



[Scientists using technology developed to search for oil have discovered a vast underground water reservoir in one of Kenya's driest regions that if properly managed could supply the country's needs for close to 70 years. The basin has a surface area larger than Suffolk and holds billions of litres of water that add up to close to ten times Kenya's current reserves. Surrounding plains and hills recharge supplies at an annual rate that means the aquifer could potentially fulfil the country's water demands indefinitely.]

BURUNDI :

**Burundi : Un projet de 275.000 Euros en faveur de l'amélioration de l'accès à la justice au niveau communautaire**

( Xinhua )/13.09.2013

L'organisation « International Rescue Committee, IRC » est en train d'exécuter un projet soutenu par les Pays-Bas à raison de 275.000 Euros en faveur de l'amélioration de l'accès à la justice au niveau communautaire, a révélé jeudi à Bujumbura, Mme Alix Arquillière, coordinatrice du programme « Gouvernance et droits » à l'IRC, lors d'une séance de présentation de ce projet.

En effet, ce projet d'une durée de trois ans, va contribuer à informer la communauté notamment les groupes vulnérables sur leurs droits. Des centres d'aide juridiques ont été déjà créés dans deux provinces burundaises d'intervention du projet, a-t-elle précisé.

En outre, d'autres activités menées dans le cadre de ce projet sont notamment la formation des élus locaux et leaders communautaires sur les droits fondamentaux et les techniques de résolution pacifique des conflits, a-t-elle ajouté.

Signalons que l'IRC est une organisation internationale non gouvernementale et non confessionnelle, qui intervient dans le domaine humanitaire et d'aide au développement dans les pays affectés par les conflits.

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

#### Uganda gets oil testing laboratory

Date: Sep 12, 2013/By Joseph Mutebi and Raymond Baguma /newvision.co.ug

The first laboratory in East Africa to test oil and gas bearing reservoirs, as well as determining the quality and quantity of oil and gas, has been set up in Kampala.

The laboratory located on Plot 45A, Lumumba Avenue in upscale Nakasero, is a brainchild of Icon Industrial Services Ltd, a joint venture between local tycoon Godfrey Kirumira and two Dubai-based oil and gas experts Samir Mayas and Saeed Hamid.

According to the online prospectus, the company also has interests in security, hospitality, supply of industrial chemicals, recruitment of skilled personnel in oil and gas, construction of medium to large sized infrastructure projects in the oil and gas industry and industrial supplies such as protective gear.

On Wednesday, state minister for minerals Peter Lokeris commissioned the multimillion dollar laboratory during an event witnessed by several officials from the oil exploration company Tullow Oil.

Minister Lokeris challenged local investors to take advantage of opportunities in the nascent oil and gas sector instead of waiting for foreigners to take all opportunities. He said that the Government does not block local investors from participating in the oil and gas industry.

Lokeris said the laboratory would save the Uganda government of time and money spent in testing oil samples from abroad for testing in mainly Arab countries as well as South America. Also, other East African countries in oil and gas exploration can now test their samples from Uganda.

Kirumira who is the chairperson of local tycoons under the Kwagalana Group urged more Ugandans to take advantage of the prevailing peace and security to invest in Uganda's nascent oil and gas sector. Kirumira owns majority shares in Icon Industrial Services and is already involved in the downstream oil and gas business as the proprietor of Gelp Service Stations.

Kirumira said that US\$3 million has been invested in setting up the laboratory and will employ foreign experts and recently trained Ugandan oil and gas experts. He said that the laboratory has begun work; and a total US\$ 20 million will be invested in Icon Industrial Services Ltd which targets to employ 5,000 Ugandans in the next two years.

This comes after Uganda confirmed commercial oil reserves amounting to 3.5 billion barrels, following exploration in the Lake Albert Basin. The country is nearing the production phase with a 20,000 bpd oil refinery set to be constructed in Hoima.

SOUTH AFRICA :

**ANN7 to Zuma: The South African News Dictionary**  
by Gareth van Onselen/bdlive.co.za/12 septembre 2013

ON TUESDAY, President Jacob Zuma gave a talk to journalism students in Pretoria in which he berated what he saw as South Africa's overly critical and negative media.

