

**Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, October 4th, 2010 (covering September 27th to October 3rd 2010)**

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

**1) State-owned media**

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. September 28, 2010, in English**

**"Museveni, Obama discuss Sudan poll" [Author unknown]**

- President Yoweri Museveni has urged the two parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) on Sudan to ensure that it is fully implemented and the referendum held as scheduled. Museveni made the call on Friday during a meeting with US President Barack Obama and other leaders on the sidelines of the UN general assembly in New York.
- Museveni said Sudan was an Afro-Arab country, but the problem over the years was that some groups were trying to run Sudan as an Arab country, disregarding the Africans.

**2) Privately owned media**

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. September 28, 2010, in English**

**"Implement law on public information" [Author unknown]**

- Today, Uganda joins the rest of the world to mark the International Right to Know Day - a celebration aimed at raising awareness of every individual's right to access government-held information: the right to know how elected officials are exercising power and how taxpayers' money is being spent.
- Whereas this is the eighth year in which this day is marked globally, in Uganda it is even more significant because it is five years since the government passed what was viewed as a very progressive piece of legislation - the Access to Information Act.
- Five years down the road, nothing significant has happened. The government should have repealed the Official Secrets Act, directed information officers in the government agencies to ensure information is available provided it does not endanger national security or intrude on personal privacy - but all this is yet to be done.
- Accessing public documents and information is largely still a nightmare - forcing journalists and other interested stakeholders many times to use underhand methods to get the information.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. September 29, 2010, in English**

**"Museveni passes law on telephone tapping" by Emmanuel Mulondo**

- President Yoweri Museveni has signed into law the Regulation of Interception of Communications Bill 2010, giving powers to security officials to listen into private communication if they have sufficient reason to suspect the communication is in aid of criminal activity.
- The controversial bill, which attracted criticism from media and human rights activists, was passed by parliament on 14 July, just three days after the twin terrorist bombing at Kyadondo Rugby Grounds and Ethiopian Village Bar and Restaurant, in

which at least 76 people were killed. President Museveni assented to it two weeks later on 5 August and, according to the Uganda Gazette it came into force on 3 September.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. September 30, 2010, in English**

**"Uganda warns UN over Congo war crimes report" by Tabu Butagira**

- Uganda has described as "sinister" a new UN report implicating the UPDF in having committed war crimes during the 1997-2003 war in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Foreign Affairs Minister Sam Kutesa, in a 27 September letter to the UN Human Rights Commissioner in Geneva, said the allegations could jeopardize the country's participation in peacekeeping operations sanctioned by the world body and adds that "Uganda rejects that draft report in its entirety and demands that it not be published."
- In the letter, Mr. Kutesa said the UN is trying to mask its failures by blaming regional armies that stabilized the DR Congo while "curiously" excluding belligerent forces such as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) as perpetrators.
- International NGOs estimate up to four million people died in the seven-year fighting. The new UN report titled "DR Congo mapping exercise - Mapping of the most serious human rights and International humanitarian law violations committed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo between 1993 and 2003", is due to be formally released tomorrow.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. September 30, 2010, in English**

**"Uganda to domesticate 11 International Laws" by Alfred Nyongesa Wandera**

- Uganda National Committee of International Humanitarian Law started debating the domestication of 11 international law instruments that Uganda has ratified but not implemented.
- The meeting conducted in partnership with the office of the prime minister and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), follows a "relaxed attitude" to implement the laws that Uganda is a signatory to, according to the ICRC's regional legal advisor based in South Africa.
- Some of the international instruments that seek to protect humanitarian interests that Uganda ratified but not yet domesticated include Additional Protocol I, II, and III to the Geneva Conventions of 1949; the 1980 Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects; the 1980 Additional Protocol I (Non Detectable Fragments), II (Mines and booby traps) and III (Incendiary Weapons), the 2008 African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced persons in Africa.

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

**"Somalis ask to live in Uganda" by Ridsdel Kasasira**

- At least 400 Somalis, who are allegedly being targeted by the Islamist group, Al-Shabab, for supporting African peacekeepers in that country, have appealed to the Ugandan government to evacuate them to Kampala.