

Local News 26th June 2010

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture marked Saturday

Saturday marked the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The day is observed annually on June 26 to remind people that human torture is not only unacceptable – it is also a crime and also to give everyone a chance to unite and voice their opinions against human torture. Organizations, including the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims and Amnesty International, have played an active role in organizing events around the world to promote the day that includes photo exhibitions; the distribution of posters and other material to boost people's awareness of issues related to human torture; and television advertisements.

The celebrations are an important step in the process of globalizing human rights and acknowledging that torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment should be universally illegal.

The first International Day in Support of Victims of Torture was held on June 26, 1998. This day the United Nations appealed to all governments and members of civil society to take action to defeat torture and torturers everywhere. That same year marked the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaims that “no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”.

Ends...Muhonja Kirwaye

Government told to establish a local tribunal to try post poll perpetrators

Executive Director Centre for Human Rights Ken Wafula has called upon the government to establish a local tribunal to try the perpetrators of the post election violence. Speaking in Eldoret on Saturday while marking the international Day in support of victims of torture, Wafula reiterated that the small offenders might go unpunished since the government has almost forgotten the post poll victims. He also said that the ICC should not delay the prosecution of the key suspects in order to end impunity in the country and the government should chip in and assist the forgotten victims of the post election violence.

Some of the post poll victims whose faces were engulfed by tears and sorrow as they remember the injustices, asked the government to cease the ongoing referendum campaigns instead assist them financially as most were impoverished during the skirmishes. They also revealed that they might not vote in the August referendum fearing the same incident might recur. At the same time, they asked the President and the Prime minister to tour them in their respective camps to restore their hopes in their lives.

Ends.....Stanley Magut.

Terror suspects with fake Kenyan passports arrested

A Pakistani suspect wanted for the 2008 Mumbai attacks has been arrested in Zimbabwe as he tried to cross into World Cup host South Africa using a fake Kenyan passport. Police and state media today said that Imran Muhammad, who is 33, was arrested at the Beitbridge border post

along with another Pakistani national.

Police spokesman Wayne Bvudzijena said the two were arrested on June 20 after they found using fake Kenyan passports. According to unnamed sources quoted by the Zimbabwe's Herald newspaper, Muhammad was normally based in the Chilean capital Santiago. The paper said the two flew from Saudi Arabia to Tanzania where they fraudulently acquired Kenyan passports before travelling to Zimbabwe by road last weekend. Bvudzijena would not comment on why the two were travelling to South Africa. Zimbabwean and South African officials have tightened border patrols since the start of the World Cup which started on June 11 and ends on July 11.

Kenya takes on ICTR over Kabuga

Foreign Affairs Minister Moses Wetangula has accused the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda - ICTR of using Kenya as a scapegoat not to wind up its work in Arusha. Wetangula insisted that Rwandan fugitive Felician Kabuga is not in Kenya. The Minister at a press conference in his office on Saturday said the tribunal was using the issue of Kabuga every time questions were raised over its long duration in arresting all genocide suspects. He said ICTR has always pointed to Kenya as harboring the fugitive, yet there is no evidence to that effect. Wetangula said following his recent meeting with Rwanda President Paul Kagame, he was confident that the fugitive is not in Kenya and could be hiding elsewhere.

The Minister said it could be probable that the fugitive could be hiding in Brussels, Belgium where his family is living and where all his money was wired once his bank accounts in Kenya were closed. Kenya has continuously dismissed claims about the fugitive's presence

Council workers threaten to go on strike

Workers at the Eldoret municipal are threatening to go on strike if the ministry of local government will not release the funds they had agreed on over the employment of workers and 60% salary increment. Eldoret Mayor William Rono said they want the acting officers who have served in the council to be confirmed adding that they will not allow the bringing in of other staff from elsewhere. He said the council has enough money to employ more workers noting that the last time they employed people was in 1999 whereby many have retired and some have transferred.

The agreement was done between government and the Eldoret municipal council last year in November. Mayor Rono was speaking at a welfare party for retirees and transferees organized by the Eldoret council.

End.....Carol Koech

Church Unity and Equality encouraged

The body of Christ has been urged to remain one and obey the command of Christ to love one another during this era where love of one another has diminished. Quoting Ephesians 2:14 Reverent Kibii Maiyo of AIC missionary college in Eldoret said, Christ came and made us one in Him as He is one with the Father. Speaking during the monthly Asian fellowship organized by

Word of Truth Ministries at the WTM ministries held on Saturday, Rev Maiyo urged the participants to show love amongst one to another since Christ is the author of love Reverent Maiyo at the same time challenged Christians to be good ambassadors of Christ in a World full discrimination.