"When I am in South Africa, every morning you feel like you must leave this country because the reporting concentrates on the opposite of the positive," he said. Among a great many other things, he argued South Africa should be more like Mexico, where journalists apparently do not report crime because it is seen as unpatriotic to paint the country in a bad light.

Zuma's remarks have a context. The arrival of Africa News Network 7 (ANN7), the disclosure by the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) that it intends to ensure 70% of its news is "good news", and The New Age newspaper's government-friendly approach to reporting suggest a new, increasingly consolidated attitude to "the news".

In light of this, and all the jargon, euphemism and confusion surrounding the debate, clarity is needed on the key ideas that define the discussion. Thus, here follows The South African News Dictionary — your guide to everything you need to know about understanding "good news" from the African National Congress government's perspective.

The South African News Dictionary

ANN7: A TV news station designed to mirror government performance in its reporting — a bit like Eskom pronouncing on infrastructure planning. The results suggest it has been remarkably successful. Just like the national government, it produces a regular stream of gaffes, mistakes and errors. So, mission accomplished. And, just like the government, it has a fragile ego and is not to be ridiculed (though it does a very good job of that itself).

Bad news: Not to be confused with ANN7 reporting, which is bad for a range of other reasons. Rather, news that makes Zuma want to leave the country. Ironically, if he did leave, there are many who would think this "good news", so it suffers some ambivalence.

Cheap political propaganda: The best kind of propaganda because it is affordable and, with the rand plunging, we all need a good bargain. Government adverts are therefore not propaganda — they simply cost so much. Hence The New Age Newspaper is not filled with cheap propaganda.

Good news: Given the close relationship the ANC believes it shares with Jesus, this can be easily

confused with biblical teaching. In fact, it is official-ese for government success. The problem is, there isn't much of it. Certainly it is dwarfed by "bad news" — government failings. To date there has been no mention of "neutral news", so it is a divisive term too: a litmus test for "you are either for us or against us".

Liberal hegemonic agenda: Good news for socialists, who always need something to stage a revolution against, or risk redundancy. But, also, bad news for socialists because it means they have failed in said revolution.

Lies: Good news not about the ANC government, usually involving other political parties.

Nation building: What responsible news agencies do. Quite what kind of nation we are building is never made clear, but we should definitely be building one. Ironically, the opposite (nation damaging?) is a redundant idea, because you would need a nation to damage in the first place, and we are still building one. So, by that logic, every news item is actually nation building.

News: No such thing.

Newsgibberish: What ANN7 produces. It takes news, puts it through a blender and broadcasts the result. Its purpose appears to be to inform through illiteracy, in the interests of nation building. Given our educational crisis, many have taken much solace out of the optimistic perspective it offers: "If you think you've got problems, just take a look at us."

Newsvertorials: News sponsored by government advertisements. Mastered by The New Age. Only the government would be silly enough to invest heavily in a newspaper without readership figures and, much to its credit, The New Age was the first to capitalise on this. Every other newspaper assumed otherwise. They must be kicking themselves.

Out of context: A clever mechanism whereby a qualitative problem can be solved by a quantitative response. In other words, one sentence that is reported as inherently problematic can be drowned out by a raft of supplementary rhetoric from the government, thereby distracting attention from the original concern. Curiously, the "full context" almost always seems to involve an ad hominem attack.

Patriotic news: Not reporting crime. As in Mexico, apparently. Whether this means South African journalists can report on crime in Mexico is unclear. Perhaps the Mexicans can report on our crime and we can report on theirs, thus avoiding upsetting the president. The term is therefore also a euphemism for ignorance. A patriot is ignorant and generally oblivious to any serious problem. Which explains why there are so many patriots in Zuma's Cabinet.

Racist journalism: When the news isn't good, it's generally racist, or so we are told. This is why the best news is a government advert. It is surprising the Government Gazette isn't on sale at your local café.

