

With compliments of
WESTERN UNION
MONEY TRANSFER

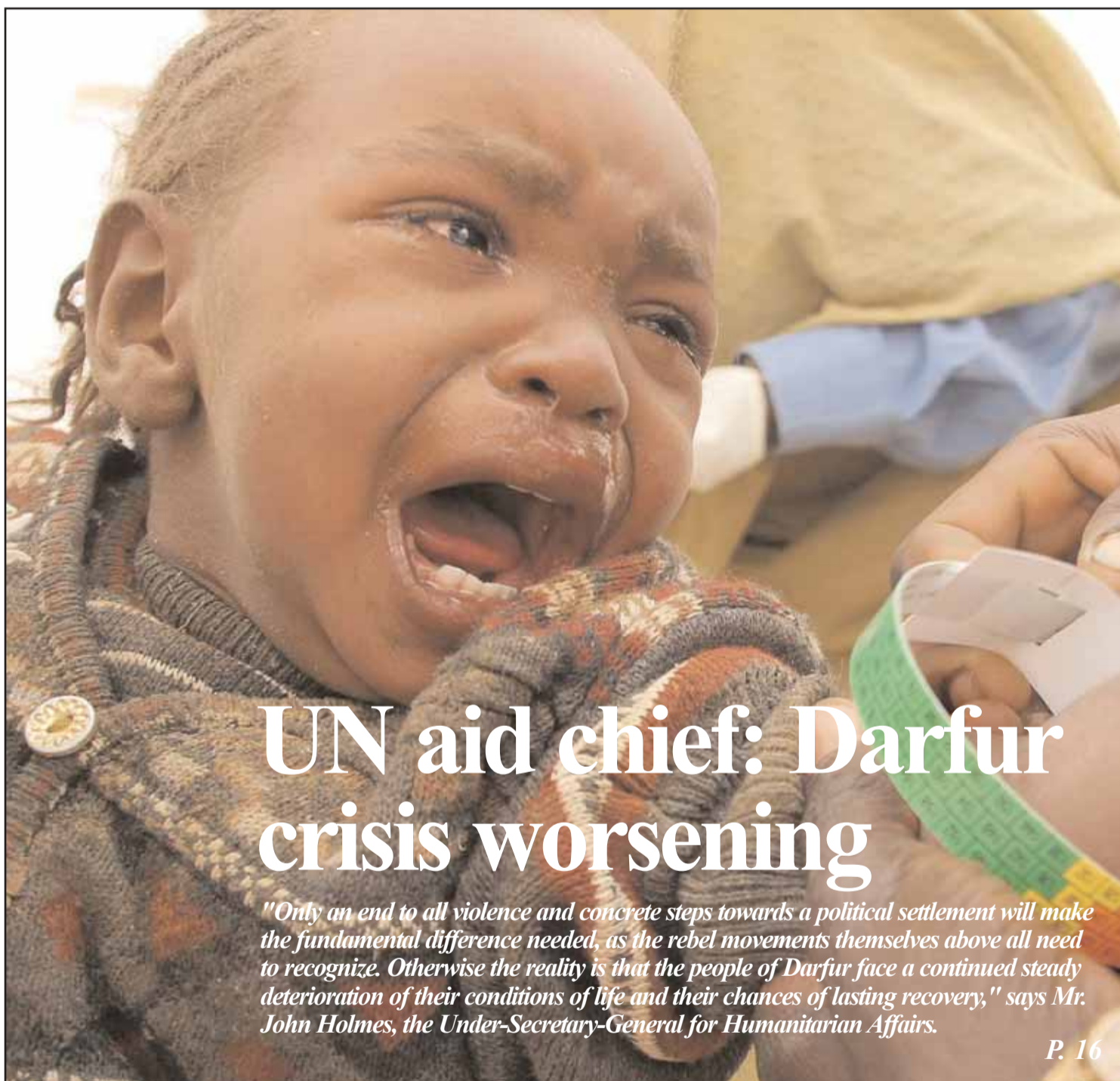
MY OWN CALLS
call Africa from 3p/minute!
from a landline, mobile or payphone

MAY 2008 | MONTHLY NEWSPAPER FOR AFRICAN COMMUNITIES IN UK AND EUROPE | PRICE € 1,00 | THE PRESS
Phone: +390687410531 | Fax: +390687410528 | Email: africanews@etnomedia.org | MY OWN MEDIA Ltd Press: Tel/Fax +44(0)207263 3774 | Email: info@myownmedia.co.uk

Survey: 31% of employers worldwide struggling to find qualified candidates

Carpenters, welders, plumbers needed in Europe

P. 3



© AP PHOTO

UN aid chief: Darfur crisis worsening

"Only an end to all violence and concrete steps towards a political settlement will make the fundamental difference needed, as the rebel movements themselves above all need to recognize. Otherwise the reality is that the people of Darfur face a continued steady deterioration of their conditions of life and their chances of lasting recovery," says Mr. John Holmes, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.

P. 16

IMMIGRATION NEWS

Skilled migrants win right to stay in UK

Judge: Retrospective changes to Highly Skilled Migration Programme unfair

P. 2

THE GUIDE

How to write a Curriculum Vitae

P. 6

How to write a Cover Letter

P. 7

COMMUNITY

Save sickle cell sufferer from deportation to Cameroon

P. 9



**BECOME A
WESTERN
UNION
SUB AGENT**

- No setup costs
- free signage and pos
- high commission

£ attract new customers
££ increase your profits
£££ benefit your core busines

**WESTERN
UNION**

Call
0207 170 7406





MYOWNCALLS

Phone home in Africa
for as low as
3p/minute!

from a landline,
mobile or payphone

No pre-paid card
No account to open
No contract
No hidden charges
No charge of service provider

...No hassles

Just 3 simple steps!

1 choose your destination

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| ■ Nigeria 6p | ■ South Africa cellular 8p | ■ Kenya cellular 8p |
| ■ Nigeria cellular 8p | ■ Ghana 5p | ■ Zimbabwe 4p |
| ■ Nigeria, Lagos 7p | ■ Ghana cellular 10p | ■ Zimbabwe cellular 10p |
| ■ Nigeria, Lagos Sp. Servi. 3p | ■ Kenya 7p | ■ Zambia 3p |
| ■ South Africa 4p | ■ Kenya, Nairobi 4p | ■ Zambia cellular 7p |

2 select the relevant access number

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| ■ 3p
08449672003 | ■ 5p
08448805225 | ■ 7p
08714101003 | ■ 10p
08712551002 |
| ■ 4p
08442573003 | ■ 6p
08715116004 | ■ 8p
08714021003 | |

3 dial the access number then the number you want to call

All 0844, 0871 and 0911 rates are quoted when using a BT landline. Your service provider will bill you in the normal way for all 0844, 0871 and 0911 calls. If you are using a non BT line to make calls, please check with your service provider as to how much you will be charged for dialling any of our access numbers. For the cost of calling from your mobile please check with your network operator.

Survey: 31% of employers worldwide struggling to find qualified candidates

Carpenters, welders, plumbers needed in Europe

A worldwide survey shows that 31 percent of employers are finding it more difficult to fill jobs. The top three candidates most in-demand are: skilled manual trades, sales representatives and technicians (which are technical workers in the areas of production/operations, engineering and maintenance).

Manpower surveyed nearly 43,000 employers across 32 countries and territories as a follow-up to its 2007 and 2006 surveys to determine which positions employers are having difficulty filling this year due to lack of available talent.

"This year, the most significant finding in our survey is that the percentage of employers in the Americas having trouble filling positions has dropped more than

half compared to last year," said Jeffrey A. Joerres, Chairman and CEO of Manpower Inc. "This dramatic decrease is a reflection of the recent downturn in the U.S. economy. However, the talent crunch is still a very real concern, and employers need to continue their diligence in developing their employer brands and honing their talent strategies during 2008."

"Globally, skilled manual trades edged out sales representatives for the number one hardest job to fill this year. Trades jobs, such as plumbers and carpenters, are now in even shorter supply than last year -- a talent demand that is crossing borders, as well as continents; and companies worldwide continue to search for experienced sales professionals to help generate revenue," Joerres added.

The survey revealed an increase in employer demand for IT staff as these jobs have resurfaced on the list of the Top 10 most difficult to fill jobs, after falling off in 2007. This is also the case for administrative assistants and management/executives. Skilled manual trades topped the list this year, surpassing sales representatives, which were ranked the number one hottest job last year.

"Once again this year, we see managers and executives climb higher on the Top 10 most difficult jobs to fill list globally. Finding skilled and experienced management is always a struggle. This is especially evident in China, where managers and executives are tied with sales representatives for the second most difficult jobs to fill," Joerres said.

The survey shows that Europe is the best place to be for workers in the skilled manual trades, such as carpentry, welding and plumbing. These positions are ranked as the first or second-most difficult jobs to fill in all of the countries surveyed in the region, excluding the Netherlands, where technicians are in high demand. Drivers have entered the top three most difficult jobs to fill for the first time in Europe this year, while chefs and cooks have dropped off the top 10 hardest positions to fill for the first time since the survey began.

"There is no magic formula: employers and governments must continue to look for new ways of, recruiting, training, managing and retaining their current employees.



Strategic measures to encourage older workers to stay in the workforce must be put in place, inward migration to talent-poor areas must be facilitated and those who are

currently economically inactive must be encouraged to re-engage with the workforce," concluded Joerres.

UK employers face skills shortage

One in eight employers in the UK is having problems recruiting suitably qualified staff, the third Manpower Annual Talent Shortage Survey reveals.

A survey of 2,100 employers showed that labourers, chefs and cooks are among the most sought-after workers, as well as skilled manual staff. Skilled Manual Trades (primarily welders, carpenters, and plumbers) top the poll the second year in a row. IT staff, Nurses and Drivers are also among Top 10 sought-after workers. Accounting & Finance staff have not made it to the Top 10 this year.

Commenting on the report, Mark Cahill, Managing Director of Manpower UK, said: "With reports of economic uncertainty, employees are

not as keen to move jobs meaning employers are not faced with the same challenges of filling vacancies they were when the survey began two years ago. Employers are also focusing on making the most of the capacity of their existing workforce before they hire new people," onrec.com news reported.

Cahill observed that: "Skills shortages may be easing but are still prevalent across many different sectors and for a variety of roles. In this situation, employers need to keep focusing on developing their employer brands and retention strategies throughout the year."

"There is growing uncertainty about jobs in the Finance sector, and the City in particular, with redundancies being made. With a growth in the number of job seekers and

more caution being taken about hiring decisions, these positions are no longer in as much demand as in previous years."

Some of the recommendations Manpower makes to address the continuing skills shortage include a flexible approach to recruitment by employers by for instance, using temporary staff to meet short-term needs or looking to older workers and mothers returning to work or looking to staff from outside the UK.

"UK employers have benefited from migrant labour to fill roles in a range of industries including skilled trades, labourers and the hospitality industry. The reported decline in immigration may be adding to the shortages in these sectors," Cahill said.

er will follow new legislation presented to the House in the autumn.

The UKBA will link with the 3,000 police stationed at ports and airports following a new agreement with the Association of Chief Police Officers. Talks are continuing on closer integration.

Announcing the launch of the Agency, Home Secretary Jacqui Smith said: "The UK Border Agency will help strengthen protection of our border. With tough customs, immigration and police-like powers UKBA officers will be better equipped than ever to guard our ports and airports, protecting the country from illegal immigration, organised crime and terrorism."

She said the 25,000 strong force will work both at home and abroad to tackle smuggling of people and goods into Britain using intelligence, new technology and wide-ranging powers. "I am confident it will help strengthen policing at the border," she

said. "Already taxpayers can see our investment in new technology paying off and creating a ring of security around Britain. Fingerprints are now being taken from all visa applicants to the UK, this year we will increase police, customs and immigration checks against visitors travelling through our ports, and we will see the roll-out of ID cards for foreign national from November," Ms. Smith said.

The new agency has a target of expelling 5,000 foreign national prisoners from Britain this year, up from 4,200 last year. It will also have to sustain last year's increase in the seizure of class A drugs by seizing at least 2,400 kilograms of cocaine and 550 kilograms of heroin by April 2009 and increase by 50 per cent the number of asylum cases concluded in less than six months.

Another target of the new agency is to extend the UK's visas regime to cover a larger proportion of the world's population; and

increase detention capacity by 20 per cent over the next two years to help increase the number of immigration offenders that can be removed from the country.

The Rt Hon Jane Kennedy MP, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said: "The new Borders Agency will provide a crucial service to the UK. It will protect tax revenues and assist international trade and the passage of essential goods at the frontier."

The new agency will create a single border intelligence service to bring together overseas risk assessment units, airline liaison officers and customs and immigration intelligence officers based around the globe. This will work together with a new £1bn screening system for travellers to the UK. A trial of this system has already led to more than 1,000 alerts and 200 arrests.

Britain's new Unified Border Agency launched

UK's borders are now controlled by a new agency bringing together the border, immigration, customs and visa checks.

The new UK Border Agency (UKBA), established as a shadow agency of the Home Office, will protect the country's borders, control migration for the benefit of the country, prevent border tax fraud, smuggling and immigration crime and implement quick and fair decisions, the Home Office said.

The organisation has a staff of 25,000, including more than 9,000 warranted officers operating in local communities, at the border and across 135 countries worldwide, with wide ranging search, seizure and detention powers.

The Home Office said that over the next four months 1,000 frontline staff will be conferred with both immigration and customs powers and staff in England and Wales will be equipped with police-like powers as set out in the UK Borders Act 2007. A full merg-

Skilled migrants win right to stay in UK

Judge: Retrospective changes to Highly Skilled Migration Programme unfair

Britain has decided to allow thousands of highly-skilled immigrants remain in the country after a High Court judge ruled that government immigration rule changes were unlawful and an abuse of power.

The Home Office said it will not appeal the High Court ruling that its attempt to backdate changes to immigration rules for highly-skilled individuals was illegal. "We are happy to take the judge's decision as final and do not intend to waste taxpayers money with an appeal," Lin Homer, Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency, said in a

communication to the Highly Skilled Migrants Programme (HSMP) Forum's Executive Director Amit Kapadia.

"We are now urgently considering how to give effect to the judgement and will let you know the details as soon as we can," he said.

Sir George Newman, a High Court judge, said the new rules were unfair to those already admitted to Britain under the programme and that there was "no good reason why those already on the scheme shall not enjoy the benefits of it as originally offered to them," Times reported. He added: "Good administration and straightforward dealing with the public require it. Not to restrain the impact of the changes would, in my judgment, give rise to conspicuous unfairness and an abuse of power."

Kapadia of the HSMP Forum said "The immigration department was obsessed with defending their decision and were not open to any reasoning. We had no other recourse but to approach the judiciary and we are glad that our trust in the democratic system has been finally restored." The Guardian reported.

HSMP Forum challenged the government's decision to change the rules for highly skilled immigrants. The retrospective changes to the HSMP in 2006 would have forced several thousands of non-EU migrants out of the UK.

In challenging the government's decision in the High Court, the HSMP Forum said that 90%, that is some 44,000 people - who entered under the HSMP no longer qualified.

"The Government has finally realised that it should not be moving the goal posts mid-game. People who had uprooted their lives to come here on the basis of one set of immigration rules should not find them changed upon arrival. Forcing the migrants to bring this case to court in the first place was both morally wrong and a waste of court time and taxpayers' money."

