertaking democratic reforms in advance of the elections scheduled for 2011". The Senator, who was one of the movers of a Bill requiring the Obama administration to directly fight the Lord's Resistance Army [LRA] rebels and provide money for Northern Uganda recovery, said Uganda is "backsliding" on democracy.
- Last month, Information Minister Kabakumba Masiko told the American Ambassador to Kampala to "stop meddling in Uganda's internal affairs". Ms Masiko's attack came after Ambassador Jerry Lanier in a sit-down with journalists suggested that President Museveni had overstayed in office.