Responsible journalism: Reporting that does not offend the national government — usually by disproportionately accommodating the official line from its spokespeople. A government spokesman is like the sober person you get to drive you home after a night out. You might be paralytic, but as long as the police talk to the driver, that's irrelevant. "There is no problem here officer, my friend has just had a bit too much to drink."

SABC: Not to be confused with the South African Reserve Bank. The latter has a lot of money. The former does not. However, the two do make a good magic act. The SABC takes money from the

Bank and makes it vanish. Unfortunately, it never makes it reappear again. It is still working on that part of the performance.

Sensationalism: Mad, over-the-top reporting. Like, say, we have run out of electricity, or half of Johannesburg's water leaks away each month, or the state is paying for a tuckshop at the president's private residence, or a private plane lands at a military base for a wedding. Oh, hang on ...

Sunshine journalism: Unrelated to moonshine journalism, which is an altogether different problem. Also, nothing to do with the weather. Rather, it's about the idea that everything is good and we are making great strides as a nation every day. Much like the parking-ticket machine that swallows a R100 note and says: "Have a nice day."

Truth: Sometimes confused with statistics, which are the devil's work. Government statistics, however, are a different matter. When you can get them, these are the truth in its purest form. For example: the expanded definition of unemployment is a lie; the narrow definition is the truth. As for those people without real jobs who fall outside the narrow definition, well, they should read more government adverts and work harder to build the nation.

Zuma: The final arbiter of good and bad news. And he knows what he is talking about. For example: it is bad news to criticise the government but it is good news to criticise journalists for generating bad news, which in itself would be bad news if it wasn't said by Zuma, which makes it good news, even if you think of it as bad. See?

### South Africa union ends building strike with 12 percent wage deal

Fri Sep 13, 2013/Reuters

JOHANNESBURG |

(Reuters) - South Africa's National Union of Mineworkers said on Friday it had agreed to a deal for wage hikes of up to 12 percent with the construction industry, ending a three-week strike.

"This is a major victory for us," union official Issac Ntshangase said in a statement.

The strike in the construction industry, one of several in a number of sectors, had appeared to have a relatively small impact, with many workers refusing to heed union demands to down tools and many building sites remaining active.

Major South African construction firms include Aveng Ltd (AEGJ.J), Murray & Roberts (MURJ.J) and Group Five (GRFJ.J).

Workers in the motor and gold industries have returned to work after strikes that crippled operations at some of the country's biggest producers were resolved last week.

Airline technical workers also returned to work this week, while an ongoing strike by petrol station attendants has caused little disruption so far in Africa's top economy.

With the unemployment rate stuck at about 25 percent for years and poverty gripping millions, many South Africans have said they are more concerned with securing a paycheque than heeding the strike calls of union bosses.

## Benedict Cumberbatch: I Was Once Abducted in South Africa

September 12, 2013/By Joyce Chen/usmagazine.com

Behind his steely exterior, Benedict Cumberbatch is hiding some pretty emotional experiences. The British actor, 37, opened up to The Hollywood Reporter in a recent interview, recalling a terrifying incident that took place eight years ago in South Africa, wherein he and two friends were abducted one late night.

"We were in South Africa, in KwaZulu-Natal, this amazing district north of Durban," he began the story. According to Cumberbatch, he had been in town to shoot the 2005 miniseries *To the Ends of the Earth*. "It was cold, and it was dark. I felt rotten."

What followed would haunt the actor for years to come. Just as they were driving through the "notoriously dangerous" area, the car's front-right tire blew out and the three pals had to unload their entire trunk to get to the spare.

"We were like sitting ducks, adverts for -- not prosperity necessarily but materialism," he continued. Sure enough, a short time later, six men emerged from the dark, demanding that the threesome give up any money or drugs they might have on them.

"And at that point, this adrenaline of fight or flight just exploded in my body," he said. "I was like, 'Oh f---, we're f---ed!'"

After a terrifying ride in the abductors' vehicle -- including some time spent in the trunk of the car -- Cumberbatch said that the men stopped in the middle of nowhere.