**Mr. Chris Huhne,
Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary**



The Forum claimed that the decision was unfair and in breach of their human rights. According to BBC reports, between 2002 and the end of 2006, when the government changed the rules, 49,000 doctors, engineers, accountants and other professionals entered the UK under the HSMP. They were assessed on qualifications, experience and earning ability.

But the change in the rules meant anyone applying to extend their work visa would have to score points based on their education, salary and age. Thousands have already left the UK after their visas expired, and more than a thousand others have had their applications to stay rejected, the HSMP Forum said. Last year, MPs

from the Joint Committee on Human Rights said the retrospective changes were harsh, unfair, and incompatible with the Human Rights Act.

The HSMP Forum said the retrospective changes had affected the lives of thousands of non-EU nationals, who left well paid jobs, perks and families to make the UK home. The HSMP was converted into the new points-based system, and was launched in February.

Commenting on the Government's decision not to appeal against the High Court judgment which ruled that thousands of highly-skilled migrants previously threatened with deportation could stay in Britain, Liberal Democrat Shadow Home

Secretary, Chris Huhne said: "The Government has finally realised that it should not be moving the goal posts mid-game. People who had uprooted their lives to come here on the basis of one set of immigration rules should not find them changed upon arrival. Forcing the migrants to bring this case to court in the first place was both morally wrong and a waste of court time and taxpayers' money."

David Davis, the Shadow Home Secretary, said: "It is unfair that skilled workers who have made a commitment to this country should have the rules of the game changed after they have been welcomed."

"The immigration department was obsessed with defending their decision and were not open to any reasoning. We had no other recourse but to approach the judiciary and we are glad that our trust in the democratic system has been finally restored"

Highly Skilled Migrants Programme (HSMP) Forum's Executive Director Amit Kapadia

Helpline for forced marriage victims launched

Victims of forced marriage in the UK can now seek help by calling a new national helpline.

The helpline for victims of forced marriage and honour-based violence has been launched by Home Office Minister Vernon Coaker. It is part-funded by the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU).

The FMU is dedicated to preventing British nationals and foreigners living in Britain from being forced into marriage overseas.

Anybody who feels they need help can call the helpline on 0800 5999 247. Those worried that they might be forced into a marriage or are worried about someone else who may be forced into a marriage should contact the FMU 020 7008 0151 (or 0044 20 7008 0151 if you are overseas).

Anything you tell FMI will be treated with complete confidentiality. The 'Honour Network', run by the charity Karma Nirvana is a dedicated forced marriage and honour-based violence helpline, staffed by survivors offering emo-

tional and practical support.

Home Office Minister Coaker said: "This helpline run by survivors, for survivors, is a big step in the fight to raise awareness of the issues of forced marriage and honour-based violence and is crucial in giving victims across the



country the confidence to come forward.

"We recognise that the scale of these issues remains unknown and much of the problem stays underground. We are determined across Government to continue engaging with local communities and taking

action to protect victims to put an end to this appalling practice."

Jasvinder Sanghera, founder of Karma Nirvana said: "The Honour Network is about reclaiming the word honour. It's designed for victims, survivors or potential victims of honour based crimes to reassure them they are victims not perpetrators. The Network is designed to identify survivors to help support each other. The helpline will be manned by survivors themselves helping people take a stand against these crimes."

Commander Steve Allen, ACPO lead on Honour Crime said: "Police forces, together with partners, agencies and local communities have been working to tackle this area of violent crime. We welcome and support the launch of the National Forced Marriage helpline

as a way of providing support and practical help to people experiencing honour-based violence.

"The helpline is an important step towards supporting victims and we are encouraged to see the wide-ranging commitment by agencies to tackle this complex crime area."

The joint Foreign and Commonwealth/Home Office Forced Marriage Unit was set up in 2005 and handles 5000 enquiries and up to 400 cases per year. The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act will be implemented in the autumn. Courts will be able to make orders to prevent forced marriages and protect victims. Guidelines produced by the Forced Marriage Unit in co-operation with other Government

"Police forces, together with partners, agencies and local communities have been working to tackle this area of violent crime. We welcome and support the launch of the National Forced Marriage helpline as a way of providing support and practical help to people experiencing honour-based violence."

**Commander Steve Allen,
ACPO lead on Honour Crime**

departments, for groups working with forced marriage victims, including the police, social services, health and education professionals will be placed on a statutory footing.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Stephen Ogongo
Tel: +390687410531 Fax: +390687410528
Email: africanews@etnomedia.org

ADVERTISING: Tel/fax +44(0)2072633774
Email: sales@myownmedia.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION:
Tel/fax: +44(0)2072633774
Email: distribution@myownmedia.co.uk



PUBLISHER: *Stranieri in Italia*,
Via Virgilio Maroso 50, Roma 00142 ITALY
Tel. +390687410531 Fax +390687410528
Email: editore@stranieriinitalia.it

CONTRIBUTORS: TAYO, Musah Ibrahim Musah, Reggie Tagoe, Pauline Long, Kwaku Boatin, Eric Singh, Stephen Oladipupo, Ekarika Nana Obot

PRINTING PRESS: Essex County Newspapers
Oriol House, 43-44 North Hill, Colchester, Essex CO TZ

New rules against rogue lenders and debt collectors introduced

Tough new protections have become effective in the UK to protect people from rogue lenders and debt collectors.

The Consumer Credit Act 2006 became effective on 6th April.

Now lenders have to undergo a more rigorous test by the OFT in order to get a Consumer Credit Licence. There will be a particular focus on high risk sectors like debt collection. The OFT has also been given more flexible powers to tackle rogue and incompetent licence holders. It can now impose a wider range of penalties - from placing conditions on licences to imposing a fine (of up to £50,000), or taking away the licence.

The Government has also removed the £25,000 threshold above which consumer borrowing is not currently regulated.

John Hutton the Secretary of State for Business and Enterprise said from now on "there will be more protection for people who get caught out by rogue lenders who pretend to play by the rules but act like loan sharks."

"Enforcers now have the powers they need to crack down on the small minority of traders who treat consumers unfairly. Pressure sales techniques, unfair terms and conditions, extortionate interest rates or aggressive debt collection prac-

"There will be more protection for people who get caught out by rogue lenders who pretend to play by the rules but act like loan sharks. Enforcers now have the powers they need to crack down on the small minority of traders who treat consumers unfairly. Pressure sales techniques, unfair terms and conditions, extortionate interest rates or aggressive debt collection practices will not be tolerated."

John Hutton the Secretary of State for Business and Enterprise

ices will not be tolerated.

"By cracking down on the rogues and driving up standards we will create a level playing field that will enable honest businesses to thrive."

The Consumer Credit Act 2006 is being implemented in three phases - April 2007, April 2008 and October 2008 to ensure a smooth transition.

Another measure

that became effective in April is the extension of the ability to challenge unfair credit agreements in court to cover all existing agreements (not just those made after April 2007). This change will make it easier for consumers to complain and get redress when they feel they have been treated

badly." The Consumer Credit Appeals Tribunal for appeals against OFT licensing decisions has also been established.

Teresa Perchard, Director of Policy at the Citizens Advice Bureau, said: "We are absolutely delighted to see these new laws being introduced. We gave advice

on over 1 million consumer credit related problems last year - many hundreds of thousands of which concerned contract terms and unfair trading.

"New powers to fine companies for bad behaviour and to set clear standards for licence holders should give the OFT the abilities it needs to round up the cowboys and to clean up the market."

OFT Chief Executive John Fingleton said: "The new provisions will allow us to adopt a more targeted approach to credit licensing based upon risk to consumers. This will mean we can deal more effectively with behaviour which harms consumers while imposing minimal burdens on businesses that treat consumers well. All in all this means better regulation in the interests of consumers."

Angela Knight, Chief Executive of the British Bankers' Association said: "Banks have been working hard to prepare for the new Consumer Credit Act requirements. These will extend the protections afforded to consumers by bringing more agreements within the regulations. We are continuing to work with BERR to ensure customers' information needs are met when the new statements and notices requirements come into force in October."



Consumer Direct: How to deal with cold callers

Consumer Direct has prepared a short guide on how to deal with telephone cold callers.

The tactics used by some telephone cold callers can sometimes leave you bewildered or pressured into buying things you neither want nor need, but there are ways to get the upper hand, advises Consumer Direct.

Last year, the government advice service



received over 15,000 complaints about telephone cold callers. The highest number concerned mobile phone contract sales, but the service also received complaints about timeshare, insurance, double glazing and home improvement sellers.

Michele Shambrook, Operations Manager for Consumer Direct said: "Cold calling isn't against the law, but callers can sometimes ring at the most inconvenient times and if you're caught out you can

agree to things you later regret. The good news is that you often have cancellation rights so it's worth checking where you stand."

Those who want to reduce the number of cold calls that they receive should consider registering with the Telephone Preference Service by calling 0845 070 0707 or visiting the website at <http://www.tpsonline.org.uk>, Consumer Direct advises.

It also warns clients to be wary of agreeing to contracts over the phone. "If you are interested in the offer, ask for details to be sent to you so you can consider them in your own time. If you do agree to a contract, make sure you know who you are dealing with and how to get hold of them. Ask for a name, phone number, address and written confirmation."

And if you agree to a contract you later regret, you should not worry. Consumer Direct says "you will generally have seven days after you receive written confirmation to cancel. If you don't receive this confirmation in writing, you may have up to three months."

Consumer Direct also cautions against divulging personal financial data if you don't know who you're dealing with.

HMRC: Fake cigarettes contain unhealthy mix of cancer-causing chemicals

While fake cigarettes may be attractive to local people because they are cheap, they are extremely dangerous.

These unregulated cigarettes can contain a seriously unhealthy mix of cancer-causing chemicals including arsenic, cadmium, benzene and formaldehyde, far greater than the genuine product, said HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

Fake cigarettes have also been found to contain sawdust, tobacco beetles and even rat droppings. With expertly crafted packaging it is almost impossible to spot counterfeit cigarettes until you experience the ill effects from smoking them due to the highly toxic set of ingredients they contain, HMRC said.

In April HMRC launched a hard-hitting campaign to warn smokers in the West Midlands and Staffordshire of the dangers of buying counterfeit cigarettes. The campaign is being held in partnership with Smokefree Alliances throughout the region.

The initiative follows the announcement that Customs Officers seized over 50 million illicit cigarettes and nearly 4,250 kilos of hand rolling tobacco in the West Midlands area last year - 70 per cent of seizures tested were counterfeit. This campaign supports Smokefree England's strenuous efforts to reduce the burden of death and diseases and helps people quit smoking and live a longer and healthier lifestyle.

Keith Morgan, Detection Manager for HMRC said: "We are determined to eradicate this form of criminality which has a devastating effect on all our communities. This is not an inno-



cent or victimless form of crime but one that encourages otherwise honest people to trade with criminals. These gangs are unlicensed and unregulated; they are not concerned with who buys their products. The huge profits they reap from cigarette sales are ploughed straight back into the criminal underworld, feeding activities like drug dealing and fraud."

He added: "We are keen to work closely with local people and communities in the fight against crime. Our work frequently takes us to the doorsteps of residential houses, factory floors and workplaces where individuals base their trade in cheap cigarettes to the community and work colleagues, often with no regard to sales to underage children."

HMRC is encouraging all who know of someone selling cheap or duty free cigarettes and tobacco from their house or place of work to contact the confidential hotline number on 0800 59 5000 or email customs.confidential@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

Janet Reece, Smoke Free Birmingham Programme Manager said: "As well as being a prohibited activity, when counterfeit cigarettes are purchased, like any other counterfeit product, individuals don't know exactly what they are buying. The cigarettes are often poor in quality and will have a different taste to real cigarettes. In

the short term smokers suffer from shortness of breath and increased coughing and wheezing. Heavy smokers bear the heaviest burden of death and disease related to their smoking, and increase their risk of enduring suffering. In the long term they are increasing their risks of suffering from coronary heart disease, stroke and various cancers such as cancer of the stomach, throat, kidney, bladder and lung."

She added: "All cigarettes contain highly toxic ingredients and are damaging to health, and tobacco will kill half of all its smokers. The best thing a smoker can do for their health is to quit smoking."

Those who need advice and support to stop smoking can contact the Call to Quit Helpline 0800 0525 855.

"All cigarettes contain highly toxic ingredients and are damaging to health, and tobacco will kill half of all its smokers. The best thing a smoker can do for their health is to quit smoking."

Janet Reece, Smoke Free Birmingham Programme Manager

WRITING A CURRICULUM VITAE

Your CV is probably the most important tool during your job hunt, so getting it right is absolutely essential.

Your CV is often all that a potential employer has to judge you on, so creating a powerful first impression is absolutely vital.

It is also one of the few aspects of the job search that you are in control of - your CV dictates whether or not you will be invited to interview so it must be able to sell both your skills and your experience.

The sections below highlight what you should and shouldn't do when writing your CV, how to make your CV work for you and how to target it towards each different position that you apply for.

The Perfect CV

Your CV should not only summarise your qualifications, skills and experience but should also reflect key aspects of your personality that will help you to stand out from all other applicants.

As well as utilising a profile at the top of the CV to highlight your particular skills, it is important to inject some of your personal qualities and strengths throughout the CV so that your individuality is really emphasised. Any specific achievements from your work, academic or personal life should be highlighted as these too reflect your personality and can demonstrate to any potential employers your proven ability to add value to a role.

The Layout

The CV should contain up-to-date contact information so that potential employers can call or email you during office hours. Ideally, this should come at the start of the CV and be followed by an introduction or "profile" section which summarises your qualities and introduces your career objectives.

The most important or relevant information should go on the first page of your CV so if your strengths lie in your academic background, the introduction should be followed by your education and then your career summary. If, however, you have enjoyed more success in a professional capacity than academically, the reverse should apply.

The last section of the CV should be a brief summary of your interests outside of the workplace. Try to make sure that you include any achievements here that may help you to stand out from the crowd and to avoid mentioning common interests such as reading, listening to music and socialising as these are generally accepted as hobbies that most people enjoy doing.

Length

Far too long - probably the principal mistake people make when preparing their CVs. Keep CVs brief and cut out the waffle - 2 pages is generally a maximum, and for those with little experience, writing a 1 page CV generally makes more sense. You can use techniques such as bullet pointing to help make your CV easier to read; they help make it punchy.

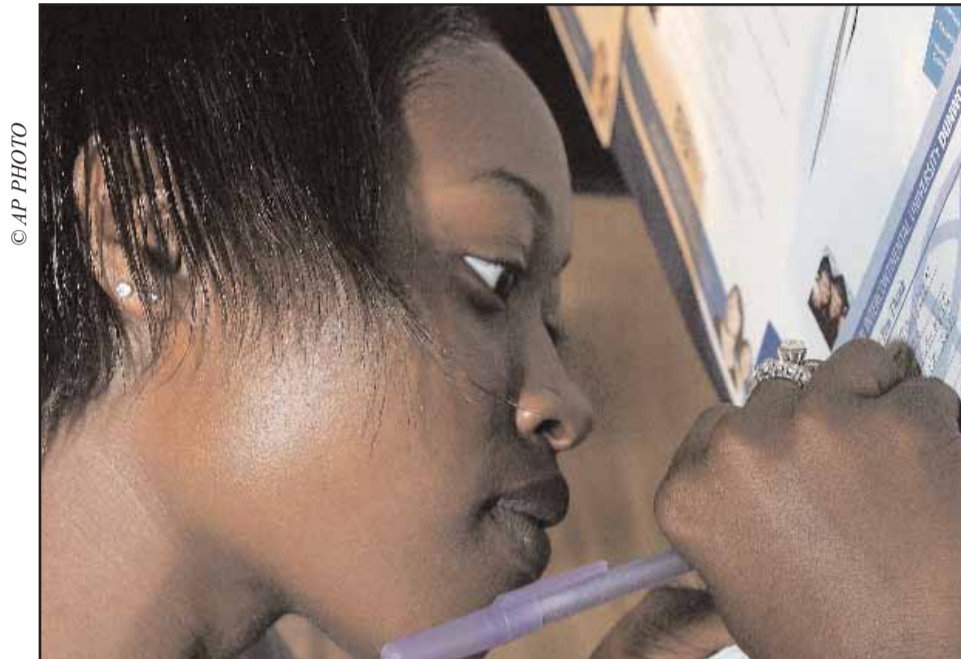
Detail

Eliminate what a prospective employer would see as unnecessary detail, e.g. only list years, not months (this also helps to

cover up chronological gaps). Look at each piece of information which could be included in your CV and think, "Would this help you get the job?" If it doesn't then leave it out.

