

EDUCATION: Donors must end neglect of African universities
RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA: International Day for the Elimination of
Racial
Discrimination
ENVIRONMENT: Move to save anti-prostate cancer tree in Kenya
MEDIA AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION: Tunisian human rights defender on
hunger strike
INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY: Digital revolution on streets of Nigeria
PLUS: Fundraising and Useful Resources; Courses, seminars and
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8 African Union Monitor

AFRICA: NEW RULES LETTER CALLING FOR SHIFT OF PARIS CLUB
NEGOTIATIONS

<http://www.new-rules.org/>

In anticipation of the Paris Club's upcoming "celebration" of its
50th
birthday, the US-based network "New Rules for Global Finance" has
called on Nigeria's President Obasanjo and the African Union to
support
a change of venue for Paris Club negotiations. Put simply, future
Paris
Club debt negotiations should take place in the debtor country,
say New
Rules. This will help reorder the negotiating balance between
debtor
and creditor.

regional emergency fund involving the private sector to fight ravaging famine in the Horn of Africa. In a 56-point communiqué released after a one-day Summit in Nairobi, Presidents Kibaki, Omar El Bashir (Sudan), Abdullahi Yusuf (Somalia), Yoweri Museveni (Uganda) and Ismael Omar Guelleh (Djibouti) further welcomed the progress made in the implementation of peace deal for Sudan.

SENEGAL: SOME 4,500 DISPLACED BY CLASHES

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=52327>

Fighting between Guinea Bissau troops and Senegalese separatists has forced more than 4,500 people to flee their homes in the past several days, humanitarian officials have said. Since Thursday last week, the Guinea Bissau military have been bombarding rebels from Movement of the Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) in the area of Sao Domingo, a city just inside the Guinea Bissau border whose entire civilian population has fled. Entire towns and villages on in the border region are deserted after internal fighting within the MFDC spilled into Guinea Bissau last week.

SOMALIA: 2.1 MILLION SOMALIS IN URGENT NEED OF ASSISTANCE

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/LSGZ-6N4JRC?OpenDocument>

A revised Humanitarian Appeal for Somalia was launched in Nairobi by the Acting Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Mr Christian Balslev-Olesen, to seek additional funding to respond to the critical needs of 2.1 million people whose already chronically food insecure and dire humanitarian situation has been further aggravated by the worst drought in a decade.

SOMALIA: QUESTIONING OF US NAVY USE OF DEADLY ACTION AGAINST
SOMALI
VESSELS

<http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=62630>

On Saturday March 18, the USS Cape St. George and USS Gonzales opened fire on Somali vessels inside the Somali coastline, killing one while taking others into custody. The office of the Somali Justice Advocacy Center received calls from Somalia, and therefore asks the US government to release those in detention and offer an accurate explanation about the details of the incident.

SUDAN: DEMOCRATIC LEADER CALLS FOR A STOP TO 'HUMAN CARNAGE' IN DARFUR

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603200962.html>

House of Representatives Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-California) delivered an emotional account of the crisis in Darfur, Sudan, which she called "a challenge to the conscience of the world," in an address hosted by the Center for National Policy last Friday. Pelosi visited refugee camps in Chad in February. She recounted the deplorable conditions that the people of Darfur are forced to live in, where refugees - including children and pregnant women - have to walk several miles for water and firewood and live in "inhuman" sanitary conditions.

SUDAN: LRA TERRORISES SUDAN

<http://www.newsudanvision.com/lra.html>

The people of southern Sudan nickname them "tong tong", referring to their notorious tactic of chopping off ears, lips and arms. Top UN officials in Sudan call them an international terrorist group whose actions are "brutal and absolutely unforgivable". And commanders of the

SPLA, the former rebels of southern Sudan, call them the deadliest and most dangerous of all militias supported by the Sudan government. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has effectively extended its reign of terror from Uganda into the deepest jungles of Southern Sudan, causing death and destruction, disrupting relief operations, cutting off trade routes and preventing the return of refugees.

Related stories:

Uganda: US to support Anti-LRA war
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603200587.html>

SUDAN: TO SAVE DARFUR

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=4027&l=1>

The international strategy for dealing with the Darfur crisis primarily through the small (7,000 troops) African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) is at a dead end, says the International Crisis Group. "If the tragedy of the past three years is not to be compounded, the AU and its partners must address the growing regional crisis by getting more troops with greater mobility and firepower on the ground at once and rapidly transforming AMIS into a larger, stronger UN peacekeeping mission with a robust mandate focused on civilian protection," says the think tank.

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10 Human Rights

CHAD: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CALLS FOR TRIAL OF HISSÈNE HABRÉ

<http://tinyurl.com/r4p3t>

The European Parliament today (March 16) called on Senegal to bring Hissène Habré to trial or extradite the former dictator of Chad to Belgium, where he is wanted to stand trial. Habré's victims and their

supporters cheered the European Parliament's decision. Habré, who fled to Senegal in 1990 after an eight-year rule marked by widespread atrocities, was first indicted in 2000 in Senegal.

DRC: INTERNATIONAL COURT SHOULD BE FASTER

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20060319/D8GEA2LG1.html>

The International Criminal Court, which has a Congolese rebel leader in jail as its first defendant, will have speedier proceedings than the U.N. special tribunal for Yugoslavia, the court's chief prosecutor said Saturday (March 18). The Criminal Court's first prisoner, Thomas Lubanga, was flown to the Netherlands just before midnight Friday and taken into custody at the court's newly opened detention unit - the only inmate there so far. Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said the arrest warrant covered crimes committed after July 1, 2002, when the world's first permanent war crimes court came into existence.