"I was scared, really scared," he recalled. "I said: 'What are you going to do with us? Are you going to kill us?' I was really worried that I was going to get raped or molested or just tortured or toyed with in some way, some act of control and savagery."

Fortunately for the actor, the men drove off, and a kind stranger later saved him. "I looked into this black man's face, and I cried with gratitude," he said.

Cumberbatch will next star in *The Fifth Estate*, as Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, whom he communicated with via "email through a friend."

"He was pretty keen for me not to do the film, and the rest is sort of between us, really," he said.

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

## Kenya finds '70 year supply' of water in desert region

By Mike Pflanz, Nairobi/telegraph.co.uk/11 Sep 2013

Scientists using technology developed to search for oil have discovered a vast underground water

reservoir in one of Kenya's driest regions that if properly managed could supply the country's needs for close to 70 years.

The basin has a surface area larger than Suffolk and holds billions of litres of water that add up to close to ten times Kenya's current reserves.

Surrounding plains and hills recharge supplies at an annual rate that means the aquifer could potentially fulfil the country's water demands indefinitely.

Researchers from a French-American firm, Radar Technologies International, worked with the Kenyan government and Unesco to layer satellite, radar and geological maps on top of each other, and then used seismic techniques developed to find oil to identify the reservoir.

It lies in Kenya's extreme northwest, close to its borders with South Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda. The area is sparsely populated and prone to conflict over existing scarce resources.

"It is important to say that these are early estimates, and these resources must be managed well in order that they benefit the people of Kenya," said Mohamed Djelid, Unesco's East Africa director.

"But if all goes well, we can say that this really is a game changer." Close to half of Kenya's 41 million people have no access to clean water, and farmers in arid areas struggle to raise crops without adequate irrigation.

Tapping the new reserves, in the Lotikipi Basin in the Turkana region and other areas nearby, could create vast new zones of farmland in landscapes where today even the hardiest plants struggle to survive.

"The news about these water reserves comes at a time when reliable water supplies are highly needed," said Judi Wakhungu, cabinet secretary at the Kenyan environment, water and natural resources ministry.

"This newly found wealth of water opens a door to a more prosperous future for the people of Turkana and the nation as a whole.

"We must now work to further explore these resources responsibly and safeguard them for future generations." There have been similar announcements of massive new water finds beneath Africa's driest areas in the past.

In 2007, scientists said that they had identified an underground "megalake" in Sudan's war-torn Darfur region that was ten times the size of the Kenyan discovery, but its bounty has yet to be tapped.

"From what I've seen of the figures on the Turkana find, it looks very encouraging," said Brian McSorley, a water expert at Oxfam in Nairobi.

"But knowing there's water there, and then getting it to the surface, are two different things. There will need to be decent follow-up studies and then proper investment to ensure it benefits the poorest people there." The aquifers lie as deep as 1,000 feet, which poses significant technological and cost challenges compared to shallower reserves, Mr McSorley said.

Kenya's government will now carry out further drilling in areas surrounding the sites where the new water supplies were first drawn to the surface, to gather more data on their true extent.

The land that lies above is among the most hostile in Kenya. There are few roads or electricity supplies, and the Turkana, Samburu and Pokot tribes that live there are regularly at war with each other.

The border area between Kenya, South Sudan and Ethiopia, known as the Ilemi Triangle, has never been officially delineated.

Constructing, fuelling and maintaining boreholes, and building pipelines to bring the water supplies to remote communities, will also pose significant difficulties.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

**En Égypte, l'état d'urgence prolongé de deux mois**

Par RFI/vendredi 13 septembre 2013

Adly Mansour, le président par intérim a prolongé de deux mois l'état d'urgence dans le pays. Le couvre-feu qui concerne la moitié des provinces d'Égypte a par contre été allégé et ne dure plus que cinq heures par jour. L'état d'urgence et le couvre-feu avaient été promulgués le 14 août en prévision des violentes réactions qui pourraient suivre la dispersion sanglante des sit-in des Frères musulmans au Caire.