History

When writing a CV, concentrate on recent history and summarise older information. If you've got A Levels then don't



© AP PHOTO

list all your O Levels/GCSEs on the CV. Similarly, if you've got a degree, there's no need to include A Level grades unless they're all As or Bs. Employers are most interested in what you've done most recently, although they obviously still need to know the basics of older information.

Interests & Activities

A common mistake is writing far too much in this section. With the CV trend moving increasingly towards the American résumé style, which precludes such a section, we recommend keeping it to a minimum.

Key Skills

The inclusion of a 'Key Skills' section in a CV is progressively less popular these days. It is now considered better to spread evidence of key skills and abilities throughout your employment history. Specific points should be addressed in the covering letter, a vitally important part of any application.

References

Details of referees shouldn't be included on your CV. They clutter it up and, more importantly, you will find that your referees get pestered unnecessarily by time-wasters. By the time they have answered their umpteenth enquiry, they are a lot less likely to say nice things about you!

CV Writing Mistakes

Some of the mistakes that people make when writing a CV are very obvious and

others are much more subtle. Here is a list of some of the more common mistakes seen in CVs:

- Too long and too "wordy" - summarise your information as much as possible to ensure that it is both clear and concise
- Disorganised layout - by following the guidelines above as to how to present the CV, you can make sure that the information is presented logically in the CV
- Spelling and grammatical errors - it is

come across as self-important. You need to make sure that potential employers can not only recognise your achievements but also see in you the potential to adapt to a new way of thinking. If you have had a number of different jobs, do your best to reflect this in a positive way by highlighting the variety of skills that this has provided you with rather than just allowing it to appear as if you have lacked direction in your career.

The best attitude to portray is one that recognises your strengths and weaknesses whilst also demonstrating a willingness to learn and to give 100% to your future employer.

Using Power Verbs

An effective way of making your CV have a greater impact is to start your sentences with Power Verbs. These are words such as Achieved, Developed, Launched, Managed, Empowered, Maximised, Strengthened, Implemented and Realised. These words can be used to describe your skills and experiences in such a way as to emphasise what you achieved rather than just what you did. However, you should be careful not to over-use Power Verbs and also to make sure that the ones you use are as relevant as possible to the role for which you are applying.

Targeting your CV

Whilst some people prefer to have a general CV that suits any position, it is arguable that greater success can be achieved by tailoring your CV according to the needs of the specific role to which you are applying. Sometimes, you may not be responding to an actual job advertisement but may be sending a speculative application to a company you particularly wish to work for. Either way, it is important to do your homework on the company, ideally using the Internet as a research tool, so that you can highlight particular skills, experiences and attributes that you think that company will be looking for. Although the CV is your tool to promote and sell yourself, it is also your opportunity to explain your understanding of the company you are applying for and how your skills relate to their specific requirements.

Where possible, use relevant key words in your CV that you have picked up either from the job description for the position you are applying for or from the company website. It is not enough just to say that you have the skills and experiences that they are looking for - you have to be able to demonstrate this by providing evidence where possible. So, if you are applying for a sales management position, rather than simply saying that you have many years sales management experience, explain the achievements you enjoyed in this role in terms of increasing sales and profitability. This shows the potential employer that you have the ability to add value to their business.

Once you have created your initial CV, it is usually possible to use this as a template for all future CVs so, when applying for a different job, you do not necessarily need to rewrite the whole CV but can instead just amend and update your existing CV according to the essential criteria for the role. Make sure that you actually fulfil these criteria and provide evidence accordingly otherwise it may not be worth you applying for the job.

essential to run a spell check through the finished CV and to read through it to ensure that it makes sense

- Including photographs or other decorative embellishments - this should be avoided as they distract attention from the important information contained in the CV
- Use of first person - too much use of "I" or "Me" in the CV can appear arrogant and is also too informal
- Irrelevant information - it is not advisable to include anything that does not add value or could appear negative such as reasons for leaving jobs
- Too much use of jargon - some technical terms are acceptable but it is important to explain these if there is the possibility of them being read by someone not familiar with them

- Irrelevant information - it is not advisable to include anything that does not add value or could appear negative such as reasons for leaving jobs
- Too much use of jargon - some technical terms are acceptable but it is important to explain these if there is the possibility of them being read by someone not familiar with them

- Irrelevant information - it is not advisable to include anything that does not add value or could appear negative such as reasons for leaving jobs
- Too much use of jargon - some technical terms are acceptable but it is important to explain these if there is the possibility of them being read by someone not familiar with them

- Irrelevant information - it is not advisable to include anything that does not add value or could appear negative such as reasons for leaving jobs
- Too much use of jargon - some technical terms are acceptable but it is important to explain these if there is the possibility of them being read by someone not familiar with them

Expressing The Right Attitude

It is possible to use your CV to portray a positive attitude but it is also possible to come across negatively simply through how you word certain areas of the CV. Without intending to, you can appear easily bored, over eager, lacking in commitment, arrogant, bitter, careless and low in self-confidence.

To avoid portraying such negative attitudes as these, it is important to ensure that you remain completely professional when describing your experiences with your previous employers. If you feel that you have been wronged by other employers, it is important that this does not come across in the CV. Focus entirely on your positive skills and attributes rather than mentioning any negative experiences but try not to

How to Describe Your Job History

A useful guide on how to deal with possible negative situations in the most positive way possible.

Your job history can affect your career future. Throughout the duration of your career, you may make certain decisions, or your employer may make decisions for you, which can have a significant impact on how your job history appears to potential employers. It is tempting to try to gloss over certain aspects of your career when preparing your CV, so here is a useful guide on how to deal with possible negative situations in the most positive way possible.

Explaining Gaps in Employment

How you decide to explain any gaps in your employment on a CV, application form or cover letter can depend very much on what the specific reasons behind the gap are. Some gaps are much easier to explain away than others and the key is really to try and make it sound as positive as possible. If there is no way of avoiding the gap in employment, trying to put in an explanation is generally preferable to ignoring it completely. Many employers will discard your CV at first glance if there are unexplained gaps because they will instinctively draw their own conclusions as to the reasons for the gap and their interpretation of the events may not necessarily be a positive one.

There are probably some gaps in employment that you need not bother mentioning and these particularly include those that were only for a couple of months at a time or those that occurred a very long time ago. On a CV, the easiest way to avoid these sorts of gaps being highlighted is to only give the years for your employment rather than the months.

On the other hand, the gap in employment may well have been used constructively and you may consider that it will add value to your CV.

If the gap in your employment is because of time taken to travel, the decision whether or not to include it is dependent upon how long the career break was for and whether or not you did anything fulfilling during this time. Not all employers look on a career break for travelling as a disadvantage. On the contrary, many believe that the cultural awareness and sense of independence you will have gained as a result of the experience will prove invaluable to you in your future career. Perhaps you were able to undertake further qualifications or training

during this time and, if so, these should be included in your CV.

Many people have gaps in their employment due to having taken maternity leave. Indeed, paternity leave is now also becoming commonplace and should probably be included in the CV, particularly if you have also undertaken any part-time work or studying during this time. It can also be useful to cover this subject in your cover letter by emphasising the fact that you have made all the necessary childcare arrangements and are now ready to return to the workplace.

Sometimes, no matter how hard you have been trying, the right job is just not out there for you and you have a gap in your employment history purely for this reason. It is often very difficult for this scenario to be given a positive slant as many employers will find it easier to believe that you have just been idle during this time. Again, the key is to highlight anything positive that you have undertaken during this time and, if you haven't actually achieved anything,

fered an accident or illness where time off from work was an essential phase of the recovery process. In this case, the gap should be explained in such a way as to reassure potential employers that the issue is now completely resolved and that you are fit for work.

You should never be tempted to extend the length of time you were in employment to cover any of these gaps because an employer is more than likely going to take references from your previous employers and will be able to find out straight away whether or not you have been dishonest. Whatever the situation is, just be positive and make sure that you come across as enthusiastic and ready for work.

Speeding up the career ladder

On occasion, the drive and ambition that took you to the top of your company can be viewed with suspicion by colleagues and future employers.

They may be tempted to assume that this rapid progression was in some way achieved through dishonest means such as having close friends in high places. It can also make some people concerned that you are highly self-interested and, therefore, not a team player.

The best way to handle this in your CV is to make sure that, as much as possible, you emphasise not only what you contributed to the company on a personal level but also how you worked closely

with others to achieve this. Highlight not only what you brought to the company but also what you learnt from them and from your colleagues.

Frequently changing jobs

It is very easy for an employer to look at a CV where someone has had three or four jobs in one year and make the natural assumption that they are perhaps not committed or not capable of focusing on the job in hand. There may be any number of reasons why you have changed jobs so frequently,

including simply that you didn't enjoy the work, but it is important that you try to emphasise what you learnt during this time. Highlight the diversity of the companies you worked for and, therefore, the variety of skills which you acquired as a result. Also, make it perfectly clear that you are looking for a permanent role that will utilise your knowledge and experience.

Being made redundant

It is important to remember that being made redundant is not necessarily a reflection on your ability to perform a job. It is a position itself that is made redundant rather than an individual person. It is, therefore, not necessary to elaborate on this in your CV but rather save any explanation that may be necessary for the interview where you can explain why the company made the redundancies.

Changing the direction of your career

What if you decide that you simply don't want to be doing what you are doing any more and want to try something completely different? There are certain problems which may arise from this, including the fact that potential employers will see that you have no relevant experience in the field you wish to enter and, therefore, may be lacking in the appropriate skills. The best thing to do in this case is to make sure you highlight your willingness to learn new skills and to undertake any necessary training to enable you to successfully change the direction of your career. Also, it is important that you demonstrate that you have the right attitude and are really keen to pursue your new career.

Staying in one job for many years

There are both positive and negative ways of looking at someone who has been with the same company for the majority of their career. While some people may consider this to be a reflection of your loyalty and commitment, others may think this is a sign that you lack ambition. You can help yourself by describing how during your employment within the company you work for you were able to acquire diversified experience and skills. Make sure to highlight skills which are easily transferable to other companies.



© AP PHOTO

then perhaps you can try to find something that you can do that will add value to your CV. For example, even though you have not been able to find a suitable job, there may well be a voluntary position that you can take on just to keep you active during this time. Alternatively, you could complete additional qualifications or training programmes. Either way, when preparing your CV and cover letter, make sure that you clearly state how you have been proactive in your job seeking during this time and that you are readily available to start work at the convenience of the employer.

Some career gaps are due to having suf-

WRITING A COVER LETTER

The covering letter that you send to a potential employer is arguably just as important as the CV or application form that it accompanies.

It is the ideal opportunity for you to expand on the skills and experiences that are highlighted in your CV whilst also enabling you to express your personality. There are two principal types of cover letter which accompany CVs - Advert Response and Speculative - and we will run through both in detail below.

In general, letters should be no longer than one page unless there are clear instructions to the contrary. Presentation is of the utmost importance and, unless a handwritten letter is specifically requested, the letter should always be typed and laser-printed onto high quality paper.

Advert Response

It is advisable to make sure that you actually match any essential criteria specified in the job advert before you send in

your application. Be sure to read the advert very carefully so that you can address the letter correctly and mark it for the attention of the designated member of staff. You should also include the title of the job you are applying for and any reference numbers given - often, companies will be seeking candidates for various positions and will want to see clearly which job is being applied for.

The first paragraph should be relatively brief and explain quite simply where you saw the advert and on what date. In the main body of the letter you should then go on to highlight your skills and experience in more detail. If certain criteria are mentioned in the advert, you should ideally try to explain exactly how you match these - with brief but relevant examples that demonstrate your suitability. Also, say why you want to work for that organisation in particular, referring to any research that you have carried out on the organisation to emphasise that you fully understand them and the way they operate.

The final paragraph should conclude the letter with any other information requested in the advert such as salary and availability for interview. And before you send it off, do read through the advert once more to ensure that you have fully satisfied the criteria, keeping an awareness of the specified closing date.

Speculative

The principal content of a speculative letter can follow similar lines to the advert response type, making sure once again to tailor the letter towards the company or organisation in question. However, the way you open and the way you close the letter will of course need to be different.

Even if you are not responding to an advert, you must try to address the letter to a specific person rather than vaguely stating "Dear Sir/Madam". You may need to contact the employer by phone in advance to find out the name of an appropriate contact but it is clear that letters addressed to a

specific person do achieve better results. Once again, conduct some basic research into the organisation so that you can highlight the particular skills and qualifications you possess which are of relevance to them.

Obviously, the first paragraph of the letter will not include reference to a job advert and the closing paragraph should encourage future contact rather than demand it, as well as requesting for your details to be stored on file should a suitable vacancy not currently be available.

General Advice

In general, whichever type of cover letter you are producing, it is important that it is written concisely and articulately. Take your time over it; do not rush. It is also essential to check that there are no spelling or grammatical errors as this is very possibly the recruiter's first impression of you. Make sure it is a positive one.

Sukula family wins right to stay in UK

"We are no longer living in fear of being sent to a place where our lives would be in danger"

After a long struggle, the Sukula family have won indefinite leave to remain in the UK.

The family living in Great Lever, Bolton has been campaigning for three years against being deported to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"I slept properly for the first time since arriving in this country after I found out we were allowed to stay. For the first time I feel my family, my beautiful children, are safe and have a future. We are no longer living in fear of being sent to a place where our lives would be in danger. The threat to my family was very real," said Ngiedi Lusukumu on hearing news of the campaign victory. Ngiedi is the mother of Flores, 21, Daniel, 18, Destin, 9, Sarah, 7, Exauce, 5 and Miracle, 1.

Her husband Kiala Sukula said "We feel Britain is our country and Bolton is our home. Without the support of the campaign we could not have come this far."

"I do feel that the pressure of the campaign did help secure this victory. We are delighted with the news. While we celebrate this we have to think of all the others fighting to stay safe and not be deported," said Jason Travis, Chair, Sukula Family Campaign.

In 2005, Daniel, then aged 15 and living in Bolton, wrote to IRR News telling of his fears of being deported. "I am writing this because me and my family face deportation to Congo," he wrote. "I don't want to go back to Congo because there is a war there and, if I go back, my life will be finished." IRR News visited Daniel and his family in their home in Bolton and spoke to them about their intention to launch an anti-deportation campaign.

The Sukula family campaign won the

"We feel Britain is our country and Bolton is our home. Without the support of the campaign we could not have come this far."