GLOBAL: US PLEDGES TO HELP NEW RIGHTS COUNCIL

<http://tinyurl.com/rpept>

The United Nations' new Human Rights Council - created Wednesday (March 15) with a 170-4 vote in the General Assembly - will launch in June, with advocates saying they hope it will be effective at confronting countries that abuse their own people. The US, which voted against the new entity citing concerns it will not be strong enough, nevertheless agreed Wednesday to help fund the council and work toward making it "as strong and effective as it can be."

LIBERIA: TAYLOR CASE A WARNING TO WORLD WARLORDS-PROSECUTOR

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L19244337.htm>

11 Women and Gender

AFRICA: ANTI-ABORTION LAWS A "SILENT WAR WAGED AGAINST WOMEN"

<http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=32586>

Calls for abortion laws across Africa to be revised have dominated the first days of a meeting in Ethiopia - the 'Regional Consultation on Unsafe Abortion in Africa'. This four-day conference, which ends Mar. 23, has been organised by Ipas and the Guttmacher Institute, both based in the United States. More than 140 researchers, key government officials, and health practitioners from 16 African countries have gathered in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, to attend the consultation. Discussions are focusing on research into termination of pregnancy, and how the findings of inquiries can influence policy.

AFRICA: WOMEN AND PEACE BUILDING IN AFRICA

<http://ccrweb.ccr.uct.ac.za/>

This report on "The Impact of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in Africa," is from a seminar hosted by the Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR) in Cape Town, South Africa, and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)'s Southern and Central African Regional Offices. The aim of the seminar was to review the progress of the implementation of the resolution in Africa in the five years since its adoption by the United Nations (UN) in 2000.

GLOBAL: IWD 2006 - A REVEALING LOOK AT WOMEN'S COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES

<http://www.awid.org/go.php?list=analysis&prefix=analysis&item=00307>

A look at some of the activities held by women for International Women's Day provides a telling account of how ongoing struggles continue to affect women's everyday lives as well as their abilities to

live in safety, dignity, and peace. This past year we saw the election of the first female president in Africa, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia, as well as the electoral victory of feminist Michelle Bachelet in Chile. Women have taken huge steps forward in the public sphere and have worked hard to break down social, political, and cultural barriers. Yet women still face tremendous obstacles to equality all over the world. A look at some of the activities held by women for IWD provides a telling account of how ongoing struggles continue to affect women's everyday lives as well as their abilities to live in safety, dignity, and peace.

NORTH AFRICA: FIRST ENCYCLOPEDIA ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

<http://tinyurl.com/nu2je>

The Arab League has published the first ever encyclopedia stating the legal position of women's rights in the region. The book called: "The Situation of Women in Arab Legislations", was put together to serve as fundamental reference guide to the legal status of women in Arab countries. "The purpose of this book is to serve as a reference for any individual interested in the legal status of women in any of the Arab League member states," according to the Women's Unit of the Cairo-based Arab League. The idea was welcomed by the Egyptian National Council for Women which called the book an "an excellent step" in expanding women's rights in Arab countries.

SOUTH AFRICA: YOU HAVE STRUCK A WOMAN, YOU HAVE STRUCK A ROCK

http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=266952&area=/insight/insight__national/

In South Africa last week, events on International Women's Day dramatically challenged us as a country to clarify the nature of leadership and power as well as their underlying values and principles, writes Pregs Govender in the Mail and Guardian newspaper in reference to the Jacob Zuma rape trial. "In our country, where violence against women and girls is widespread, a rape survivor used her democratic right to charge her alleged perpetrator, a very powerful man. For her courage she has paid a very high price. Her home has been burgled and ransacked twice, she and her mother have faced death threats, and she has lost her freedom as she has been forced to seek police protection."

SUDAN: FINAL EVENT ON CEDAW CAMPAIGN CANCELLED IN PORT SUDAN

Sudan Organisation Against Torture press release

"On 15 March 2006, officers from the National Security Bureau (NSB) in Port Sudan, Eastern Sudan summoned Hassan Altaieb, lawyer and SOAT monitor in Port Sudan to their offices for questioning. Whilst at the security offices, Mr. Altieb was questioned about an event scheduled to be held in Port Sudan tomorrow 16 March 2005 as part of a nationwide campaign for the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The security officers demanded the list of participants expected to attend the event including the full names of all the speakers."

<http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/wgender/32969>

UGANDA: PRO-WOMEN PROGRAM PRODUCES A DISSIDENT

<http://www.womensenews.org/article.cfm?aid=2666>

Ugandans voted last month for 69 special female members of parliament as part of the country's lauded gender affirmative-action program. But

one prominent female politician says the 10-year-old system has failed to deliver legal gains for women. "Politics is generally seen as a game of the leaders, the affluent and the brave. And so it has never been the women's domain," said Zziwa, who belongs to the government party, the National Resistance Movement. Zziwa was first elected to the Ugandan parliament in 1996, along with 38 other women on a special gender ticket, after the government enshrined a system for boosting female representation as part of an ambitious program of affirmative action for women in all spheres of national affairs.

WEST AFRICA: GOOD GOVERNANCE AND WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

http://www.wildaf-ao.org/eng/article.php3?id_article=685

The sub-regional WILDAF office has just concluded a finance contract with the European Commission for a project on ``good governance and women's participation''. Commenced in early January 2006, this project will last three years and 7 West African countries namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo will benefit from it. Its overall objective is to contribute to an effective participation of women in governance at local and national levels. Specifically, the project aims at building capacities of women in urban and rural areas to influence decisions, policies and programmes implemented by the authorities for a better consideration of the basic human rights of women and gender equity.