Avec notre correspondant au Caire, Alexandre Buccianti

La prolongation de l'état d'urgence intervient après une série d'attentats ou de tentatives d'attentat. Le 5 septembre le ministre de l'Intérieur avait échappé à une explosion de forte amplitude qui visait son convoi et qui a fait un mort et une vingtaine de blessés. Les démineurs ont, par ailleurs, désamorcé plusieurs bombes dont une sur les rails du chemin de fer de Suez.

Un couvre-feu réduit

Le 11 septembre, des jihadistes kamikazes ont attaqué à la voiture piégée un barrage de l'armée et le siège des renseignements militaires à Rafah, près de la frontière avec Gaza, faisant 6 morts et 17 blessés. Le pouvoir intérimaire a par contre été obligé d'alléger le couvre-feu pour des raisons économiques et surtout à cause de la rentrée des classes prévue le 21 septembre. Le couvre-feu ne dure plus que de minuit à cinq heures du matin.

Depuis le 14 août, près de deux mille Frères musulmans, dont les plus hauts dirigeants de la Confrérie, ont été arrêtés suite à des mandats du parquet ou en vertu de la loi de l'état d'urgence.

**Al-Amriki and al-Britani: Militants 'killed' in Somalia**

12 September 2013/bbc.co.uk



Two top Islamist militants, from the US and UK, have been killed in Somalia after falling out with al-Shabab, witnesses have told the BBC.

Omar Hammami, known as al-Amriki, and Osama al-Britani, a British citizen of Pakistani origin, are said to have died in an early-morning attack in a village south-west of the capital, Mogadishu.

They had been hiding from al-Shabab since leaving the group this year.

There have been several previous reports of al-Amriki's death.

In March, the US State Department offered a \$5m (£3.1m) reward for any information leading to the capture or conviction of al-Amriki.  
'Quick-witted'

One of al-Amriki's fighters told the BBC that they had been overpowered by the al-Shabab attack in a village near the town of Dinsor.

He said al-Shabab had taken away the bodies of the two Westerners.

Another of their allies, Khadap al-Masari, from Egypt, surrendered, the fighter said.

Local residents confirmed the deaths, as did a senior source within al-Shabab.

"There was a gun battle between al-Amriki and his men and other fighters," Moalim Ali, a resident in Bardhere village, told the AFP news agency.

Another resident, Mohamed Wardhere, said: "Al-Amriki and two other fighters, one of them a foreigner, have been killed near Bardhere."

The two men were allies of veteran Somali Islamist, Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, who split from al-Shabab in June.

He is currently in the custody of the UN-backed government.

BBC Somali analyst Mohamed Mohamed says al-Shabab has been hunting down and killing allies of Mr Aweys since the split.

Mr Aweys is seen as less hardline than al-Shabab leader Ahmed Abdi Godane, who also has a more international agenda.

Al-Amriki was known for rapping jihadist songs which were loaded onto YouTube.

He grew up in the town of Daphne in the state of Alabama, where friends said he was popular at school, quick-witted, charismatic and elected president of his school year.

According to his schoolfriend, James Culveyhouse, his father is a Sunni Muslim from Syria and his mother a Southern Baptist Christian.

Mr Culveyhouse told the BBC in 2011 that al-Amriki's radicalisation started after a visit to Syria as a teenager.

Over the years he became an adherent of stricter and stricter Islam - turning far more orthodox than

his father.

He moved to Somalia in 2006 and joined al-Shabab, becoming one of the group's senior officials.  
Back on Twitter

Little is known about al-Britani.

UK officials say they have been aware of the Briton's presence in Somalia for some time but would not confirm either his death or his real name.

BBC Security correspondent Frank Gardner says there have been fears that British jihadists heading to Somalia would return to the UK to carry out attacks but officials say their numbers are now dwarfed by those going to fight in Syria.

The news of the killings of the foreign militants in Somalia comes a day after a group of 160 leading Islamic scholars issued a fatwa denouncing al-Shabab, saying the group had no place in Islam.

Nairobi-based Somali analyst Mohamed Abdullahi told the BBC's Newsday programme that the fatwa, issued by so many prominent scholars, is likely to sway opinions on the ground, but is unlikely to change the path of those in the group's top leadership.