Mr. Kiala Sukula

support of the Bolton News, Africa News, trade unions and over 3,000 people who signed a petition calling for the Sukulas to be allowed to remain in Bolton.

IRR News reported that over the last three years, the family were also threatened by the notorious Section 9 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004, under which parents were made destitute while their children risked being placed in the care of social services. But the strength of the local campaign meant that supporters were ready to physically blockade any attempt to evict the Sukulas from their home. And Bolton Unison backed social workers who refused to initiate care proceedings against the family. This defiance of government policy by local authori-



Members of the Sukula family

ty workers later spread to other councils in Greater Manchester and Yorkshire, where the 'Section 9' policy was undergoing trials. Similarly, an attempt to expel Daniel's sister Flores from Bolton Sixth Form College - purely on the grounds of her being a 'failed

asylum seeker' - was successfully opposed by Bolton NUT and the NUS.

The family and campaign are grateful to all who supported them and have pledged to continue fighting against all deportations.

Demonstration in memory of Ama Sumani in Cardiff

A demonstration in memory of Ama Sumani, who died in Ghana on March 19th after being removed from the University Hospital of Wales whilst receiving treatment for cancer was held on Saturday 19th April in Cardiff.

Supporters and friends of Ama said the event was both a tribute to Ama and a message to the authorities that this kind of situation must never be repeated.

"This protest is important because we have to make sure this kind of thing doesn't happen again" said Janet Symmons, Ama's friend and co-ordinator of the campaign. "Ama's tragedy touched a lot of people, but it is important to understand that there are hundreds of people in similar situations right now. I know a Zambian lady who has a baby daughter with brain damage, a Cameroonian boy with Hepatitis - all have the threat of deportation hanging over them."

Ama Sumani had contracted cancer whilst living in Britain and



The late Ama Sumani

required dialysis after her kidneys became damaged. Despite protests that Ama would die in Ghana due to a lack of necessary medical resources, Ama was removed from hospital at 8:00am on January 9th and had been deported from the UK by mid-afternoon.

The decision was condemned by the likes of medical journal The Lancet and Archbishop of Wales Dr Barry Morgan, and thousands of pounds were donated to help pay for Ama's medical care. Despite this, Ama died just hours

after hearing that doctors that could treat her had been found. She was just 39 and left two orphaned children, a daughter and son aged 16 and seven.

Karen Tyre, a local government worker and trade union rep who had been involved in the campaign, said "Ama's deportation shows just how cruel politicians can be when dealing with human life. It was a disgrace that local MP Alun Michael, rather than condemning this appalling act, chose to defend the actions of the Immigration Service."

She continued: "To them, Ama was a statistic, a number, but for millions of people who learned of her plight she was a real person who was ignored by those who had the power to help her. This event will be a chance for people around the country to come together in memory of Ama and say 'never again'."

The demonstration took place on 19th April, exactly one month after Ama passed away.

Congolese in Manchester march against deportations



A past demo against deportations to DR Congo

The Congolese in the UK held a march on Saturday 12th April in Manchester.

The march organised by the Congolese Fighters in the UK, Women for Common Cause and Bundu Dia Congo, was against the Congolese government and the UK government's decision to deport people to the DR Congo.

People assembled at 1:30pm at the BBC building, Oxford Road, Manchester while the march began at 2:00pm to Methodist Central Hall, Oldham Street.

A public meeting was held at 4:00pm at the Methodist Central Hall.

Organisers of the march said: "We are demonstrating against the Congolese government and against the UK government for deporting to the DR Congo"

Miss Elodie Kamba Mujinga who was recently released from Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre said: "After the so called 'democratic' elections, our country, the DRC, remains the same. Illegal detention & arbitrary arrests, killing, torture, rape of women, men & children, no freedom of speech. (President Joseph) Kabila and his government must go without any delay so that we can return to our country in dignity."

Save sickle cell sufferer from deportation to Cameroon

Olivier Mmounda a Nyam taken from hospital to detention centre awaiting removal

A sickle cell anaemia sufferer who risks being deported to Cameroon is in need of your urgent help.

Olivier Mmounda a Nyam was "snatched" in a "dawn raid" on 28th March at his home in Leeds and taken to Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) for removal to Cameroon.

He says "I have been a victim of injustice by the Home Office and feel my case has not been considered fairly but rather as if it is a lottery. I know my life will be in danger if I am forced to return to the Cameroon."

Olivier feels his life will be in serious danger if he is removed to Cameroon due to inadequate medical care. He is also fearful of persecution because he spoke out against the Cameroonian government's mistreatment of sickle cell sufferers.

Cameroon's human records have been questioned by the last years USA's "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices". The reports states that "The government's human rights record remained poor, and it continued to commit numerous human rights abuses. Security forces committed numerous unlawful killings. They engaged in torture, beatings, and other abuses, particularly of detainees and prisoners. Impunity was a problem in the security forces."

Olivier was to be taken from Colnbrook back to Leeds on 2nd April to see his consultant but became too ill to travel to Leeds and was taken to nearby Hillingdon Hospital. He says he had two detention custody guards at his hospital bedside who he alleges prevented him from making phone calls. A few days later he was taken from hospital back to Colnbrook where he remains.

Olivier was told that he would be removed on Monday 7th April. It was later confirmed that this removal would not go ahead on that date, but that a new date would be set as soon as possible.

He was detained in January of this year and the stress caused him to suffer a sickle cell crisis. The Home Office had to call an ambulance and Olivier recovered in hospital. Since then Olivier has had repeated admissions to hospital related to his sickle cell disease, still suffers much illness and is clearly unfit to fly.

In February this year, Olivier self-harmed by overdosing on painkillers and the



medication he takes for tuberculosis. This resulted in him being hospitalised again and the Leeds General Infirmary Self-Harm Unit was involved. Olivier had left a note indicating he intended to self-harm.

According to the World Health Organisation, "Travel by air is normally contraindicated in the following cases: ...sickle-cell disease".

The second edition of Medical Guidelines for Airline Travel states that "A particularly severe form of anaemia is sickle cell disease, which may be exacerbated by reduced oxygen pressures. Because such a

crisis could be life-threatening, such patients should be advised not to travel by air without medical oxygen."

Harriet Burn of the Olivier Must Stay Campaign told Africa News that "Various medical guidance say that a passenger could be fit to fly 10 days after their last sickle cell crisis. I think it's true to say that the stress caused by being detained with the threat of deportation contributes towards triggering Olivier's many sickle cell crises."

Harriet said that an application for Olivier's release has just been refused. "So I am thinking that the Home Office want to

detain Olivier indefinitely, waiting for a 'window' of 10 days after his last sickle cell crisis/hospitalisation" to deport him.

Harriet terms Olivier's detention a "very cruel" act. He says that apart from anything else, this is "an expensive waste of hospital resources, and cost of detention (£1,230.00 a week), and probably damaging Olivier's health further. He is crippled by sickle cell ... a young man who has already had to have a double hip replacement and may need shoulder replacements ... he is in constant agony and his treatment by Immigration drove him to try and kill himself."

Olivier fled persecution in Cameroon in January 2007 and settled in Leeds where he is supported by members of Leeds Medsin (a group of medical students who campaign on local and global matters of health inequity), his church in Armley, Leeds No Borders and friends from his English classes (Common Conversation at the Common Place and St. George's Church English classes).

His supporters held a demonstration at Waterside Court immigration reporting centre in Leeds on Friday 25th January to show support for Olivier when he was threatened with removal.

Oliver is requesting you to support his campaign to remain in the UK. Kindly send faxes to Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith, Secretary of State for the Home Office asking that she now releases Olivier Mmounda a Nyam from immigration detention and that he be granted status in the UK.

You can use the model letter below which you can copy/amend/write your own version. If you do so, please remember to include the HO ref M1345900).

Those sending the fax from the UK should use this fax number: 020 8760 3132 while those doing so from outside UK should use the number 0044 20 8760 3132.

Kindly notify the Olivier Must Stay Campaign of any faxes sent. You can reach Harriet Burn on phone number 07849 965003 or send an email using this address: burnharry2@hotmail.com

You can copy the model letter to fax to Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith, Secretary of State for the Home Office from <http://www.africa-news.eu>

Mothers detained in immigration centre appeal to Smith

"We are not criminals and our kids did not choose to be born in this country"

By Stephen Ogongo

Seven mothers detained in the family unit in UK's Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre have been on hunger strike since 10th April. The group includes two breastfeeding mothers.

Some 15 families started the protest when a mother who was to be taken to the airport took sanctuary in the church in Yarl's Wood IRC with her baby and refused to leave. She was joined by up to 14 other mothers who refused to let the mother be removed from the church.

In a collective statement titled "Listen To Our Cry" addressed to the Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith, the women are expressing concern about the way their kids are being treated. "We are not criminals and our kids did not choose to be born in this country. To seek Asylum is not a crime but the way the government is treating refused asylum seekers is not good at all. How can a normal

"We as families detained at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre are concerned about the way our kids are being treated. We are not criminals and our kids did not choose to be born in this country. To seek Asylum is not a crime but the way the government is treating refused asylum seekers is not good at all. How can a normal human being put children in detention centre for more than a month? Just because the parents did not qualify to be given documents to stay in this country."

Family's United From Crane wing (Yarl's Wood family unit)

human being put children in detention centre for more than a month? Just because the parents did not qualify to be given documents to

stay in this country."

The women say in the statement that they are being treated like dogs, and claim that even a dog is treated better than a child born in the UK. "Their food is bad, they make chips and spicy food, how can you expect

a child to eat chilli every day," they ask.

They also say that they are not allowed take even a cup of water from the dining room. "The hygiene at Yarl's

Wood is terrible, no nursing places, they are asking parents to wash baby bottles in the toilet sink."

The mothers are appealing to Ms. Smith to help them saying it is normal to put children in prison.

SEND US YOUR STORIES

Do you have a story to share with our readers? Are you planning for a community function (wedding, naming ceremony, graduation, cultural festival, independence celebration, seminar, demo, etc)?

Please send us reports and announcements of these activities and we will publish them for free in *Africa News*.

Address your reports to: The Editor, *Africa News*, Via Maroso, 50, CAP 00142 Rome, Italy.

E-mail: africanews@etnomedia.org
Tel +39-06-87410531. Fax +39-06-87410528.

Nigerians threaten boycott of British Airways after deportation

Thousands of Nigerians living abroad are threatening to boycott British Airways following the recent mistreatment of a Nigerian deportee and other citizens onboard a Lagos-bound flight. The captain ordered 135 passengers off the plane after they complained about the arrest of a man onboard.

An online petition demanding apology from the British Airways says that "on the 27th of March 2008, 137 passengers boarded flight BA075 bound for Lagos, Nigeria. Unbeknown to the passengers, the British Immigration Authorities were deporting a male Nigerian onboard this flight."

The petition states that while attempting to restrain the already cuffed deportee, officers used methods which caused the deportee to shout "I go die o" (meaning: I am going to die). The noise coming from the deportee went on for about 30 minutes to the discomfort of passengers on board the flight.

Ayodeji Omotade, a passenger concerned for the life of the deportee asked the officers not to "kill him". In response the deportee and Mr. Omotade were taken off the plane and Mr. Omotade subsequently arrested and detained.

Writing on nigeriavillagesquare.com, Mr. Omotade, an IT Consultant, said that "there were noises from an individual being forcibly restrained but who was not visible because some police officers and some plain clothes people held him down. The noise continued for more than 20 minutes and I was concerned



because the individual was screaming in agony and shouting in pidgin English 'I go die' meaning, I will die."

Mr. Omotade said he pleaded with the officers not to kill the man. "My exact words were 'please don't kill him'. The British Airways staff said that the officers were doing their jobs and that nothing was going to happen. The noise became louder and other passengers started getting concerned and were complaining especially about their safety. The situation continued for another 15 minutes after I got on."

A cabin crew later announced that the passenger was going to be removed and the passenger was in fact removed from the plane, Mr. Omotade said. But "Five minutes

later, two members of the cabin crew arrived with about 4 police officers and told me to get off the plane. I asked what the matter was and they said that I was not going to travel with the airline because the cabin crew thought I had been disruptive by questioning the noise being caused by the person that was removed. I pleaded with them that I was going for my brother's wedding and that I had all his stuff with me. I was dragged out of the plane as if I was resisting arrest. As we got to the corridor that linked the plane with the terminal building, I was slammed against the wall and made to sit on the floor.

"I was still pleading with them telling them that they had completely misunderstood me and that I was only complaining about the

situation regarding the disturbances caused by the deportee they were trying to restrain and subdue. I was on the floor for about 20 to 25 minutes. Another passenger was brought to the corridor as well and he was also pleading with the officers."

Mr. Omotade said he was later put in the back of the police van at about 1:50pm and was locked up there for about an hour or more still handcuffed. "I was formally arrested approximately 2:30pm and my rights were read to me. Before the arrest in the van, I managed to reach for my pocket and brought out my mobile phone. I made some phone calls to my wife, sister and a friend while the low battery sign was on because I was all alone and still handcuffed."

Mr. Omotade said he was driven to the police station where he was formally checked in. He was held in police custody for almost eight hours, he said, and later released on bail after the interview with the duty solicitor and the detectives. "I had £473.00 on me which was seized as well as £90.00 sent to my mother in-law from my sister in-law and £1,050.00 given to me by my cousin who is a doctor for the upkeep of his parents in Nigeria. All the money together was £1,613.00. I was told that I would appear in a magistrate court to prove the money was not meant for crime or proceeds of crime. The officer told me that they will like to see traceability and that I needed my payslips and bank account detailing my payments and withdrawals as well as my cousin's payments and withdrawals."

Released without money, Mr. Omotade said he went to terminal 4 and arrived there at about 12:30am but the British Airways kiosks were closed. When he went to the staff room and told them that he wanted to rebook his trip to Lagos, Mr. Omotade said that after showing his ticket, a lady told him that British Airways had banned him from travelling with them indefinitely because he was a 'disruptive passenger'.

"I requested for my 2 piece luggage and she told me that the section

"I never mentioned any abusive or swear words neither was I physically threatening anyone. My luggage mysteriously was lost and I have been banned on all British Airways flights without a chance to say my part of the story to redeem myself. 135 passengers were asked to leave the flight because they expressed displeasure regarding the disturbances caused by the deportees and the officers trying to restrain him. My ticket was even refused to be endorsed by BA to enable me to fly with another airline. I need full compensation of my loss and also a letter of apology from British Airways"

Mr. Ayodeji Omotade

will be opened later at about 5:30am and I will be escorted in to collect them. I slept on the chair and waited till about 5:30am and attempted to rebook my ticket but was told that British Airways refused to take me. I decided to go and pick up my stuff and I was told that my luggage was missing. I was handed a form with reference number LONBA90924. At this point, I became totally stranded because I could not leave without my luggage because it contained my brother's wedding suit, shirts and accessories."

Mr. Omotade sadly missed his brother's wedding in Nigeria. "I never mentioned any abusive or swear words neither was I physically threatening anyone. My luggage mysteriously was lost and I have been banned on all British Airways flights without a chance to say my part of the story to redeem myself. 135 passengers were asked to leave the flight because they expressed displeasure regarding the disturbances caused by the deportees and the officers trying to restrain him. My ticket was even refused to be endorsed by BA to enable me to fly with another airline. I need full compensation of my loss and also a letter of apology from British Airways," Mr. Omotade said.