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12 Refugees and forced migration

EGYPT: EXPECTATIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF RESETTLEMENT

http://www.aucegypt.edu/fmrs/documents/resettlement-final-edited__.pdf

In recent years, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) regional offices in Cairo, has referred approximately 4,000 recognised refugees per year for resettlement to the United States, Canada, Australia and a number of other smaller receiving countries, making it the largest such programme in the world. But despite this, there has been little research conducted into the expectations and experiences of the refugees themselves on this process. This study aims to investigate Sudanese refugees' expectations of life in resettlement while in Egypt, and upon arrival in the US, Canada and Australia, and hopes to facilitate these findings with governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental agencies.

GLOBAL: GLOBAL INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT CRISIS REMAINS ALARMING

<http://tinyurl.com/ozhbu>

Although the number of people internally displaced within their own countries by conflict decreased slightly during 2005, the global internal displacement crisis remained at an alarming level, according to a new report published by the Norwegian Refugee Council's Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. "The report clearly shows that most governments in countries affected by conflict fail to live up to their responsibility to prevent arbitrary displacement and ensure the safety and well-being of their displaced citizens," said Elisabeth Rasmusson, head of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.

GLOBAL: LOWER NUMBER OF ASYLUM-SEEKERS RAISES QUESTIONS FOR INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=17838&Cr=asylum&Cr1=>

In the last five years, the number of asylum-seekers arriving in all

industrialized countries has fallen by half, according to preliminary annual figures released by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who said this trend should spark reflection in the industrialized world about the fate of those in need of protection. Asylum applications in 50 industrialized countries fell sharply for the fourth year in a row in 2005, reaching their lowest level in almost two decades, the agency said, attributing this to more stable situations in many areas of the world but also to increasingly restrictive asylum policies.

GLOBAL: REFUGEES AND EMERGENCY THRESHOLDS IN 2005

<http://tinyurl.com/m7uqf>

This report presents the results of 41 site-surveys reporting mortality and nutrition data in refugee settings over 2005 and contained in the Complex Emergency Database (CEDAT). CEDAT is a global, shared searchable database on complex humanitarian emergencies.

SUDAN: REFUGEES AS REMITTERS

<http://www.id21.org/society/s10csrlg1.html>

The world's estimated 17 million international refugees are not seen as likely to send remittances, or money, to families back home. However, refugees resident in developed countries do send money, not only to their countries of origin but also to neighbouring countries where family members are at earlier stages of the asylum-seeking process.

UGANDA: ONLY PEACE CAN RESTORE THE CONFIDENCE OF THE DISPLACED

<http://www.refugeelawproject.org/papers/reports/RLP.IDMC.pdf>

In August 2003, the Representative of the United Nations

Secretary-General (RSG) on internally displaced persons (IDPs) undertook an official visit to Uganda in order to "gain a better understanding of the situation of internal displacement in Uganda, with a particular focus on persons displaced by the conflict with the LRA and to explore ways of enhancing the response of the Government of Uganda, UN agencies, NGOs and other actors." The RSG made 26 individual recommendations. This report seeks to follow up on these recommendations and discern the extent to which changes have taken place, whether positively or negatively.

UGANDA: TOO SCARED TO RETURN HOME

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603210147.html>

Wilson Akera hates living in Padibe camp for internally displaced persons because life is generally unbearable but he is even more scared of the prospect of returning home soon as he believes insecurity is still rife in the villages. "We are willing to go home and end this cycle of despair, but we are uncertain of our security," Akera said. "The area a few kilometres out of here is a den of the unknown. Groups of rebels still loiter there." Akera is one of the 1.6 million-plus people who have been displaced by two decades of war between the Ugandan government and the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in northern Uganda.

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13 Elections and Governance

DRC: POLL MAY POSE NIGHTMARE

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4828790.stm>

UN head Kofi Annan has said the Democratic Republic of Congo elections in June will pose "major logistical challenges, if not nightmares". He is visiting DR Congo, where the UN has its largest peacekeeping

mission, ahead of the country's first free elections in 45 years.
He
also welcomed a planned deployment of European Union troops to
act as a
rapid reaction force during the polls. The polls are to end a
power-sharing period after a five-year civil war.

EGYPT: JUDGES PROTEST LACK OF FREEDOM

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20060318/D8GDN7381.html>

Nearly 1,000 Egyptian judges held a half-hour silent protest
Friday
(March 17) to demonstrate for full judicial independence and
against
the government's order to interrogate six of their colleagues who
criticized recent elections. The justices, wearing the red and
green
sashes of their profession, gathered outside their professional
association, the Judges' Club, in downtown Cairo ahead of an
extraordinary general assembly to discuss their grievances.

ETHIOPIA: EU RELEASES FINAL REPORT ON 2005 ELECTIONS

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603200127.html>

The European Union has issued its final report on last May's
elections
in Ethiopia. According to the report, the 2005 parliamentary
elections
were the most competitive elections Ethiopia had experienced,
with an
unprecedented high voter turnout. However, it said, while the
pre-election period saw largely orderly manner, the counting and
aggregation process were marred by irregular practices, confusion
and
lack of transparency. The report noted that subsequent complaints
and
appeals mechanisms did not provide an effective remedy. The human
rights situation rapidly deteriorated in the post-election day
period
when dozens of citizens were killed by the police and thousands
were
arrested, it said.