"[It says] you cannot give them sanctuary, you cannot support them, you have to report their presence and you have to assist international security agencies so the fatwa includes a security element of community policing against al-Shabab," he said.

But it should be coupled with other efforts to win the hearts and minds of people on the ground, he added.

"There must be another parallel programme to ensure that those young men who joined for economic reasons, for instance, are provided with employment or opportunities."

The edict was announced at the end of a conference on tackling extremism organised by the government of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.

He took office a year ago, vowing to end two decades of fighting in the country.

Last week, al-Shabab's Twitter account was suspended for a second time after claiming on its feed that it had ambushed the convoy of the president, who was unhurt.

It has since set up a new account.

Pro-government forces have pushed al-Shabab out of several key cities but the group still controls many smaller towns and rural areas.

**Birth in west, central Africa 'challenge'**

AAP/heraldsun.com.au/September 13, 2013

WEST and Central Africa have the world's highest mortality rate for children under the age of five, the UN children's fund, UNICEF says.

One out of eight children under five die in the region, according to the report. That's almost a third of the 6.6 million children under five who died worldwide in 2012.

"It's a challenge for a child to be born in West or Central Africa. Its chances of survival are much lower than anywhere else in the world," Guido Borghese, UNICEF regional adviser on child survival and development told dpa via telephone from Dakar, Senegal.

The region has made the least progress on child survival in the past two decades, compared to other parts of the world.

Pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria are the leading causes of death, followed by malnutrition, according to UNICEF.

A high number of deaths was also reported in the first month of life, due to lack of health services, infrastructure and trained staff.

A combination of political instability, high population growth and natural disasters were the key reasons for high child mortality rates in West and Central Africa, Borghese explained.

"The population is unable to absorb the shock of these situations," said Borghese.

"In Mali, for example, the national health system has been affected by (18 months of political) crisis. We expect child mortality figures to increase due to the conflict," he said.

#### **Africa: Halt ICC Cases, Give Kenyan Leaders Leeway - AU**

By Wambui Ndonga/Capital FM (Nairobi)/12 September 2013

Nairobi — The African Union (AU) now wants the International Criminal Court (ICC) cases against President Uhuru Kenyatta, his Deputy William Ruto and journalist Joshua arap Sang stopped until its application to have the cases brought back home is heard and determined.

The AU also wants the two Kenyan leaders allowed to choose which sessions they would like to attend owing to their constitutional responsibilities.

In a letter written to the ICC and copied to the United Nations Security Council on September 10, the AU argued that the court should first determine the referral application before commencing the cases.

"In addition, the prosecution has ignored several procedural requirements having the effect of eroding the principles on natural justice. The court's attention has been drawn to this aspect on two occasions by its own judges," read the letter signed by AU Chairperson Hailemariam Desalegn and by AU Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

"This leaves the African Union with no option but to ask that until the request of the AU is considered and clearly responded to, the cases should not proceed."

The letter further made reference to an appeal that has been filed by ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda against allowing Ruto to attend part sessions arguing that the judges should not have forced the Deputy President to attend all the sessions before the appeal was determined.

"The Trial Chamber in its earlier decision had taken cognisance of the Deputy President's

constitutional responsibilities on which basis the court permitted him to attend only some sessions. On these grounds the court should have upheld its decision pending the determination of the Prosecutor's appeal," the letter goes on.

The AU also cited two high level security meetings slated for this month that Kenyatta would be unable to attend as a result of the ICC trial against Ruto.

"These meetings include the United Nations General Assembly High Level Segment scheduled for September 23 to 27 and the European Union facilitated conference scheduled for September 16 in Brussels," read the letter.

"Participation in both conferences at the highest level is critical for Kenya in its trajectory and efforts towards peace and security both at the national and regional levels."

The AU added that the trials would undermine Kenya's role in the international arena insisting that they should not infringe on the responsibilities of the two Kenyan leaders.