This incident has angered many Nigerians who have sent a letter to President Umaru Yar'Adua and other Nigerian authorities, urging them to intervene. The letter calls for a written apology from British Airways and appropriate compensation to Mr. Omotade. It also calls for a lifting of the life ban imposed on him.

By the time we went to press, more than 3000 people had signed the online petition. The petition can be signed on this link: http://www.nigeriavillagesquare.com/component/option,com_philaform/Itemid,214/form_id,6/

The Online petition

British Airways must apologize to Nigerians

On the 27th of March 2008 137 passengers boarded flight BA075 bound for Lagos, Nigeria. Unbeknown to the passengers, the British Immigration Authorities were deporting a male Nigerian onboard this flight.

In an attempt to restrain the already cuffed deportee, officers used methods which caused the deportee to shout "I go die o" (meaning: I am going to die). The noise coming from the deportee went on for about 30 minutes to the discomfort of passengers on board the flight.

Ayodeji Omotade, a passenger concerned for the life of the deportee asked the officers not to "kill him". In response the deportee and Mr. Omotade were taken off the plane and Mr. Omotade subsequently arrested and detained.

According to the Daily Mirror, "this outraged the other 135 passengers in the economy class section and they complained to cabin crew. Then the BA pilot took the extraordinary decision to boot off everyone who had witnessed the arrest of Mr Omotade, an IT consultant from Chatham, Kent. The captain took the view they were all guilty of disturbing the flight, although no more passengers were arrested. After the economy class section was virtually cleared, the deportee, aged about 30, was brought back

on and the flight left. The passengers were booked on to later flights but Mr Omotade was told by BA staff he was banned by the airline for life. The other passengers were asked to disembark and 136 passengers were prevented from flying. Majority did not fly that night when the flight finally departed."

When you pay for a flight, you expect to travel in relative comfort and ambience. Mr Omotade and 136 passengers in the economy class of BA flight 0075 have every reason to expect a peaceful and quiet journey.

The passengers were removed from the flight because they had exercised their freedom of speech to complain about the unfair treatment given out to a fellow human.

There have been numerous stories of deaths caused by officers during forced deportations. This deportee might have ended up as another statistic if someone did not speak up. Mr. Omotade did, and he was thrown off the plane and arrested.

There are also numerous accounts of less than acceptable customer service by BA staff to Nigerians on board flights to and from Nigeria. Such treatment must stop.

We as concerned people who believe in freedom of speech, fair treatment of airline passengers and respect for same demand the following:

* A full front page apology in a national Nigerian daily newspaper to all passengers onboard flight BA0075 bound for Lagos, Nigeria on the 27th March 2008 ;

* A written apology and appropriate compensation to Mr. Ayo Omotade;

* A lifting on the life time ban imposed on Mr. Ayo Omotade;

* All criminal charges against Mr. Ayo Omotade be dropped forthwith;

* An undertaking from BA that henceforth such practices will desist. Nigerian passengers will be treated with respect within and outside Nigeria.

We give British Airways until April 30th, 2008 from the date above to comply to the above demands.

Failure on the part of British Airways to comply to the above demands will result in us calling for a worldwide boycott of British Airways by Nigerians.

cc.. Mr. President
Senate President
Speaker of the House
Minister for Aviation
Minister for Foreign Affairs
All Media Houses

Source: http://www.nigeriavillagesquare.com/component/option,com_philaform/Itemid,214/form_id,6/

Day of Action in London to abolish No Recourse to Public Funds

UK govt asked to abolish law forcing victims of domestic violence to live with violent partners

A public meeting and demonstration was held in London calling for elimination of the 'no-recourse' requirement for abused women who have insecure status.

The 'no recourse to public funds' requirement bars anyone entering the UK on the basis of marriage from relying on public housing or benefits until their immigration position is regularized after a two-year probationary period. This forces women into positions of economic dependency on the settled spouse or partner. The 'no recourse' rule also affects other vulnerable groups including migrant domestic workers and asylum seekers.

Leading women's groups and charities are calling for the government to abolish the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' requirement and have organised a national day of action.

The meeting took place on Wednesday 23rd April 2008 at Victoria Embankment opposite Portcullis House, London SW1. It was followed by a demonstration from 11.30 to 12.30.

The meeting and demo were organised by the Southall Black Sisters, Amnesty International UK, Women's Resource Centre, Imkaan and National Women's Aid.

"Most of us would like to think that here in the UK, we have measures to protect women from violence and abuse and that these measures apply to all women, that the law will ensure they get protection and justice. This is not the case, nor is it an option, it is not a duty that falls on charities, we are not asking any favours; this is a UK obligation, it shouldn't even need to be the subject of a campaign," said organisers of the Day of Action - No recourse campaign.

The 'no recourse' requirement forces many women with unsettled status in the UK to continue suffering in silence because their immigration status doesn't entitle them to access public funds.

"The result is that these women face a stark choice: either to stay in their abusive relationships and risk their lives or leave and risk extreme poverty, destitution, financial and sexual exploitation," says

Southall Black Sisters.

The Campaign is asking the government to "Provide a special fund pending long term solutions, financed out of the Victim Fund and other resources to enable all women to have living expenses and have access to local authority accommodation pending a final decision on applications to remain in the UK."



It is also appealing to the government to fast track applications to remain in the UK (process with-

in two months) where there is prima facie evidence of domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Rule should be reformed so that all types of evidence of domestic violence is accepted, says the Campaign. It is also asking the government to "Extend the domestic violence rule to all abused women with an insecure immigration status and introduce similar protection for trafficked women subjected to sexual and economic abuse and to overseas domestic workers experiencing violence from employers" and to "Provide adequate levels of legal aid so that there is access to good quality legal advice and assistance."

Some of the key speakers at the meeting included: survivors of violence who have no recourse to public funds; Margaret Moran MP; Paul Rowan MP; Southall Black Sisters; Liz McKean - Amnesty International UK; Suzan Malaquias - Poppy Project; Kalayaan; Soroptimist International (tbc); Islington No Recourse to Public Funds Network (tbc) and Chief Inspector Steve Deehan - Met Police.

Refugee conference takes place in Birmingham

The Churches' Refugee Network (CRN) Conference 2008 and Enabling Christians in Serving Refugees (ECSR) are holding a Conference in Birmingham on Saturday 17th May titled "Walking with strangers & towards the healing of nations".

It will take place at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7SX (near New Street Station) from 11.00 am to 4.15pm. Registration and coffee will be served from 10.30am. The Conference will be chaired by Michael Bartlet - Chair of Churches Refugee Network and Parliamentary Liaison Secretary, Society of Friends.

Rt Revd Gordon Mursell, Bishop of Stafford will give a talk titled "Your people will be my people" while Sean McLoughlin, Solicitor, TRP/ The Rights Partnership will talk about the "The legal landscape".

Douglas Board, Chair of Trustees, Refugee Council: Churches and the Asylum Advocacy Sector will talk about "Travelling together".

Findings of the Independent

Asylum Commission will be presented at the Conference. Some asylum stories will be narrated.

Grassroots and campaign news will also be featured. There will be live Music.

A simple lunch will be provided, amidst a range of project displays on refugee and asylum work throughout Britain.

There will be a special CRN coach from London. "We have learnt that there will be some serious rail maintenance work on the London-Birmingham train services that Saturday 17th May. To make life easier for those of you coming from London, or travelling to Birmingham from the South East or South through London, we have decided to lay on a coach. The price for a coach booking will be £25 for a day return; that is £15 less than the normal train fares, which are about £40 for a day return. A fair number of asylum seeker participants can of course travel for free," organisers said.

For bookings and further information, please contact Wendy Cooper on 020 7916 8632/wendy.cooper@urc.org.uk

Ghana's High Commissioner to UK receives prestigious award

Ghana's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom (UK), Mr Annan Arkyin Cato has won the prestigious "Freedom of the City of London Award" for exemplary leadership and tremendous contribution to the growth and strengthening of Ghana-UK ties.

GNA's Kwaku Osei Bonsu reported that relations between Ghana and UK is now at all time high culminating in President John Agyekum Kufuor's historic State Visit to the UK, the first ever by a Ghanaian Head of State at the invitation of the British Monarch, in March last year. The award conferred on Mr Cato by the Mayor of London is reserved for royalty, statesmen and philanthropists. Famous recipients include former South African President Nelson Mandela, Theodore Roosevelt, Florence Nightingale, General Eisenhower and Winston Churchill.

Alderman Sir John Stuttard, who presented the award on behalf of the Mayor, paid tribute to the High Commissioner for his role in deepening Ghana-UK bilateral relations and partnership. Mr Cato dedicated the honour to the entire



President John Agyekum Kufuor's historic State Visit to the UK "It represented the depth of the uninterrupted 50 years of friendship between Ghana and the UK and equally important the resolve of the two countries to continue to work together in the interest of greater world peace."

Mr Annan Arkyin Cato, Ghana's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom

Ghanaian Community. He said Ghana cherished its relations with the UK and conveyed appreciation for the development support towards the country's socio-economic transformation from the British. He asked the business sector of the City of London and the British public to put their money into Ghana's economy saying, they should see Ghana as an attractive country for investment and relaxation. The High Commissioner said he was happy with the positive response to President Kufuor's appeal to the financial sector in the City, by pledging amounts far in

excess of the 750 million pounds sterling, which Ghana had hoped to raise by floating bonds on the London Market.

Referring to the President's state visit, Mr Cato noted that its significance ran deeper than the glamour put on display, saying, "It represented the depth of the uninterrupted 50 years of friendship between Ghana and the UK and equally important the resolve of the two countries to continue to work together in the interest of greater world peace."

SEND US YOUR STORIES

Do you have a story to share with our readers? Are you planning for a community function (wedding, naming ceremony, graduation, cultural festival, independence celebration, seminar, demo, etc)? Please send us reports and announcements of these activities and we will publish them for free in *Africa News*.

Address your reports to: The Editor, *Africa News*, Via Maroso, 50, CAP 00142 Rome, Italy.

E-mail: africanews@etnomedia.org

AGPI hosts dinner for Ghanaians in Ireland

Ghana advised to use oil proceeds to improve lives of ordinary people

By AGPI

The Association of Ghanaian Professionals in Ireland (AGPI) recently hosted a dinner and information session for the Ghanaian community in Ireland. The dinner was held at the Park Plaza Hotel in Dublin.

The occasion was also used to commemorate Ghana's 51st independence from the Great Britain. The event attracted over 120 adults from all over Ireland. There were also in excess of 20 non-Ghanaians from Ireland, Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, Tanzania, Cameroon, Britain, Nigeria and USA to give the occasion an international flavour.

The occasion was celebrated under the theme 'Overcoming barriers to integration and achieving full potentials of Ghanaians

resident in Ireland'. The keynote address was delivered by the Minister and Head of Chancery of Ghana Mission in the UK, Mr. Morgan Brown on behalf of the Ghana High Commissioner to the UK and Ireland. Other dignitaries at the function included Irish politicians, namely, the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Mrs. Joan Burton and the Leader of the Socialist Party, Mr. Joe Higgins.

In her acceptance speech, Mrs. Owusu-Ansah, the Chairperson of the event, underscored the relevance of the theme given the on-going debate in the Irish Parliament of the Immigration, Residency and Protection Bill 2008.

The Head of Chancery of Ghana Mission in the UK, Mr. Morgan Brown, outlined the events leading up to the independence of Ghana from the Great Britain and the chequered history that followed. He concluded his address on an optimistic note by emphasising the sound macro economic environment prevailing in Ghana and called on Ghanaians resident in Ireland to rally solidly and in unity behind the AGPI to "transform the brain drain into brain gain".

In her welcome address, Mrs. Belinda Agyapong, the Chief Executive Officer of AGPI outlined the association's vision and goals. She stressed on the association's determination to become the first ever immigrant group to achieve full employment amongst its national within the shortest possible time. She disclosed that AGPI which started with a membership of only four in early 2007, has currently membership in excess of hundred professionals with expertise ranging from Medicine, Entrepreneurship, Marketing and Management, Information and Communication Technology, Accounting, Engineering, Financial Management, Social Work, Statistics, Education, Transport, to University Administration.

Mrs. Agyapong divulged that AGPI recognises the diversity of human potential and it is "our goal to mobilise human, material and financial resources towards the advancement of Ghana." She maintained that "this will be carried out by working with and helping to strengthen all other Ghanaian sectional groupings in Ireland." Mrs. Agyapong concluded that AGPI will help all Ghanaian nationals resident in Ireland regardless of religious, ethnic and political



"In the Association of Ghanaian Professionals in Ireland, we have committed ourselves to this holistic transformation of our society. For this, ladies and gentlemen, we would not go back on. We would strive to always remind both our admirers and our critics that a holistic transformation is not a one act play which happens once and it is all over. A holistic transformation requires dedication, commitment and visionary leadership which AGPI is poised and well equip to provide. We would work with and help to strengthen all other Ghanaian associations or groups in Ireland. We would provide help to any Ghanaian in need of professional advice or career guidance. We would assist any Ghanaian in need of a job to find one."

Mrs. Belinda Agyapong,
AGPI Chief Executive Officer

persuasions to live the Irish dream just as over 50 million people of Irish descent in America are living the American dream.

In a solidarity message, the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Joan Burton, drew a parallel between Ireland and Ghana in terms of colonial heritage, specifying that whereas Ireland was the first European country to gain independence from Britain in 1922, Ghana happened to be the first country south of Sahara to gain independence from the Britain, 51 years ago. She commended the formation of the AGPI and indicated that it was the best thing that ever happened in Ireland from the immigrant community. She pleaded with all Ghanaians and other immigrants in Ireland to unite behind the leadership of AGPI as their 'vision remains the best approach to integration in Ireland'. She concluded that with the oil discovery in Ghana, Ghanaians should remem-

ber their Irish friends in times of need.

In his speech, the leader of the Socialist Party expressed his fullness of delight at the discovery of oil in Ghana but cautioned that the proceeds should go towards the improvement of the lives of the ordinary Ghanaians rather than the multinational corporation, corrupt politicians and public officials. He also welcomed the formation of the AGPI and encouraged Ghanaians to unite behind the organisation as AGPI was formed by Ghanaians for the maximum potential development of Ghanaians. He concluded by advising the leadership of AGPI to liaise with the appropriate bodies and authorities with issues of concern to the Ghanaian citizenry resident in Ireland. Two founding members Dr. Wilberforce Owusu-Ansah and Ms Lynda Twum-Ackah, on behalf of the AGPI, presented gifts to the invited guests.

Looking for
a JOB, a CAR, a ROOM, a FRIEND?

Place your
CLASSIFIED ADS
on Africa News!

africanews@etnomedia.org

Larteh Association donates computers to Ghanaian students

Members of the Larteh Association of the United Kingdom have donated 11 computers and printers to school children in Larteh-Akuapem in the Eastern Region of Ghana.

The equipment would be mounted at the computer library of Larteh Presbyterian Junior High School, GNA reported.

Mr Alfred K. Gyebi, immediate past president of the association, presented the items on behalf of members at Larteh-Akuapem. He said the gesture was to enable the children to acquire knowledge in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) so that they



could compete in the global market. Osabarima Asiedu Okoo-Ababio, chief of Larteh, received the items on behalf of the children. He urged the students to acquire skills in ICT. Osabarima Okoo-Ababio called on the youth

of Larteh to take advantage of financial support from the Agricultural Development Bank and enter into agriculture ventures such as snail rearing, bee keeping and grasscutter rearing to help raise their incomes and economic standards.