Ends..... Wesonga Job

Regional News June 26th, 2010

Somaliland votes under tight security

The self-proclaimed state of Somaliland closed its borders Saturday as voters chose their president amid fears Islamists from neighboring Somalia could try to disrupt the polls.

The northern territory has been more stable than Somalia since it broke away in 1991 but a message warning voters to stay home by the leader of the Al-Qaeda-inspired Shebab movement drew draconian security measures.

Somaliland, which is more tribally homogenous than the rest of Somalia, has been striving to attain international recognition for almost two decades and many voters saw the election as a fresh opportunity to demonstrate their aspiring state's democratic credentials. In the capital Hargeisa, queues started forming in the middle of the night, hours before polling stations opened.

African Union warns Burundi politicians ahead of vote

The head of the African Union has voiced concerns about conflict in Burundi, ahead of presidential elections on Monday. Jean Ping appealed to political groups to avoid anything that might plunge Burundi back into ethnic violence. The incumbent president, Pierre Nkurunziza, is the only candidate as all opposition candidates have withdrawn, alleging fraud. One of the candidates, a former rebel leader, has also disappeared. The election will be the second major vote since the end of the country's brutal 12-year civil war in which an estimated 300,000 people died.

Both President Nkurunziza and Rwaswa led mainly Hutu rebel groups fighting against the army which was dominated by the Tutsi minority. Rwaswa refused to end the fighting when other warring factions set up a power-sharing government followed by elections in 2005.

Global News

China-Taiwan trade pact sparks street protest in Taipei

Thousands of demonstrators are on the streets of Taipei, venting their anger at a trade deal with China, to be signed on Tuesday. The agreement will cut tariffs on exports and loosen curbs on investment. Supporters say it will boost Taiwan's economy but critics fear it could pave the way for a Chinese takeover of the island. Taiwan and China split after the civil war in 1949 but Beijing still regards the island as a renegade province. Leaders of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party are calling for Taiwan to hold a referendum on the pact, known as the

Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement. Taiwan's government has said the deal is crucial to keep its exports competitive with those of China's other trade partners.

Dick Cheney goes to hospital after feeling ill

Former US Vice-President Dick Cheney was admitted into a Washington hospital for tests after feeling ill, according to a statement issued by his office. The 69-year-old Republican politician has suffered five heart attacks in the past 32 years. Spokesman Peter Long said Mr Cheney is expected to remain at George Washington University Hospital over the weekend. It was not immediately clear if Cheney's visit is related to his previous heart troubles.

Cheney felt ill on Friday and visited his doctor at the hospital, who then advised him to stay for further tests. The former vice-president suffered his last heart attack in February 2010. Cheney was vice-president under George W Bush.

Sports News

King returns to England training

Defender Ledley King played a full part in England training on Saturday after recovering from a groin injury. England boss Fabio Capello was given the boost as all 23 players trained in Rustenburg ahead of Sunday's last-16 game against Germany in Bloemfontein. Capello must decide whether to stick with centre-back pairing John Terry and Matthew Upson or bring in King or Jamie Carragher, who is back from suspension. Wayne Rooney and Aaron Lennon are both fit after recovering from ankle knocks. Rooney was substituted 20 minutes from the end of England's final Group C game against Slovenia with what Capello described as a minor ankle problem.

England trained at their Royal Bafokeng base in Rustenburg on Saturday before flying to Bloemfontein, after Fifa decreed the pitch at the Free State Stadium was not fit enough for both teams to practice on 24 hours before kick-off. King, 29, trained on his own on Friday but, after initially fearing the groin problem could end his World Cup, the Tottenham defender has proven he is fit for selection. After a knee injury ruled captain Rio Ferdinand out of the tournament, Capello started with King and Terry as his centre-back partnership in the 1-1 draw with the United States.

Ghana bring World Cup fans home despite qualifying

About 1,000 Ghanaian fans who were sent to South Africa by the government to cheer the national team have been sent home, despite the team qualifying to the next stage at the World Cup. Fans were sent to cheer the Black Stars at the group stage of the tournament. Some fans have already arrived home, while others are to fly back on the morning of 26 June - the day Ghana play the USA.

The Ghanaian government said the budget did not cover fans staying on. It was imperative for the supporters to be brought back home since government wants to keep within its budget

Ghanian Ministry of Information Ghana's Black Stars snatch victory in defeat. However, many Ghanaians have demanded that the total amount spent on fans who were sent to South Africa be made public, reports the country's Joy Online website.