

**Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, May 10th, 2010 (covering May 3rd to May 9th 2010)**

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

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. May 4, 2010, in English  
"Media can't regulate itself" by Anne Mugisa**

- Information and guidance minister Kabakumba Masiko has said recent incidents in the country have demonstrated that the media cannot regulate itself. She argued that the media in Uganda is still in its infancy and needs nurturing and guidance and, therefore, the government cannot allow unbridled freedom. "Left on their own, there is evidence that some media houses would operate in a way that would be a recipe for incitement, chaos, anarchy and a breeding ground for genocide," Kabakumba said.
- She was speaking at the conference to mark the Press Freedom Day at the Golf Course Hotel in Kampala. The conference was organized by the Uganda Human Rights Commission and the UN Human Rights office.
- The government is proposing to amend the Press and Journalists Stature of 1995. The proposed amendment bill will provide for the licensing of newspapers annually.
- The Media Council will be given powers to revoke licenses for newspapers that publishes articles prejudicial to national security, unity and Uganda's relations with its neighbors and friends, or sabotaging the economy. It would also provide for offenses and penalties.
- However, some journalists and human rights advocates say there is no need for the regulatory law. Birgit Gerstenberg from the Office of the High Commission of Human Rights asked the government to ensure that restrictions are minimised. She added that as the country prepares for elections, the opposition should have access to the media and the media should feel free to give them access.

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

**"Ugandan parliament passes electoral reform laws" [Author unknown]**

- The government breathed a huge sigh of relief yesterday after parliament finally disposed of the last of four crucial election law reform bills. The Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Bill 2009 now joins the Presidential Elections (Amendment) Bill, the Electoral Commission (Amendment) Bill and the Political Parties and Organization (Amendment) Bill in the queue for presidential assent.
- It was a frustrating afternoon for the shadow attorney-general, Mr. Erias Lukwago, after he saw several of the opposition's amendments thrown out by the power of numbers.
- "I know we registered some success which will help us repair some ills in our electoral process," said Mr. Lukwago, "but I still maintain that we need a constitutional amendment because all these amendments we are making will be useless unless we restore term limits, restructure the composition of the Electoral Commission and we get the army out of politics."

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. May 7, 2010, in English  
"Defense demands 25bn shillings to hunt Kony" by Madinah Tebajjukira**

- The defense ministry wants 25bn shillings [about 12m dollars] to flush the Lord's Resistance Army rebels out of Garamba forest in the DR Congo. Appearing before the defense and internal affairs committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, Defense Minister Dr. Crispus

Kiyonga said the money would be spent on buying soldiers' uniforms, medicine, food and transport.

- If the money is approved by parliament, it will top up the 457bn [about 214m dollars] allocated to the ministry for the next financial year.
- MPs demanded that Kiyonga explain when the rebels would be flushed out. "For how long shall we fund the war? Why don't we resort to peaceful negotiations?" Charles Gutumoi asked. "The peace talks in Juba stalled. Do we have any plans of reinstating them?" the committee chairman asked.
- During the talks, President Yoweri Museveni went to Juba a number of times to sign the agreement with Kony, but he never turned up. It is believed Kony used the period to re-build his camp to wage war in the DR Congo.
- The legislators agreed that it was not in order for the government to continue allocating money for an unending war.
- The International Criminal Court wants rebel leader Kony for war crimes.

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. May 8, 2010, in English "Rwandans denied refugee status" [Author unknown]**

- Rwandans who fled to Uganda in fear of political persecution have been denied refugee status, Douglas Asiimwe, a senior refugee protection officer in the Prime Minister's office said on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May. Asiimwe said the 1,312 individuals did not qualify for status.
- Most of them came from Kisagara District in the Southern province of Rwanda, while others are from Kibungo and Mutara in Eastern Province. They came between April and March this year and it is believed that they did not go through the border points.
- They claim their relatives were kidnapped while others were arrested and detained in unreachable places because they supported opposition parties. About 70 families of the 1,312 who fled to Uganda recently, were among refugees who were taken back home last year.