Okoo-Ababio also urged the elders of the town to facilitate the acquisition of land by the youth for such projects. Osabarima Okoo-Ababio appealed to assembly members in the area to contact the traditional authorities whenever they wanted land for development projects.

Touadi becomes Italy's first black African MP

“We must ensure that rights of immigrants are safeguarded”

By Stephen Ogongo

Mr. Jean-Léonard Touadi has just been elected the first black African to the Italian Parliament.

He was elected on Italy of Values (Italia dei Valori, IdV) party ticket.

Hon. Touadi is grateful to all the voters for the confidence in him and says he would work hard to promote a multicultural society. "I'm honoured to assume this responsibility in a country in which I've lived most of life, a country in which my children were born and are growing up," he said.

Mr. Touadi said he would like to give back to Italy what the country has given him in terms of hospitality. "I'm bringing with me to the Parliament a combination of different cultures, the principle of legality, focus on international co-operations and special attention to the youth. And naturally, part of Africa."

Asked what he plans to do as a Parliamentarian, Mr. Touadi said he would first concentrate on learning how to be a good MP in order better serve his voters and the country as a whole.

He said his work as an MP will be focused on three issues: foreign affairs, youth policies and security. "Foreign affairs have a strong link with what's happening in Italy. There is a strong link between what's happening in the rest of the world and in Italy, which unfortunately is normally ignored. Immigration is just one of the examples," Mr. Touadi said.

He would also like to dedicate his term in Parliament fighting for the improvement of youth policies. "I'd like to push for the creation of more opportunities for the future generations, especially in terms of access to jobs. This includes the



second generation immigrants who have different interests and needs from those of their parents," Mr. Touadi said, observing that usually these second generation immigrants are hardly listened to.

"My third focus is on insecurity. It is unfair to only point fingers at immigrants. Those doing this are making a big mistake because the problem of security is related to so many other factors. It depends on social relations, job opportunities, economic trends, organised crime, etc. Insecurity can therefore only be tackled by paying proper attention to all these issues."

While admitting that there are

some immigrants involved in crime, Mr. Touadi said it is right to talk about it and punish them.

"This helps separate them from those who are working hard to earn a respectable place in the society. But it is wrong to make generalised affirmations that immigrants are involved in criminal activities because there is a very small percentage of legal immigrants in Italy involved in crime. The percentage is equivalent to that of Italians."

Mr. Touadi said he is convinced that those involved in crime must be properly punished so as to discourage those thinking of breaking

the law. According to the new MP, social inclusion

also graduated in journalism and political sciences at the Luiss University of Rome.

It is unfair to only point fingers at immigrants. Those doing this are making a big mistake because the problem of security is related to so many other factors. It depends on social relations, job opportunities, economic trends, organised crime, etc. Insecurity can therefore only be tackled by paying proper attention to all these issues."

Mr. Jean-Léonard Touadi, MP

Mr. Touadi has been a successful journalist in Italy, making history as one of the very few African journalists to have worked for the State broadcaster Rai. For several years he was the author and presenter of "Permesso di Soggiorno" (Permit of Stay) in Radiouno, "C'era una volta" (There was once upon a time) in Rai Tre TV and "Un Mondo a Colori" (A coloured world) in Rai Due TV.

Mr. Touadi has been a university lecturer since 1998. He teaches Francophone cultures at the University of Milan.

He also teaches Geopolitics at the Tor Vergata University in Rome.

He continues to write commentaries for several Italian newspapers and magazines. He is particularly interested in intercultural debates, international relations, and globalisation. He is a regular columnist with the Catholic monthly "Nigrizia" magazine and author of several books on African politics, history and cultures.

Before his election to Parliament, Mr. Touadi was the Councillor in charge of security of the City Council of Rome. He also headed the City Council's Youth department and Relations with universities.

Netherlands

Hope for Niger Delta Campaign hosts conference on Niger Delta crisis

Hope for Niger Delta Campaign (HNDC) will host a conference on the economic and social challenges presented by the environmental scourge.

The conference will be held in Rotterdam, Netherlands on 14th June at the Beurs - World Trade Center, Van Oldenbarnevelt Auditorium.

The theme of this year's conference will be "Transnational and Diaspora role in Niger Delta development". This conference will seek lasting solutions to the perennial violence in the area. It will also be used as a platform to encourage dialogue between all stakeholders in the Niger Delta project.

The conference is expected to be a quintessential gathering for distinguished personalities of all times including, academics, environmentalists, politicians and

socialists to deliver key note speeches.

The HNDC is a non governmental, non profit organization based in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. It was founded in 2005 by Comrade Sunny Ofehe, a Nigerian born social critic and civil rights activist, in response to the environmental and social expediences prevalent in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria and Africa in general.

The HNDC members are drawn from different ethnic groups of Nigeria, working on a volunteer basis. The organization has been in the fore front of a global campaign for an environmental policy that will explicate the riveted issues of pollution, degradation, and human displacements in developing countries. The HNDC is widely acknowledged as a vanguard for

championing the cause of the less privileged communities. It stands as a potent advocacy for social justice, equal opportunities, infrastructural and human developments.

The organisation "probes and queries and attempts to take a critical and unbiased view of the problems facing all stake holders in the Niger-Delta region, with a view to presenting fair and balanced criticism and commendation as often as the need may arise and proffering tangible and credible solutions to same and by so doing forestalling the ever present threat of violence in the region," says Mr. Ofehe.

Mr. Ofehe is convinced that "the people are the best architects of their own development. They are also the best pilots. It is the conscious initiative of the benefit-

ing partners, not chance or imposition, which holds the greatest prospects for efficacy and sustainability. The people must therefore own, lead and manage their own development."

You are all invited to this conference. If you or your organization wishes to attend, please notify the organisers by sending an email to info@nigerdeltacampaign.com



Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs Maxime Verhagen and HNDC President Comrade Sunny Ofehe

You can also send a letter to Hope for Niger Delta Campaign, P.O. Box 55013, 3008 EA, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

NEW!

NEXT DAY TO AFRICA

£4.90*

Envoyez aujourd'hui, recevez demain!

Tunawaletea huduma mpya siku moja!

WESTERN UNION

NEW NEXT DAY SERVICE TO AFRICA.



*£4.90 fee from the UK applicable with the Next Day Service for amounts up to £100 when sending money to African countries where Western Union service is available except Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya and Egypt. Prices subject to change without notice. Money is usually available the following calendar day of the send country for collection, subject to service at the receive Agent locations and other terms and conditions of service. See send form for details. In addition to transfer fees, Western Union also makes money when it changes your pounds into foreign currency.

Life without black people

By Tony Kofi*

A very humorous and revealing story is told about a group of white people who were fed up with African Americans, so they joined together and wished themselves away. They passed through a deep dark tunnel and emerged in sort of a twilight zone where there is an America without black people.

At first these white people breathed a sigh of relief. At last, they said, No more crime, drugs, violence and welfare.

All of the blacks have gone! Then suddenly, reality set in. The 'NEW AMERICA' is not America at all-only a barren land.

1. There are very few crops that have flourished because the nation was built on a slave-supported system.

2. There are no cities with tall skyscrapers because Alexander Mills, a blackman, invented the elevator, and without it, one finds great difficulty reaching higher floors.

3. There are few if any cars because Richard Spikes, a black man, invented the automatic gearshift, Joseph Gambol, also black, invented the Super Charge System for Internal Combustion Engines, and Garrett A. Morgan, a black man, invented the traffic signals.


4. Furthermore, one could not use the rapid transit system because its procurer was the electric trolley, which was invented by another black man, Albert R. Robinson.

5. Even if there were streets on which cars and a rapid transit system could operate, they were cluttered with paper because an African American, Charles Brooks, invented the street sweeper.

6. There were few if any newspapers, magazines and books because John Love invented the pencil sharpener, William Purveys invented the fountain pen, and Lee Barrage invented the Type Writing Machine and W. A. Love invented the Advanced Printing Press. They were all, you guessed it, Black.

7. Even if Americans could write their letters, articles and books, they would not have been transported by mail because William Barry invented the Postmarking and Cancelling Machine, William Purveys

OurRoots



MALCOLM X

NO ONE EXPRESSED THE ANGER THAT MANY AFRICAN-AMERICANS FELT DURING THE 1950S AND 1960S MORE VIVIDLY THAN ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, MALCOLM X (1925-1965). HE SEEMED IN MANY WAYS THE OPPOSITE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WHO PREACHED NON-VIOLENCE. BORN MALCOLM LITTLE, HE LASHED OUT AT SOCIETY'S UNFAIR TREATMENT OF HIS PEOPLE. HIS DEPICTION OF WHITES AS "BLUE-EYED DEVILS" GOT HIM LOTS OF PRESS ATTENTION AND HIS MILITANT STANCE WAS UNCOMFORTABLE TO MANY. FOLLOWING A TRIP TO MECCA THE HOLY LAND, MALCOLM X AN ALREADY DEVOUT MOSLEM CHANGED HIS NAME TO EL-HAJJ MALIK AL-SHABAZZ. HIS FIGHT FOR FREEDOM CONTINUED UNTIL HE WAS ASSASSINATED ON THE 21ST OF FEBRUARY 1965. MALCOLM X IS AN ICON TO MANY TODAY.

invented the Hand Stamp and Philip Downing invented the Letter Drop.

8. The lawns were brown and wilted because Joseph Smith invented the Lawn Sprinkler and John Burr the Lawn Mower.

9. When they entered their homes, they found them to be poorly ventilated and poorly heated. You see, Frederick Jones invented the Air Conditioner and Alice Parker the Heating Furnace. Their homes were also dim. But of course, Lewis Lattimer later invented the Electric Lamp, Michael Harvey invented the lantern, and Granville T. Woods invented the Automatic Cut off Switch. Their homes were also filthy because Thomas W. Steward invented the Mop and Lloyd P. Ray the Dust Pan.

10. Their children met them at the door-barefooted, shabby, motley and unkempt. But what could one expect? Jan E. Matzlinger invented the Shoe Lasting

Machine, Walter Sammons invented the Comb, Sarah Boone invented the Ironing Board, and George T. Samon invented the Clothes Dryer.

11. Finally, they were resigned to at least have dinner amidst all of this turmoil. But here again, the food had spoiled because another Black Man, John Standard invented the refrigerator.

Now, isn't that something? What would this country be like without the contributions of Blacks, as African-Americans?

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, 'by the time we leave for work, Americans have depended on the inventions from the minds of Blacks.'

Black history includes more than just slavery, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and Marcus Garvey & W. E. B. Dubois.

PLEASE SHARE, ABUNDANTLY

*Courtesy of Modernghana.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome letters on topical issues, your experiences, and or comments on any article you have read in the *Africa News*. We will only consider letters sent to us for publication if they carry the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a sign of good faith. Address your letters to:
The Editor, *Africa News*,
Via Maroso, 50, CAP 00142 Rome, Italy,
E-mail: africanews@etnomedia.org or fax
+39-06-87410528.

How Do You Measure Up To God?

By Simon Weston

In our daily lives, people are constantly being challenged to conform to new working practices, charters and legislations designed to change our behaviour and belief. Despite laws made by Man, we need to be reminded, that another law has been in existence for thousands of years (and of greater significance), is hardly mentioned in today's society throughout the world. To be truthful, for the most part it has been forgotten, yet if we had adhered to this law, most other Man requirements would have been unnecessary.

God teaches us to keep his commandment, statutes and judgments. Thus encouraging believers to listen, keep and to do them. It is not enough, just to both hear and have the knowledge of the law (in other words to know what they are and what they mean). Every person hast to do them, in order to reap its full benefits. God in return will love you, bless you and multiply you. God will also bless the fruit of your womb, and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine, and your oil. God will increase your cattle and the offspring of your flock (Deuteronomy

Struggling and dealing with so much turmoil, hatred, suffering, pain, confusion, and wickedness. The structures and fabric are crumbling at an alarming rate within our society, jobs, families and personal lives because we do not practise the Ten Commandments

7 v 11-15).

How you hear is as important as what you hear. If you were to give a message to a room full of people, you would be amazed at the different interpretations they would give to that message. Why is this so? It's because people hear differently, and that's often the difference between success and failure. Therefore 'pay attention to

how you hear' and not 'what you hear.' To hear the word of God is to 'hear to do' (Luke 8 v 18). You have to put the word of God you are hearing to work!

It is clear that God seeks obedience from all of us, before he rewards us with unlimited blessings. On the other hand, failure to observe God's law is contributing to why the world (in which we live today) is in its present condition. Struggling and dealing with so much turmoil, hatred, suffering, pain, confusion, and wickedness. The structures and fabric are crumbling at an alarming rate within our society, jobs, families

and personal lives because we do not practise the Ten Commandments (Deuteronomy 5 v 7-21).

Our heavenly father is looking down on the earth into every home, the guest at every meal and the silent listener to every conversation, recording our daily behaviour.

We can all become successful investors

What do we mean by Investment? Can I Invest in any junk? How do I know what to invest in? How do I get started? These questions and others will be looked into as we continued.

INVESTMENT is about saving for the future by way of deferring consumption NOW till future. It is characterised by purchase of ASSET or deposit made in bank with the hope of getting return or interest from it later.

It is a way of using what you have on hand to secure the future. At the beginning it may seem impossible, unworkable, unrealizable and unattainable but as the investor stays focused, he achieves a meaningful result. Note that no pain, no gain; no cross, no crown and no test, no testimony.

Everyone may not be a proprietor or manager of business, but can become a co-owner of a big time company unconsciously and your money will be working for you instead of you working for money.

Not every Italian for example, earns dividends from FIAT motors but those that own shares in the company. Become today an

INVESTOR and be totally transformed financially.

A lot of people would have become big time investors but due to lack of information they couldn't. Note that I don't care attitude leads to "had I known". This is not your portion in Jesus Name. We are trying to inform you through this means that it is not too late to start now.

Those who succeed in life are people hungry for success in their chosen field. As they succeed, failure story is kept behind them. Brother Paul says he forget about the past and pressed forward.

Stop living in the past but have it behind your mind that someone is far ahead of you and make up your mind to fight the battle of survival.

Have you tried before and lost money? That is not enough reason to stop. It all boils down on lack of information. Winners don't quit, just as quitters don't win.

By Rotimi & Bukola Oteniya

UN aid chief: Darfur crisis worsening

Fighting in Darfur between Sudanese Government forces and rebel groups has been on for five years, yet the world has not yet found a durable solution to crisis causing immense suffering to millions of people in the region, the United Nations humanitarian chief told the Security Council has said.

Mr. John Holmes, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs warned that the situation will only deteriorate unless urgent measures are taken, UN News Service reported.

Mr. Holmes told a Council meeting that he was saddened and angry to inform them that the situation inside Darfur had only worsened in the past 12 months, despite the efforts of the international community.

"We continue to see the goalposts receding, to the point where peace in Darfur seems further away today than ever," he said in a statement. "Further progress in the deployment of UNAMID [the hybrid UN-African Union peacekeeping force], equipped to protect civilians and improve security, will help.

"But only an end to all violence and concrete steps towards a political settlement will make the fundamental difference needed, as the rebel movements themselves above all need to recognize. Otherwise the reality is that the people of Darfur face a continued steady deterioration of their conditions of life and their chances of lasting recovery."

Since the war broke out in Darfur in 2003, 300,000 people are now estimated to have died. The figure includes deaths from disease, malnutrition and reduced life



© UN PHOTO

expectancy, as well as from direct combat. The fighting has also displaced more than 2.7 million Darfurians.