GABON: OPPOSITION LEADER IN HIDING

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4830432.stm>

Gabon's main opposition leader says he has gone into hiding after government forces raided his party's headquarters. Pierre Mamboundou told the BBC that he was not about to leave the country, but said he was also considering seeking political asylum. He finished second in last November's presidential election, which he claimed was fraudulent. President Omar Bongo, Africa's longest-serving head of state, won with 79.2% of the vote. Mr Mamboundou told the BBC's French service that police had seized documents and computers during the raid on the headquarters of his Gabonese People's Union (UPG) early on Tuesday (March 21) morning.

KENYA: MPS BRACE FOR BATTLE AS PARLIAMENT REOPENS

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603200847.html>

Daggers are drawn ahead of the state reopening of parliament after a five-month recess, one of the longest in Kenya's history. Cabinet ministers and government-friendly MPs dug in to do battle with an opposition that has sworn to scuttle the state agenda in the house. Parliament is deeply divided over corruption - specifically, the Sh7 billion twin Anglo Leasing scandals - the stalled Constitution review, the raid on the Standard Group and presence of alleged mercenaries in the country.

KENYA: NEW PARTY A CLEAR SIGN KIBAKI WANTS TO RUN IN 2007

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603210701.html>

The registration of a new party by politicians close to President Mwai Kibaki has sent a strong signal that he is keen to vie for a second term. However, the setting up of the National Rainbow Coalition-Kenya (Narc-Kenya) has sent mixed signals to coalition partners, Ford-Kenya

and National party of Kenya (NPK), leaving them in a state of political limbo, as they were reportedly not consulted when the plan was mooted. It also casts doubt about a pre-election unwritten agreement within the national Alliance Party of Kenya (NAK), in which Kibaki was to go for a single term and leave the presidential ticket to Ford-Kenya come 2007.

NIGERIA: COUNTRY SHUTS DOWN FOR KEY CENSUS

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4828090.stm>

The streets of Nigeria's main cities are quiet, as people have been told to stay at home and wait to be counted in the first census for 15 years. The headcount is sensitive, as funding and political representation depend on the results but questions of religion and ethnicity have been left out. There is frustration in many places that the process has started slowly. Nigeria's president has stressed that the five-day census is not political and urged people to remain calm. Nigeria is Africa's most populous country but estimates of its population range from 120 to 150 million.

UGANDA: OPPOSITION WITNESSES "HARRASSED"

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603201117.html>

The FDC in Uganda has pleaded with the government to stop its functionaries from harassing witnesses who have sworn affidavits supporting Dr Kizza Besigye's petition against President Museveni's re-election. "Our witnesses particularly the soldiers, are being terrorised and hunted. Those who have sworn affidavits are being harassed yet they are also Ugandans and voters," FDC spokesperson Mr Wafula Oguttu told journalists yesterday at the party's head office in Najjanankumbi, Kampala. "We have chosen legal ways of fighting our political wars and government should not deny us that chance," Oguttu

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=52322>

In 2005 economist Jeffrey Sachs presented an action plan to meet the UN's poverty-slashing Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, which included practical and affordable interventions such as bed-nets to fight malaria, vaccinations to combat infectious diseases, the provision of anti-AIDS drugs, fertilisers to improve crop yields and drilling wells to provide safe drinking water. Sachs, who heads the UN Millennium Project and the Earth Institute, has been criticised for suggesting strategies that have been implemented before and failed. In a wide-ranging interview with IRIN, Sachs defended his plan and provided some details on how the project is going to help poor countries help themselves.

EAST AFRICA: UN REPORT HAILS KENYA, UGANDA WATER INITIATIVES

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603210703.html>

A community revolving fund in Kitale, Kenya, that has assisted hundreds of poor families with money to put up better sanitation, is among unique initiatives in East Africa hailed in a new United Nations global report. Established by an NGO called Practical Action (formerly ITDG) and managed by the Catholic Diocese of Kitale, the fund operates in the Tuwani and Shimo la Tewa slums of the town. It offers loans of between Ksh27,000 (\$342) and Ksh60,000 (\$759) to plot owners, who repay at an annual rate of 12 per cent. This has benefited more than 230 families.

EAST AFRICA: WTO REPORT PAINTS GRIM PICTURE OF JOB LOSSES

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603210695.html>

East African countries will suffer job losses and an increase in poverty under the most plausible outcomes of the current world trade

negotiations, a Washington-based think tank warns in a new report. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace bases its conclusions on sophisticated statistical modelling of likely agreements resulting from the Doha Round of trade talks, which have been underway for the past five years. The central scenario projected in the Carnegie report involves an ambitious expansion of market access for manufactured goods and a more modest expansion of world trade in farm products, accompanied by elimination of subsidies for agricultural exports.

GLOBAL: TRADE RULES A STUMBLING BLOCK TO REALISING THE MDGS

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=32513>

Less than a decade remains for countries to reach the ambitious targets laid out in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) -- agreed on by global leaders at a summit in 2000. The eight MDGs focus on halving the number of people living in extreme hunger and poverty, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and reducing child mortality, all by 2015. They also aim to improve maternal health, combat disease, ensure environmental sustainability and develop partnerships that can tackle issues such as unfair global trade rules, and debt in developing countries. To get a sense of what progress is being made towards achieving the MDGs, Walter Kudzodzi spoke to Tetteh Homeku, director of programmes at the Accra-based Third World Network-Africa (TWN-Africa).

KENYA: WORLD BANK APPROVES SH7BN FOR TRADE

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603201316.html>

The World Bank has approved US\$120.6 million (Sh8.68 billion) aid to Kenya under its trade and transport facilitation project. The project

will fund implementation of the East African Community Customs Union and provide institutional backing for transport. Finance ministry Permanent Secretary Joseph Kinyua said the funding, approved last month, would make it cheaper for businesses to operate in the country through improved transport network and simpler customs procedures. Kenya got the lion's share of the US\$184 million World Bank's kitty for the three East African countries, with Uganda receiving US\$26.4 million and Tanzania US\$37 million.

