

Regional News Roundup

KENYA

Breaking language barriers

Many Somalis and Ethiopians living in Nairobi's Eastleigh District, often after fleeing violence or persecution, are unable to speak English or Swahili, which makes everyday existence an uphill struggle. Abshir Hassan Ali, who has been an Eastleigh resident for 20 years, said: "Being a refugee with no knowledge of [local] languages is like being blind. When someone gets sick and is hospitalised he always needs help from someone who knows the language and many fear they will be detained if they go to a hospital." Through language lessons, an international NGO now helps refugees to break the language barrier. Classes are conducted by Kenyan university students who have volunteered to teach during their holiday.

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=88888>

SOMALIA

From refugee camp to university campus

Twenty-two men and six women who spent most of their lives in crowded refugee camps after their families fled violence in Somalia have now won scholarships to study in Canada. "I have waited for this day since 2006 [when he graduated from high school] and it is finally here. My prayers have been answered," said 21-year-old Ahmed Farah Nageye who spent most of his life in Dadaab refugee camp, northern Kenya. The scholarships are being given by the World University Services of Canada working with Windle Trust Kenya, an NGO that helps refugees from East and Horn of Africa access education and training.

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=88953>

Rains displace hundreds in Somaliland

At least 200 families have been displaced and 185 houses destroyed following heavy rains and strong winds, which also killed six people in Hargeise, capital of the semi-autonomous Somaliland region, officials said. Some 2,500 people have been displaced in all, according to the Red Crescent. Officials are worried there could be further displacement in the Dami Dam internally displaced persons settlement in Hargeise, due to continuing rains. According to the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Re-integration, household items, plastic tents and food have been distributed.

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=88944>

SUDAN

Dangerous divisions in Sudan

This month's elections have widened divisions within the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), according to analysts, who warn of risks to a referendum on southern secession, to future relations between two potentially independent states, and to the very stability of Sudan as a whole. The rancour and divisions within the SPLM are growing just as it needs to pull together, the latest Small Arms Survey report warned. The most visible of the fault lines running through the SPLM lies between its northern and southern wings, who, for years have pursued different goals: the northern sector has worked towards an independent south whereas the southern sector worked towards achieving varying degrees of self-determination. Other divisions could arise in the political space within the south. Tensions between the SPLM and former party members who ran as "independent" threaten to boil over.

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=88905>

Bashir wins presidential elections, Kiir confirmed as vice president

Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir has been declared the winner of this month's landmark elections, despite facing war crimes charges over Darfur. Former rebel leader Salva Kiir has been confirmed in power in the semi-autonomous south in the first polls since the north-south war ended. Sudan's election commission said Mr Bashir had received 68 percent of the vote. It also said Mr Kiir, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), had received 93 percent of the southern vote. Meanwhile, nine south Sudanese opposition parties said they would

challenge the election of the region's president and state governors in court, adding they had documented evidence of fraud.

Read more: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8643602.stm>

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKLDE63Q218.CH.2420>

Factbox presidential elections:

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article34901>

UGANDA

LRA: A Regional strategy beyond killing Kony

To make an end of the brutal Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) once and for all, national armies, the UN and civilians need to pool intelligence and coordinate their efforts in new and creative ways. LRA: A Regional Strategy beyond Killing Kony, the latest report from the International Crisis Group, examines how, what was once an insurgency in northern Uganda has become a regional humanitarian and security problem that requires a regional solution. "To put an end to what has become a causeless and homeless rebellion, a new strategy is required that prioritises civilian protection, as well as a united effort among military and civilian actors within and across national boundaries", says Thierry Vircoulon, Crisis Group's Central Africa Project Director. But not even a complete military victory over the LRA would guarantee an end to insecurity in northern Uganda. To do that, the Kampala government must treat the root causes of trouble in the area from which the LRA sprang more than twenty years ago, namely northern perceptions of economic and political marginalisation, and ensure the social rehabilitation of the north.

Full report:

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/africa/horn-of-africa/uganda/157-lra-a-regional-strategy-beyond-killing-kony.aspx>