Rodolphe Adada, the AU-UN Joint

Special Representative for Darfur, said it was disturbing that while the region

Last year the UN Security Council authorized the deployment of UNAMID to take over from an under-resourced AU force.

The operation began work at the start of this year, but so far only around 10,000 of the roughly 26,000 uniformed personnel have been deployed.

Mr. Adada said that up to 80 per cent of the entire UNAMID force could be deployed by the end of this year if donor countries do more to help out, whether by providing troops or equipment.

He called on the Council to redouble its efforts to assist the mission and he also read out an update on efforts to broker a political settlement by the UN and AU envoys to the peace process, Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim.

Mr. Adada said logistical challenges are one of the biggest problems, with the mission lacking the infrastructure at the moment to house the thousands of staff expected at full deployment.

He said UN and AU officials were working hard to try to accelerate deployment and to make the most of the available resources - including fresh water - in the parched and landlocked region.

"Only an end to all violence and concrete steps towards a political settlement will make the fundamental difference needed, as the rebel movements themselves above all need to recognize. Otherwise the reality is that the people of Darfur face a continued steady deterioration of their conditions of life and their chances of lasting recovery."

Mr. John Holmes, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs

has remained near the top of the international agenda, this attention had not been matched with the necessary action to provide UNAMID with the means to accomplish the tasks assigned to it.

Human Rights Watch: Sexual Violence still rife in Darfur

Brown and Clooney call for action on Darfur



UK's Prime Minister Gordon Brown and activist George Clooney in Downing Street in April

UK's Prime Minister Gordon Brown has called for swifter progress on Darfur following a meeting with actor and activist George Clooney in Downing Street in April.

tarian tragedy of colossal proportions and the world must take note and act. The UK is working with the international community and others to pressure all sides to agree a ceasefire, start peace talks, and facilitate the

The PM said the world "must take note and act" following further violence and the displacement of 58,000 people in the last few months.

The PM said: "The situation in Darfur is unacceptable. In February and March alone, fighting displaced 58,000 people. Humanitarian access is limited and UNAMID deployment is still too slow. The rebels and government continue to openly flout UNSC resolutions through attacks on civilians.

"I am grateful for the leadership George Clooney has shown in drawing attention to this crisis - this is a humani-

rapid deployment of UNAMID."

Mr Clooney, who took a "messenger of peace" advocacy role with the UN earlier this year, told journalists of an idea to supply more helicopters to the war-torn region of Sudan and "create some security".

Meanwhile a new report by the Human Rights Watch reveals that five years into the Darfur conflict, women and girls need protection from rape and brutal attacks still being committed by government forces and armed groups throughout Darfur.

Girls and women in Darfur don't receive sufficient protection from either the government security forces or international peacekeepers. The report says that they continue to be raped and subjected to other abuses during large-scale attacks and even in periods of relative calm.

Human Rights Watch report said the survivors of sexual violence face numerous obstacles to justice, leaving them without meaningful redress. Where the perpetrators are soldiers or militia, the chances of prosecution are still more remote.

"Women and girls in Darfur are still living under the constant threat of rape," said Georgette Gagnon, Africa director at Human

"I am grateful for the leadership George Clooney has shown in drawing attention to this crisis - this is a humanitarian tragedy of colossal proportions and the world must take note and act. The UK is working with the international community and others to pressure all sides to agree a ceasefire, start peace talks, and facilitate the rapid deployment of UNAMID."

UK's Prime Minister Gordon Brown

Rights Watch. "The Sudanese government has declared 'zero-tolerance' for sexual violence, yet has done almost nothing to protect these victims."

<http://www.africa-news.eu>

You can now read Africa News online

- it features the latest news immigration news from all parts of the world
- it covers and promotes activities of Africans abroad
- it features news from different parts of Africa
- it is also an interactive forum where all can post news from all parts of the world.
- a place where you can express your views on different topics and comment on the latest news items

<http://www.africa-news.eu> is the place where Africans and all interested in Africa share news and views

Interview with Ayesha Kajee, Director of the International Human Rights Exchange Programme at Witwatersrand University, South Africa

Darfur & No End

By Eric Singh

The Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden* (Development and Peace Foundation) held a seminar, "Potsdam Spring Dialogue 2008", Germany, on 4-5 April 2008. The topic was "Global and Regional Participation for Security in Africa". One of the participants was Ms Ayesha Kajee of South Africa. She is the director of the International Human Rights Exchange Programme at Witwatersrand (Wits - Johannesburg) University. This is a joint venture of Wits University and Bard College in the USA and 12 other member institutions all of whom send students to Johannesburg for a semester with South African and other African students. It is a programme that focuses entirely on human rights and the various aspects thereto. Darfur plays a very active role in this programme and Ms Kajee has made several trips to the region. Your scribe took the opportunity of talking to her.

Ms Kajee, you have been to Darfur several times. In what capacity?

At first I got involved in it through two different directions. At first I was looking at the North-South Peace Agreement around 2003/04 as it was being negotiated. Around that time the first incidents of Darfur atrocities began to surface in the media. But because attention was focused on the North-South conflict and the resolution of that, therefore, essentially, Darfur did not get much attention until the peace negotiation had been concluded.

I was also looking at the set up in the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague and concurrently with that, the setting up of the African Union (AU) organs which also include an African Court of Human and People's Rights. Looking at those two institutions it became obvious that at least some of what was happening in Darfur would be potential future subjects of prosecution either by the African Court or the ICC.

What has happened so far?

Thus far you have seen that despite the opposition of some key players such as the USA which remains neutral or abstains from that vote in the Security Council, the UN Security Council ultimately in 2005 resolved to refer the case of Darfur to the ICC for investigation. Since then the ICC has opened a docket investigating the atrocities in Darfur. Some are calling them war crimes, others say they amount to genocide under the Geneva Convention. Now, there is an outstanding indictment for 50 Sudanese people who have allegedly been involved in matters under the jurisdiction of the of the ICC and those matters could be war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide.

In your input here at the seminar, you mentioned that there are too many players and lots of money involved. Am I to believe that the Darfur crisis has assumed the role of a "grave train" and opportunists want to jump aboard?

I will not call it a grave train. I would say that the international attention that has been focussed on Darfur and sometimes the media misinformation on that particular conflict has tended to confuse the public.

Please explain that?

The media has tended to categorize this primarily as an ethnic conflict. It is not. Every Darfuri is an African. Almost all Darfurians are Moslem. It is a situation which has huge regional and domestic, political ramifications. Because, it is a voting block for the north on the one hand, and on the other, the politics of Darfur have been

racialised since 1968 when the potential of that voting bloc was first realised within the domestic politics of Sudan.

Also, Darfur is a strategically placed regionally. It has been used as a launching pad for insurgency and counter-insurgency into Chad which is its western neighbour.

The border between Darfur and Chad is absolutely poverty stricken and tribes living along both sides of that border share marital, communal and cultural ties. So it is very easy to instigate rebellion along those lines, based on ethnic or regional dimensions. Darfur has unfortunately been in a position of being used by Libya, even to some extent by Chad and some other regional players such as Egypt and Ethiopia. Geographically, it is in a very vulnerable spot.

Internationally, there are the resource issues which relate to the Darfur conflict. Many analysts will say that there is no proof that there are resources in Darfur. I beg to differ on that because I have seen statistical

everywhere at the same time to police all the potential flashpoints.

The AU Mission has to contend with the Government of Sudan and the paramilitary forces allegedly under its control with its huge firepower. Then the Mission also has to contend with rebel movements that resent its presence on the ground particularly those that have not been part of the May 2006 Darfur Peace Agreement.

There are a lot of arms around. Where the hell are they coming from?

The region is a sort of prime area for the circulation of small arms. Firstly, because of the poorest border areas existing between Sudan and the neighbouring countries and most of these have had their fair share of conflicts in the last two decades. There is a residue of small arms circulating from some of those conflicts and also between those conflicts. There are rumours circulating that

medium or long term it needs UN back stopping as it is called. The worst case scenarios have been where there has been a total lack of coordination between AU and UN approaches. Scenarios where there have been long delays because a mandate was not agreeable upon within the UN Security Council or the AU Peace & Security Council.

These are practical issues that need some interrogation such as to whether we integrate brigades from different countries and different regions of the world. Or, we segregate them and then deal with the political fallout of that. Very simple practical logistic issues must be addressed. I would say very clearly here that each case has to be judged on its own merit and looked at according to its particular unique context. No two conflicts are the same. Therefore no two conflicts can have the same solution. The best we can hope for is to learn from our mistakes and to use those lessons in our policy and strategis-



Ms. Ayesha Kajee, Director of the International Human Rights Exchange Programme at Witwatersrand University, South Africa being interviewed by our correspondent Mr. Eric Singh

and geographical data that suggests that there is certainly in Southern Darfur a preponderance of oil. Others have indicated to me both within the ruling cabal in Khartoum and among opposition movements that they believe other resources exist in Darfur as well.

It has been suggested that troops sent into Darfur to maintain peace are wearing false teeth. Do you agree?

I feel that there is a great deal of sincerity behind the sending of the AU mission to Sudan. This was galvanised partly through the observer mission sent by the Pan African Parliament to do something about the situation in Darfur. Since the rest of the international community was either unable or unwilling to react, the AU Mission did so. Although it did not have sufficient resources, nor a strong enough mandate, but in places where the troops were present, their presence did have some effect. Even in instances where the Mission itself came under attack, civilians were protected particularly in the camps of the internally displaced.

This is a huge region, almost the size of France or Texas. And here you have a small contingent which is under-resourced both financially and in terms of technical resources. It is impossible for them to be

there are secret arms caches in the Central African Republic.

The prevalence and domination of the Lords Resistance Army in Northern Uganda over the past years has also been responsible for the arms that have circulated between Northern Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Southern Sudan which includes Darfur. Therefore, it is difficult to say exactly where the arms come from. But most certainly there is a huge number in circulation. Some of them might be called obsolete arms in the west but potent enough to kill and maim.

What did you discuss at the seminar. Have you come out with any solutions and who is listening to you?

There have been some very interesting case studies. We did not meet to solve any problems to but to look at instances in practice and to see where lessons might be drawn. We looked at three specific cases over the past two days - Sudan, Burundi and that of West Africa. There are some lessons of best practice and some cautions of worst practice drawn from that.

In terms of best practice that missions such as the regional ones, sponsored by the AU and the regional economic communities, are at best, short-term rapid response solutions to a crisis situation. Ultimately, in the

ing.

I repeat my question. Who is listening to you?

Well, the Development and Peace Foundation has gathered here over the last two days and representatives from various African countries based in Berlin, as well as fairly high-level representatives of organisations and think-tanks from a number of European countries. Having that high level of input into the discussions, one hopes that at least some of the debates here over the last two days will feed into the various policy documents. The EU was also represented here and it is this body that has been the most proactive multilateral grouping world wide to support the notion of "African Solutions for African Problems" through the African peace facilities which started in 2004. We must hope that the intense discussion that took place here will be transplanted into the policy framework for the future.

**This organisation was founded in 1986 on the initiative of former German Chancellor Willy Brandt. It is a cross-party, non-profit making organisation and is currently funded by four German Länder (states). It has its Headquarters in Bonn. The seminar was held in Potsdam, capital city of the State of Brandenburg.*

© KAREN SINGH PHOTO

Growing calls for Zimbabwe arms embargo

UK's Prime Minister Gordon Brown has called for a total arms embargo on Zimbabwe and denounced President Robert Mugabe's attempts to steal the recent presidential election.

Amnesty International has also said that all shipments of small arms, light weapons and ammunition ordered from China by the Zimbabwe Government must be halted as there is a real risk that it may lead to increased human rights violations in Zimbabwe.

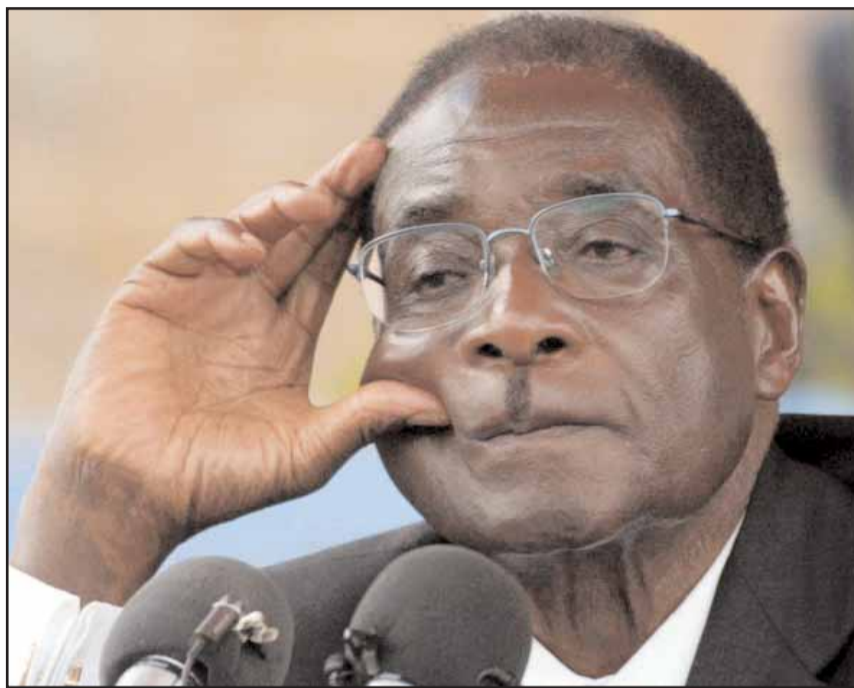
Oliver Sprague, Amnesty International UK's Arms Programme Director said: "Until the present wave of state sponsored violence comes to an end and the rule of law is established, no weapons should be supplied to Zimbabwe."

"In addition no other pieces of security equipment - including tear gas, water canons - should be sold to Zimbabwe during this turbulent time. In the past, Zimbabwe Riot Police have used excessive force against human rights defenders with such equipment to suppress the right to peaceful protest."

Mr. Brown reiterated his call for African leaders to unite and make it clear that the ongoing election crisis is unfair to the people of Zimbabwe. "A message should be sent from the whole of the UK that what is happening in Zimbabwe, failing to announce an election result, trying to rig an election result, is completely unacceptable," he said.

The Prime Minister told the

© AP PHOTO



President Robert Mugabe

United Nations Security Council that the election results should be released immediately and that any further round of voting should take place in full view of international monitors.

Meanwhile Zimbabwe's main opposition Movement For Democratic Change (MDC) has rejected demands by supporters of President Mugabe that he should

lead a transitional government to prepare new elections.

The MDC says the call by supporters of the ruling ZANU-PF party is an affront to the democratic tenets after the failure of the electoral commission to release presidential results three weeks after the general elections, VOA reported.

Eliphaz Mukonoweshuro, the

international affairs secretary of the opposition MDC told VOA: "Our reaction is simple. Release the results and let us find out which political party won the presidential poll. Any other discussion cannot be entertained before we have closed that hurdle." He said the opposition MDC is prepared to participate in a credible election that meets international standards.