NIGERIA: OBASANJO IN BATTLE WITH RUSSIA OVER NEPAD

<http://www.tribune.com.ng/120306/news10.htm>

Nigeria and Russia are now pitched in an emotive diplomatic row following a resolve by the Russian government to side track the agenda of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) from the overall programme of G8, ahead of the next G8 meeting to be held in Moscow, Sunday Tribune can report. Russia, the current chairman of G8 has tactically been distancing itself from NEPAD and has been indicating that NEPAD will not form part of issues that the G8 would deliberate upon during its next summer meeting in Moscow, a development said to have angered President Olusegun Obasanjo.

ZAMBIA: GOVERNMENT CAUTIOUS ABOUT SPENDING DEBT SAVINGS

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=52341>

Zambia's coffers are \$150 million richer after having its debts slashed by G8 countries last year, but despite calls for the opening of the spending taps, the government has adopted a prudent approach to poverty alleviation. According to finance minister Ngandu Magande, about 95 percent of the US \$7 billion external debt will disappear by the end of

2006, following Zambia's selection as one of 19 countries to qualify for debt cancellation from the G8 group of rich nations.

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15 Corruption

CAMEROON: BIYA MUST CONFRONT ROOT CAUSES OF CORRUPTION

http://www.postnewsline.com/2006/03/biya_must_confr.html

Ndiva Kofele-Kale, Professor of Public International Law at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, is a leading scholar on the impact of corruption in developing countries. He is also at the forefront of the growing movement to make corruption a human rights violation punishable under international law. In this interview from The Post Online (Cameroon), Professor Kofele-Kale talks about the anti-corruption drive in Cameroon, and the need to establish international mechanisms for dealing with corruption by high-ranking government officials.

CAMEROON: TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTS ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS

<http://admin.corisweb.org/index.php?fuseaction=news.view&id=120379&src=dcn>

A Press Statement by Transparency International has lauded recent moves taken by President Biya to combat embezzlement. The global civil society organisation that is leading the fight against corruption, Transparency International (TI) has qualified recent moves to combat corruption in Cameroon as the steps that will "deter future cases of illicit enrichment in the country".

DRC: COURT FORCES SA MINING TYCOON TO TAKE STAND

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=15&art_id=vn20060320031530504C550361

A controversial South African multimillionaire and convicted fraudster has been ordered to answer questions about his involvement in the shadowy DRC mining industry. And the Pretoria High Court order, which will force Niko Shefer to take the stand, also promises to uncover how figures within the local mining company became embroiled with the Democratic Republic of Congo's state mining company, Gecamines.

KENYA: GITHONGO SAYS IT IS NOT OVER YET

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603201256.html>

Kenya's former ethics permanent secretary John Githongo now says there is more on the Anglo Leasing scandal that is yet to be revealed. "It's not over. It's just starting. Right now about 30 per cent has come out," Mr Githongo said of the mega-corruption scandal that has shaken the Narc Government to its very core, forcing the resignation of two Cabinet ministers. He made the revelation during an interview with The New York Times, which was published on Saturday. In a separate interview with The Guardian, Githongo called on the UK authorities to launch a full investigation into a number of British businessmen, whose multi-million dollar contracts are at the centre of Kenya's latest corruption scandal.

UGANDA: MINISTERS QUIZZED ON GLOBAL FUND MONEY

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603201100.html>

"A heap of garbage," was Justice James Ogoola's description of the accountability rendered for the millions spent by the three ministers of health in purported supervision of Global Fund activities in Uganda. "Utter rubbish," Bank of Uganda Governor Tumusiime Mutebile summed up state minister for general duties Mike Mukula's attempts to exonerate himself from responsibility of accounting for the money. This was a

session of Justice Ogoola's commission of inquiry into the alleged mismanagement of the Global Fund against Aids, Malaria and Tuberculosis, which was thrown into shock by Mukula when he said the money was never misused.

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16 Health and HIV/AIDS

EAST AFRICA: STOCRIN PRICE CUT TO LEAD TO MORE REDUCTIONS

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603210698.html>

The reduction in the price of a key Aids drug, Stocrin, is expected to put pressure on other global multinationals to reduce their medicine prices. UNAids says further reductions are essential to achieving universal access to the life-saving drugs by 2010. The price cut, which was announced recently on the fifth anniversary of the pharmaceutical company Merck Sharp & Dohme's worldwide HIV/Aids pricing policy, will see the price of Stocrin fall by 20 per cent.

ETHIOPIA: H5N1 TEST NEGATIVE, SCARE HURTS ECONOMY

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603200132.html>

The ministry of health in Ethiopia says samples from dead chickens have tested negative for the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, but a nationwide scare about the disease has had an incalculable cost on its economy. Ethiopia sent blood samples from 14 chickens to be tested in Italy after 7,000 died of an unidentified disease in a state-owned farm in southern region. The remaining chickens were incinerated and the government banned movements of poultry products including chickens along a 60-km (38-mile) area surrounding Gubre poultry farm.

GLOBAL: AIDS WILL HIT FIRMS HARDER IN FIVE YEARS

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603201072.html>

The threat of HIV/Aids on the global economy in the next five years is likely to cause severe losses, according to the World Economic Forum Report 2006. Business losses are predicted at 46 percent from 2005 compared to 37 percent as at 2004. "Future concern is rising about the expected impact of HIV/Aids on firms' operations over the next five years," reads in part the World Economic Forum (WEF) Report 2006 titled: Business & HIV/AIDS: A healthier partnership?