"While Kenya has always cooperated and reiterated its commitment to continue cooperating with the court, it must do so in the context of its own constitutional requirements," argued the AU.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

### Somalia's al-Shabaab kills US fighter

12 Sep 2013 /aljazeera.com

Omar Hammami, known as al-Amriki or The American, killed in an ambush after falling out with group's leader.

An American from Alabama who ascended the ranks of Somalia's al-Shabaab armed group high enough to attract a \$5 million US government bounty has been killed in an ambush ordered by the group's leader, witnesses said.

Residents in al Baate village in southern Somalia said Omar Hammami, commonly known as Abu Mansoor al-Amriki or 'the American', and a British national known as Usama al-Britani, were shot dead in a dawn raid on their hideout.

Hammami's killing exposed widening rifts in al-Shabaab's top ranks as the group affiliated to al-Qaeda grapples with an African Union-led military offensive that has captured key cities from it, depriving the group of revenues.

"This morning al-Amriki and his comrades were attacked by well-armed fighters," said village resident Hussein Nur on Thursday.

"After a brief fight al-Amriki and his two colleagues were killed. Several of their guards escaped."

A second villager confirmed the gun battle and said he had heard al-Shabaab fighters confirm the deaths, though he had not seen the bodies.

Hammami is believed to have arrived in Somalia aged 22 in late 2006, shortly before a US-backed Ethiopian military incursion into the Horn of Africa country to rout an Islamist administration that had dislodged the government.

YouTube rap videos

Fluent in Somali, Hammami swiftly became an influential leader of al-Shabaab's foreign fighters, battling to topple a government seen as a Western puppet and impose a strict interpretation of Sharia law on Somalia.

He gained fame for posting YouTube videos of English-language rap songs he hoped could recruit young fighters.

He first expressed fear for his life in a web video in March 2012 that publicised his rift with al-Shabaab. He said he received another death threat earlier this year that was not carried out.

"Just been shot in neck by Shabab assassin. not critical yet," Hammami tweeted in April.

He later wrote on Twitter that the leader of al-Shabaab was sending in forces from multiple directions.

Hammami had been a thorn in the side of al-Shabaab after accusing the group's leaders of living extravagant lifestyles with the taxes fighters collect from Somali residents.

Another Hammami grievance was that the Somali leaders had sidelined foreign members of al-Shabaab.

Hammami was added to the FBI's Most Wanted Terror list in November 2012 and a \$5m bounty was offered for information leading to his capture.

CANADA /AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU /AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

### Why China is making a big play to control Africa's media

GEOFFREY YORK/The Globe and Mail/Thursday, Sep. 12 2013

NAIROBI —

When one of South Africa's biggest newspaper chains was sold last month, an odd name was buried in the list of new owners: China International Television Corp.

A major stake in a South African newspaper group might seem an unusual acquisition for Chinese state television, but it was no mystery to anyone who has watched the rapid expansion of China's media empire across Africa.

From newspapers and magazines to satellite television and radio stations, China is investing heavily in African media. It's part of a long-term campaign to bolster Beijing's "soft power" – not just through diplomacy, but also through foreign aid, business links, scholarships, training programs, academic institutes and the media.

Its investments have allowed China to promote its own media agenda in Africa, using a formula of upbeat business and cultural stories and a deferential pro-government tone, while ignoring human-rights issues and the backlash against China's own growing power.

The formula is a familiar one used widely in China's domestic media. It leads to a tightly controlled pro-China message, according to journalists and ex-journalists at the Africa branch of CCTV, the Chinese state television monopoly that owns China International Television and launched a new headquarters in Nairobi last year.

"It was 'our way or the highway,'" recalls a journalist who worked in Ethiopia for CCTV. He said he was ordered to focus primarily on diplomatic negotiations over Sudan, with his bosses citing "China's interest in the region" – a reference to China's state oil companies and their heavy investments in Sudan.

Other CCTV Africa journalists say they were told to provide positive news on China, to omit negative words such as "regime," and to ignore countries such as Swaziland that have diplomatic relations with Taiwan. Chinese demand for ivory could not be mentioned in stories about Africa's poaching crisis, one journalist said. Another recalled how human-rights questions had to be avoided in an interview with an authoritarian African leader. "I knew it would be cut out of my story, so I self-censored," he said.