KENYA: OPENNESS CHANGES AIDS SUFFERER

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603200564.html>

Amid the din of swinging cranes and the rattle of heavy trucks, Francis Ruwa weaves through the gang of casual workers who are busy offloading cargo from a ship on the quayside at the port of Mombasa. In his hand, he is carrying a bundle of pamphlets which he distributes to his colleagues as he moves on, occasionally making stopovers to exchange greetings and pass on a word of advice. Unless one pays attention, Ruwa could easily be mistaken for a salesman distributing promotional materials but he is on a campaign trail against HIV/Aids which has already claimed hundreds of employees at the prestigious state corporation.

NIGERIA: NIGERIA: 74 ARV TREATMENT CENTERS ESTABLISHED

http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=35949

Seventy-four antiretroviral therapy treatment centers have been established across Nigeria to help provide antiretroviral drugs to HIV-positive people, Health Minister Eytayo Lambo said last Thursday in a statement, AFP/Yahoo! News reports. Nigeria in December 2005 announced it would begin a program that aims to provide antiretroviral drugs at no cost to about 250,000 HIV-positive residents.

SUDAN: MENINGITIS CONFIRMED IN DARFUR IDP CAMP

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603200098.html>

A vaccination campaign against meningitis is expected in western Sudan following the confirmation of an outbreak in Hamadyia camp for internally displaced persons in Zalingier, West Darfur, according to the United Nations World Health Organization. Some 28 cases of meningitis and one death had been reported through an early-warning system by 10 March, WHO said in a statement. The disease had also been reported in other regions of Sudan.

TANZANIA: BARS, SEX TRADE FUELLING HIV SPREAD SAY ZANZIBAR'S MUSLIMS

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603210189.html>

The battle against HIV/AIDS in Zanzibar will not succeed as long as trade in alcohol and commercial sex work continue to thrive on the island, according to Muslim leaders. "Zanzibar would have been free of HIV/AIDS if Muslims stuck to their religious teachings but, mainly, if the government was serious about controlling the spread of pubs, especially in residential areas," said Sheikh Azzan Khalid, deputy leader of the Zanzibar Islamic Propagation Group. "The state television has been a key player in moral decay by showing programmes which promote sex."

THE GAMBIA: TESTING A VACCINE FOR CHILDHOOD PNEUMONIA

<http://www.id21.org/health/h9fc3g1.html>

Almost one in five of child deaths worldwide are caused by pneumonia. A vaccine tested in the Gambia in a study led by the UK Medical Research Council has proven to be effective against pneumonia, thus reducing hospital admissions and increasing survival rates. The researchers

recommend the wider introduction of the vaccine across Africa.

UGANDA: HIV PREVALENCE DROPS TO 6.4%, SURVEY SAYS

http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=36021

Uganda's HIV prevalence has decreased from 6.5% to 6.4%, according to a national AIDS indicator survey, Uganda's New Vision reports. The survey - which was presented on Monday by Wilford Lordson Kirungi, medical epidemiologist for the country's AIDS Control Program - was conducted between 2004 and 2005 and involved 10,437 households chosen at random. The survey finds that HIV prevalence fell in the country, and awareness of modes of transmission increased.

ZIMBABWE: PIT LATRINES A HEALTH HAZARD IN CITIES, WARN EXPERTS

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=52271>

Zimbabwe's local authorities and health experts have warned that the erection of ventilated pit latrines by the small number of beneficiaries of the country's urban renewal housing project could pose a serious health hazard. Government has encouraged the occupants of the 150 new houses hastily constructed after the controversial Operation Murambatsvina (Clean out Garbage), which affected hundreds of thousands of people last year, to build the toilets while they await the installation of formal ablution facilities.

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17 Education

AFRICA: DONORS 'MUST END NEGLECT OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES'

<http://www.scidev.net/News/index.cfm?fuseaction=readNews&itemid=2717&language=1>

International donors should invest more in Africa's universities because of the important role they could play in alleviating poverty, according to a study commissioned by the World Bank. The report, published last month, calls for donors to reverse their neglect of the higher education sector. It says wider access to university education would give many Africans a better life and stimulate economic development.

AFRICA: EDUCATION AT THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

<http://tinyurl.com/p3ogk>

UNESCO and partner NGOs organized two panels on education at the Polycentric World Social Forum in Bamako, Mali, last January. The first workshop focused on the positive links between literacy, HIV prevention education and women's empowerment. The second looked into civil society perspectives on Education for All. Participants underlined civil society's role and responsibility in ensuring that governments respect their commitments to providing education opportunities to their people.

AFRICA: UNESCO AND THE AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT

<http://tinyurl.com/r3cwe>

A second "Decade for Education in Africa" is to be launched in 2006 to push forward the momentum of Education for All on the continent. "I hope that this Decade will allow us to make considerable progress in education, especially pan-African education," says Alpha Oumar Konaré, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union. As a prelude to this Decade, education and culture were high on the agenda for the African Heads of State participating in the 6th African Union Summit in Khartoum, Sudan on 23-24 January.

GLOBAL: CAN THE NUMBERS BE TRUSTED?

<http://tinyurl.com/r7yba>

Nearly one-fifth of the world's adult population - 771 million adults - lack the basic literacy skills vital to improve their livelihoods, according to the EFA Global Monitoring Report released in November 2005. But where does this number come from? Does it include migrant workers, nomads or refugees? And how accurate is it? The Report makes cross-national comparison of literacy using data compiled by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). About two-thirds of the country statistics come from nationally-reported figures based on national censuses or surveys.

KENYA: FINALLY A WOMAN NAMED PUBLIC UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603210852.html>

Prof Olive Mwhiki Mugenda, 52, has been appointed the first woman Vice-Chancellor of a public university in Kenya. Prof Olive Mugenda, the new Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor, addressed the press after her appointment. Mugenda edged out three male professors to clinch the top position at Kenyatta University - one of Kenya's oldest universities - for a five-year term. Formerly in charge of finance and planning, she deputised her predecessor, Prof Everett Standa, who returns to his teaching post at Moi University, after his three-year term ended on Monday.

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18 Racism and xenophobia

GLOBAL: ETHNIC AUDIT OF PRSPS AND THEIR EFFECT ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

<http://digbig.com/4gtbs>

Indigenous and tribal peoples represent about 5 per cent of the world's population, but over 15 per cent of the world's poor. The incidence of extreme poverty is higher among them than among other social groups and they generally benefit much less than others from overall declines in poverty. This paper reports on an ethnic "audit" of 14 PRSPs (poverty reduction strategy papers) in 14 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Its goal is to ascertain whether and how the rights, needs and aspirations of indigenous and tribal peoples have been taken into account and whether they have been involved in the consultations leading to the formation of the PRSPs.

GLOBAL: INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

<http://www.hrea.org/feature-events/id-against-racism.php>

Sometimes, racist people commit acts which are as stupid as they are outrageous. However, violent forms of racism and discrimination is only the tip of the iceberg. Beneath the surface of apparent equality, people belonging to ethnic, religious, sexual or any other minorities, continue to be confronted with various forms of intolerance and discrimination. The vicious circle of popular bigotry and populist politicians finds easy victims in any group of people who fall outside the prejudiced perception of "normality".

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19 Environment

AFRICA: TAKING AIM AT MDG TARGETS

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=32542>

The targets for the seventh United Nations Millennium Development Goal (MDG) sound impressive. This MDG focuses on ensuring environmental

sustainability. Eight goals were adopted by the international community at the UN Millennium Summit, held in 2000, in a bid to raise living standards around the globe by 2015. However, Muna Lakhani, a member of the South-Africa based environmental action group, Earthlife Africa, has concerns about the targets for MDG seven - and indicators used to measure progress towards these targets.

GLOBAL: ACTIVISTS SHARE RESERVATIONS ABOUT GLOBAL WATER FORUM

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=32519>

"Access to water is a basic right": while this is the message voiced by the organisers of the 4th World Water Forum, beginning Thursday (March 16) in Mexico City, civil society activists take a dim view of this international event, as they believe it will promote the privatisation of water resources.

GLOBAL: BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL ALIVE, BUT RESTRICTED

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=32550>

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety "is alive," celebrated the delegates to the Third Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (MOP3), although there were complaints about and criticism of modifications to the final agreement reached Friday night (March 17). "We made important concessions to accommodate legitimate concerns," Brazilian Environment Minister Marina Silva said in her closing speech.

GLOBAL: UN WARNS OF WORST MASS EXTINCTIONS FOR 65M YEARS

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/conservation/story/0,,1735751,00.html>

Humans have provoked the worst spate of extinctions since the dinosaurs

were wiped out 65m years ago, according to a UN report that calls for unprecedented worldwide efforts to address the slide. The report paints a grim picture of life on earth, with declining numbers of plants, animals, insects and birds across the globe, and warns that the current extinction rate is up to 1,000 times faster than in the past. Some 844 animals and plants are known to have disappeared in the last 500 years.

KENYA: MOVE TO SAVE CURATIVE TREE

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603210860.html>

The country is losing tonnes of an indigenous tree species to Europe where it is used in the manufacture of a cancer drug. As a result, conservationists in Tigoni, Kiambu, have launched a campaign to save *Prunus Africana*, locally known as Muiri. Tonnes of the tree's bark are exported to France and other European countries every year for the manufacture of drugs used in the treatment of prostate cancer.

LESOTHO: LOWLAND DISTRICTS FACE WATER SHORTAGES

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=52346>

The Lesotho Highlands scheme supplies South Africa with millions of cubic metres of water per year, while people living in the lowlands of the tiny mountain kingdom struggle to find water for domestic consumption. Young women and children queuing with containers, waiting to draw water from boreholes or public taps, are a common sight in many parts of the country. "Life is difficult because we always have to travel for long distances to get water, and when we finally find a place that has water, there are many people waiting to get a turn," said Makemohele Koetle, from Lithabaneng district, southeast of the capital, Maseru.

TANZANIA: USING THE SUN TO STERILISE WATER

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4786216.stm>

Tanzanian villagers have begun using an energy-saving method to sterilise their drinking water - leaving the water under the sun. The piped water supply to Ndolela village in the central Iringa region is intermittent and even when it does it flow, it is not clean enough to drink. When the pipes run dry, villagers get water from a dirty spring. Mother of five Rose Longwa says the new process has changed her life. "We no longer suffer from stomach illness. That's because the water is clean and safe."

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20 Land and land rights

KENYA: BUILDINGS, BUILDINGS EVERYWHERE AND NOT A DROP TO DRINK

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200603200099.html>

Reports about the housing situation in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, often focus on the lack of proper places to stay - particularly in the massive slum of Kibera, where tens of thousands live in appalling conditions. However, there are also areas of the city where too many residential properties are being built - or at least, being built too quickly. Development here is outstripping the provision of water, electricity and sewerage systems. And the result, greater numbers of people relying on limited infrastructure, is seen as a recipe for disaster.