The journalists asked not to be named for fear of repercussions.

If there is an "information war" between China and the United States on an African battleground, as former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton suggested at a Congressional committee hearing in 2011, it appears that China is beginning to win the war.

In South Africa, Chinese investors have teamed up with allies of the ruling African National Congress to purchase Independent News and Media, one of the most powerful media groups in the country, which owns daily newspapers in all of the major cities.

The deal was spearheaded by Iqbal Surve, a businessman with close African National Congress connections who says he wants the media to report more "positive aspects" of the country.

Financing was provided by state investment groups from China and South Africa, along with Mr. Surve's consortium. Top leaders of the ANC helped put together the Chinese investors with Mr. Surve's group, analysts said.

Under the deal, China International Television and the China-Africa Development Fund, both controlled by Beijing, will end up with 20 per cent of the newspaper chain – a stake that will allow them to materially influence the company, according to South Africa's Competition Commission.

Even though South Africa's feisty journalists will push back against any attempt to censor them, China is still likely to end up with more power to shape the media in Africa's wealthiest country.

"I do not think the Chinese authorities will crudely impose their views on our media, as they do on much of their own, but I do think that they are likely to try and influence it for a more sympathetic view of themselves and the ANC government," said Anton Harber, a journalism professor at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa, who has reported extensively on the Chinese investments.

"It is my view that the ANC is working with their Chinese allies – ruling party to ruling party, in the way the Chinese government so often works – to increase their influence in our local media and counter what they view as a hostile media sector."

Meanwhile, other Chinese media investors are gaining a bigger foothold across Africa. A Chinese company, StarTimes, purchased a controlling stake in South African satellite television provider TopTV this year, adding to its presence in 13 other African countries. The state-run radio broadcaster, China Radio International, has FM stations in three East African cities, while its AM channel covers all of Kenya.

China's leading English-language state newspaper, China Daily, created an Africa edition last December, published in Nairobi and distributed on Kenya Airways flights and other venues. China has also launched a monthly magazine, ChinAfrica, based in Johannesburg.

China's state news agency, Xinhua, has nearly 30 bureaus in Africa, along with its own television channel. It provides news bulletins for 17-million Kenyan cellphones, while CCTV provides a mobile TV service called I Love Africa. African journalists and press officers are often invited on all-expenses-paid "training" sessions in Beijing, as part of Chinese aid programs that give short-term training to 30,000 Africans and full university scholarships to another 18,000.

In Zimbabwe, CCTV provided new equipment for the state television monopoly, allowing it to broadcast President Robert Mugabe's campaign rallies for many hours during the July election campaign. China also supplied giant television screens for Zimbabwe's main cities, so that government information could be broadcast on the streets.

The centrepiece of China's media empire is its new CCTV hub in Nairobi and its flagship show, Africa Live. With its staff of about 100 people (about 40 of whom are Chinese), and correspondents in 14 bureaus, the show is intended to compete with BBC and CNN.

Top executives of CCTV in Nairobi declined requests for an interview. But speaking on condition of anonymity, their journalists said the Africa headquarters is extremely well-financed, with state-of-the-art equipment and salaries double the Kenyan norm.

Its content, however, is often simplistic and condescending. It produced a documentary, for example, called Glamorous Kenya that portrayed the country as "a land of mystery" and "kingdom

of animals.” It gives consistently glowing coverage of Chinese trade and aid in Africa, including frequent stories about the two dozen Confucius Institutes that provide Chinese language training across Africa.

News scripts are carefully vetted by Chinese editors, the journalists say, and there are instructions to avoid any negative coverage of Chinese leaders at summits. Some journalists are docked pay if their reports are considered “poor.”

When a CCTV reporter quoted Zambian mine workers who were angry at their Chinese employer, his story was shelved. And when Muslims protested against the Ethiopian government, the CCTV correspondent wondered whether to cover the street protests. His bosses swiftly vetoed it. “No religion,” they said.

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