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21 Media and freedom of expression

DRC: ICC ASKED TO INVESTIGATE 2003 DISAPPEARANCE

<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/73048/>

Reporters Without Borders and its partner organisation
Journaliste en
Danger (JED) have written to the International Criminal Court's
chief
prosecutor asking him to carry out more thorough enquiries into
the
June 2003 disappearance of Agence France-Presse assistant Acquitté
Kisembo. Militia chief Thomas Lubanga, who was arrested on war
crimes
charges and transferred to the ICC on 17 March 2006, is suspected
of
ordering his murder.

SOUTHERN AFRICA: GENDER IMBALANCES IN THE MEDIA NEED TO BE
ADDRESSED

[http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/
78759f22d687e7b2c014224524e776db.htm](http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/78759f22d687e7b2c014224524e776db.htm)

The media should address the gender imbalances in news coverage
and in
the newsroom to draw a larger audience of women, urge activists.
Fewer
women were used as sources in news stories because men shaped
decisions
on coverage in most media organisations, according to a survey of
76
countries, including 13 in Southern African, conducted by various
NGOs
participating in the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP).

TUNISIA: IMPRISONED HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER MOHAMED ABBOU ON HUNGER
STRIKE

Incarcerated since 1 March 2006 for publishing an article on the
Internet , lawyer and human rights defender Mohamed Abbou has
been on
hunger strike since 11 March. He is protesting his prison
conditions
that have worsened since 2 March, when a gathering in front of Kef
prison, where he is detained, took place that was blocked by the
police
and the National Guard.

<http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/media/32940>

25 Fundraising and useful resources

AFRICA: PANOS SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME FOR PRINT MEDIA JOURNALISTS

<http://panoseasternafrica.org.ug/grants.html>

The Panos Global AIDS Programme invites print journalists from Eastern Africa; Western Africa; the Caribbean; South Asia to participate in a small grants programme aimed at raising debate at country level on the progress made by their countries in the attainment of the goals of the Declaration of Commitment agreed upon during the United Nations General Assembly Special Sessions (UNGASS) on HIV/AIDS held in June 2001.

AFRICA: WOMEN'S LAND LINK AFRICA

Women's Land Link Africa, a joint project of the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), the Huairou Commission, FAO, Southern and Eastern Africa and UN HABITAT, was proud to celebrate International Women's Day, 8 March, by launching its website, www.wllaweb.org Although women's rights to land, housing and property are clearly recognized in laws at all levels, practically, there is a discernable gap between theory and practice of these laws.

<http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/fundraising/32930>

GLOBAL: DIGITAL VISION PROGRAMME FELLOWSHIP

<http://rdvp.org/become/>

The Program awards approximately fifteen fellowships each year to exceptional social entrepreneurs and technology professionals from around the world. Successful candidates have innovative ideas and are passionate about implementing a project to empower individuals and communities in the developing world.

SOUTHERN AFRICA: RESEARCH GRANTS ON RESOURCE MOBILISATION FOR EQUITY IN HEALTH

Studies at Benue State University, Makurdi, Nigeria present the international conference "Gender, poverty and environment in Africa: A challenge for African leaders" in Nigeria, 25-29 April 2006.

SOUTHERN AFRICA: SUSTAINING A VIBRANT WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN THE SADC REGION

Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa and the Women in Law in Southern Africa Research Trust

<http://www.osisa.org>

This meeting, held 26-30 March 2006, Mbabane, Swaziland, will explore, in depth, the dwindling vibrancy of the women's movement in the Southern African Development Community and provide a road map towards its reinvigoration. Participants will engage in the situational analysis, examining the causes of the deteriorating vibrancy, proposing strategies and modalities to address this and collectively draw up an action plan with defined roles, responsibilities and timeframe for its implementation.

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27 Jobs

ETHIOPIA: ADVOCACY & LIAISON OFFICER (AFRICAN UNION)

Crisis Group

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=3991&l=1>

The role will be to support the Africa Program in all advocacy activities with the African Union and all the major organisations located in Addis Ababa. Working under the supervision of the Africa Program Director and in coordination with our West, Central, Southern and Horn of Africa Project Directors you will strengthen our advocacy efforts with the African Union.

GAMBIA: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA)

<http://www.africaninstitute.org>

The Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA) is a pan African human rights organization, based in Banjul, the Gambia, established to promote the effective use of African human rights treaties and law to protect rights in Africa. The Executive Director will provide strategic direction and professional leadership, sustaining and building on IHRDA's reputation and unique contribution to the human rights movement in the continent, and developing a strong team of professional and motivated staff.

SOUTH AFRICA: PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS DIVISION

Population Council

<http://www.popcouncil.org/opportunities/05-06.html>

The individual in this position is responsible for implementing operations research activities on HIV/AIDS, with a specific focus on the care and treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS, including linking/integrating the provision of antiretroviral treatment into other HIV/AIDS programs.

UGANDA: PART-TIME LIBRARIAN

Forum for Women in Democracy

http://www.wougnet.org/wo_dir.html#FOWODE

Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) is a non-partisan organization whose mission is to promote gender equality in all decision-making through advocacy, training, research and publishing. A resource center has been in existence at FOWODE since 1998 to facilitate women leaders

at Parliamentary and lower levels. Young leaders and students now can access the library. We are looking for a committed librarian to participate in the on going reorganization of this Library.

WEST AFRICA: GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND YOUTH ADVISOR

The International Rescue Committee (IRC)

http://ircjobs.org/jobs_details1.asp?Job_id=62760&Page_Id=6456&Published=1

The International Rescue Committee currently seeks a GBV and Youth Advisor for its West Africa programs who will report to the Senior GBV TA and will participate in monthly conference calls with the Sr. GBV TA and the Child Youth Protection Development Director.

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