The President of the MDC was quite clear. His message was that election results should be released immediately. He believes and we all believe in the MDC that we have won the election

resoundingly. However, if in the event of the need for a run-off, the MDC is prepared for that provided that certain conditions are met to guarantee the freedom of the vote to guarantee that elections takes place in the context of a free and fair

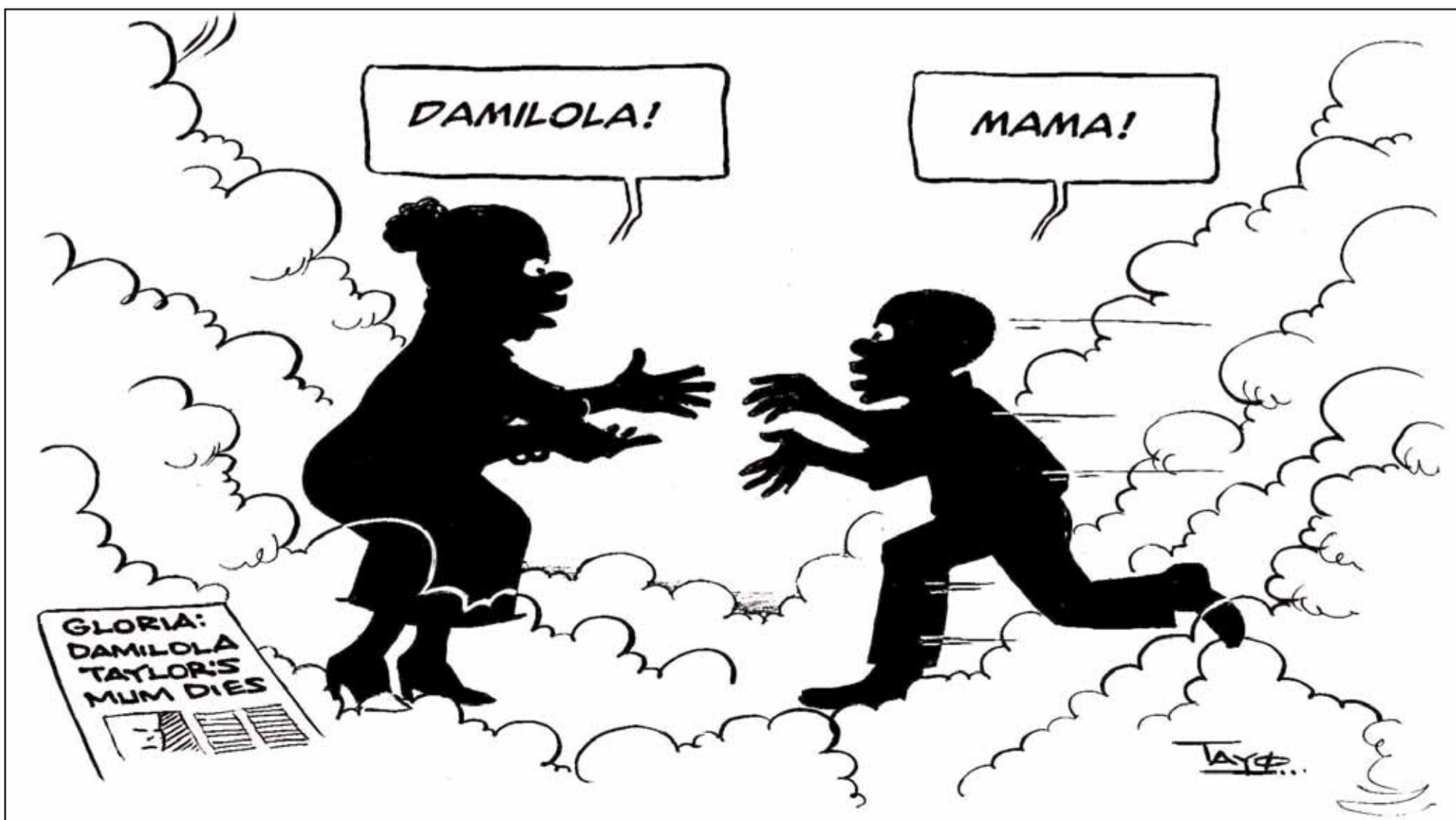
political environment," he said.

Elections were held in Zimbabwe on 29th March. The parliamentary results show that the ruling Zanu-PF party lost its majority but 23 results are being recounted.

By the time we went to press two recounts have been finished and both confirmed the original results. So far the presidential election results have not yet been released.

"Until the present wave of state sponsored violence comes to an end and the rule of law is established, no weapons should be supplied to Zimbabwe. In addition no other pieces of security equipment - including tear gas, water canons - should be sold to Zimbabwe during this turbulent time. In the past, Zimbabwe Riot Police have used excessive force against human rights defenders with such equipment to suppress the right to peaceful protest."

**Oliver Sprague,
Amnesty International UK's
Arms Programme Director**



Indian Prime Minister: "21st Century will be the century of Africa and Asia"

By Agenzia Fides

Investments, businesses, energy security, climate changes, reform of the United Nations, and peacekeeping. These were the main topics of discussion in the first India-Africa Summit held in April in New Delhi.

In his opening address, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh spoke on the importance of his government's contribution to the increase in business agreements between India and Africa, announcing that New Delhi will grant special access to the Indian market for merchandise from 50 developing countries, 34 of which are African. Among the products that will have heavy tariffs imposed on them, are: cotton, cacao, aluminium, copper, non-industrial diamonds, and brown sugar. The Indian Prime Minister has also announced the plan to duplicate African credits over the next five years. Through the Import-Export Bank from 2003 to 2008, India was granted about 2.15 billion dollars in credits that will go towards projects in various African nations. This sum has since become 5.4 billion dollars.

India wants to place its own technological know how in the area of Information Technology (IT) on energy production and on managing small and medium-size businesses through partnerships on both a public and private level.

In political affairs, New Delhi is now



Tanzanian President and African Union President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, left, speaks with Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh at a press conference at the first India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, April 9, 2008.

seeking support from the African countries to become member of the Permanent Security Council of the UN. A reform of this entity has been under debate for some time now, including the question of its expansion

to include new members, in addition to the five that already form it (United States, Russia, China, Great Britain, and France). Among the countries seeking positions are India, Brazil, and South Africa, three coun-

tries that have begun a common forum in order to coordinate their policies in the area of economics, diplomacy, and strategy. The Indian Prime Minister spoke of the need for Africa and India to transform international institutions in order to create a more equitable economic system. "The 21st century will be the century of Africa and Asia," Singh affirmed. The Asian and African countries are becoming more united in business agreements, strategies, diplomatic accords, and culturally. The Summit, promoted by New Delhi, was held in 2006 between China and Africa, and was attended by 28 African nations. The two Asian giants hope to expand their economic presence and political influence in Africa, showing themselves to be countries and not colonists (they themselves having suffered colonialism), who do not interfere in the internal policies of individual countries and that propose a free society.

The rhetoric about a "common future" cannot hide the obvious rush to take control of African resources, energy-based or no, on which economies in both old and new developed countries depend.

Kikwete nominates Tanzania's first Albino MP

On April 8th, her 48th birthday, Al-Shaymaa was sworn in as an MP during a ceremony at the State House in Dodoma.

"I was shocked and felt like crying when the President told me of his intention to nominate me as MP. Now I am very happy. I will be

"I was shocked and felt like crying when the President told me of his intention to nominate me as MP. Now I am very happy. I will be working hand in hand with the government in making sure that the atrocities facing albinos are stopped."

Al-Shaymaa, MP

working hand in hand with the government in making sure that the atrocities facing albinos are stopped."

This historical move backed up President Jakaya Kikwete's New Year message calling for: a halt to beliefs associating albinism with witchcraft; a review of existing laws; the formation of a committee to research traditional healers practicing these beliefs.

The practice of using the body parts of albinos as talisman has resulted in 19 reported murders, and several unresolved disappearances, of albinos in the lake region in the past year. In December 2007 the Tanzania Albino Society (TAS), supported by Action on Disability and

Development (ADD), embarked on a joint campaign with Sightsavers International. The campaign involves a series of press conferences and awareness raising activities among witchdoctors and the community as a whole in the lake region. Christopher Dadenekeye from TAS said: "We need to clear out beliefs that albinism is the result of a curse put on the family and the witch-doctors should be arrested."

Theodory Mwalongo, Country Director of Action on Disability and Development (ADD) Tanzania said: "The appointment of Al-Shaymaa as MP is great news, there are now three disabled MPs in government."

ADD has been supporting TAS since it was first set up in 1999 because they find it difficult to raise funds independently. Albinism is not recognised as a disability even though albinos experience the same levels of discrimination and barriers to full inclusion into society as other disabled people.

Maputo hosts the 2008 Biennale on Education in Africa

The capital of Mozambique, Maputo, is to host the Biennale on Education in Africa from 5th to 9th May. The Biennale is the most important meeting in Africa in the field of educational cooperation, organized every two years by the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA).

About 600 participants are expected to attend the conference to be held at the Joaquim Chissano International Conference Center.

The Biennale will bring together all African ministers of education and training, representatives of multilateral and bilateral development cooperation agencies, African and international non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, foundations, education specialists, academics and practitioners, as well as providers of all types of education. Ministers for sectors other than education are also expected.

On 5th May, the formal opening ceremony of the first Biennale hosted by a Lusophone African country will include addresses by President Armando Emilio Guebuza of Mozambique; President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of the Republic of Algeria, guest of honour; the current Chairperson of the African Union, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete; and the First Lady of Puerto Rico, Luisa Acevedo Vilá.

At the 2006 Biennale in Libreville, the discussions focused on the factors and conditions conducive to effective schools, literacy programs and early childhood development programs. In Maputo, the participants will consider post-primary education, one of the greatest challenges facing African education systems now that

significant progress has been made in improving enrolment and completion rates at the primary level.

The central theme, "Beyond Primary Education: Challenges and Approaches to Expanding Learning Opportunities in Africa", will be addressed through three broad sub-themes: extending the duration of mandatory schooling for all to 9-10 years; the challenge of skills development, to better prepare young people for integration into social and working life; linkages between senior secondary education and higher education, with a view to building human resources for Africa's development.

Plenary sessions will be held to introduce each of these sub-themes, followed by parallel sessions which will allow participants to discuss them in greater depth, analyzing cross-cutting issues relating to, among other things, relevant policy directions, coherent and efficient governance of education systems, efficient division of roles between the central government and its various partners, mobilization of fresh resources and cost reduction, promising strategies for broadening access and enhancing equity, increasing the teaching force and teacher training, curriculum and skills development, equivalencies and



bridges between components of the education system.

The main objective of the 2008 Biennale is to foster the sharing of African and international experience and knowledge on the development of post-primary education, to promote shared understandings of the challenges and priorities, and to identify lessons learned, policy options and promising strategies.

The event will provide the African education community with the tools, as well as the latest state of knowledge and practice, that are apt to bring advances in post-primary education throughout the continent, in line with the considerable progress made toward the achievement of universal primary education. Over 120 studies and research papers have been prepared for the Maputo meeting, according to ADEA Executive Secretary Mamadou Ndoye.

Black Stars - Ghana's Hiplife Generation

New compilation featuring best Ghanaian Hiplife musicians released

A new CD compilation has been released featuring some of the most famous Ghanaian hiplife musicians. The 'Black Stars - Ghana's Hiplife Generation' showcases this vibrant music scene and unique Ghanaian sound, with the detailed liner notes putting the music in context.

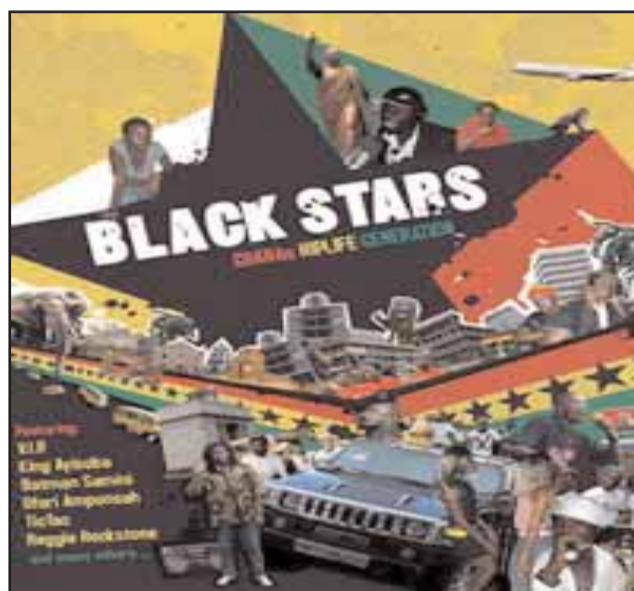
The compilation features Tic Tac, Reggie Rockstone, Batman Samini, King Ayisoba, Ofori Amponsah, V.I.P. and many more.

"Ghana is free forever"- these were the words of Kwame Nkrumah, the first elected president of the former Gold Coast, on the

6th of March 1957 when Ghana became the first African country to gain independence from colonial rule. Today, more than fifty years later, Ghana is known to be one of the most peaceful and stable countries in Africa (host to the 2008 Africa Cup of Nations) and attracting thousands of tourists each year, especially African-Americans coming for inspirational trips to trace their roots and visit the former slave forts scattered along the coast. Nkrumah himself was inspired by the ideas of the Jamaican black activist Marcus Garvey, who founded the Black Star Line, a shipping company to bring African-Americans back to Africa. The black star in Ghana's national flag is a lasting reference to Garvey.

However, in 2008 Ghana's youth is no longer dancing to Highlife that was popular back then, but to Hiplife, the local mix of Hip-Hop, Highlife, Reggae and Dancehall. Hiplife gained prominence about 10 years ago with Reggie Rockstone, who is known as the "Godfather of Hiplife" and was the first to rap in Twi, the most common language in Ghana. Hiplife is everywhere in Ghana now; it has developed into one of the most popular music styles in the country and has broadened into several sub-genres.

'Black Stars - Ghana's Hiplife Generation', compiled by Out Here Records' Georg Milz (also of the Munich-based Daladala Soundz sound system), presents some of the most popular Hiplife artists to the rest of the world.



Tic Tac is a true hiplife veteran and one of Ghana's most popular artists. The success of his song 'Kangaroo' also made him a pan-African popstar, as the video to the song made it to the top in MTV Base Africa's charts. 'Kangaroo' features Nigerian superstar D'banj as well as Batman Samini (also known as the "King of African Dancehall").

In 2007, Batman Samini was nominated for an MTV European Music Award in the category Best African Act. His mix of Hiplife and Ragga is known as Raglife, a style that was pioneered by Terry Bonchaka. One of the most well-known Hiplife crews is V.I.P. who originate from Nima, Accra's largest ghetto. Their song 'Ahomka Wo Mu', featured on the CD, has become one of the most popular Hiplife tunes throughout West

Africa. Whereas most Hiplife artists in Ghana rap in Twi, the trademark of Tinny are his lyrics in Ga, a language spoken in the region around Accra.

One of Ghana's biggest-selling artists at present is Ofori Amponsah whose high-pitched voice can be heard coming out of every club in Ghana. His style is often described as Modern Highlife since he rarely features rappers on his tracks. The latest sensation is King Ayisoba who has won over Ghanaian audiences with his two-stringed Kolgo (an ancestor of the guitar) and his hilarious broken English, while one of the hidden gems in Ghana's music scene is Sheriff Ghale who is known for his conscious Roots Reggae in the style of Peter Tosh or Bob Marley.

The Diaspora in London is represented in the shape of Afroganic, an ambitious project by producer Kwame Acheampong who has created a 100% acoustic African club sound. Ghana's underground Hip-Hop heads QDL and Kwaku-T also have close ties to the international music scene as both of them spent a lot of time abroad. Kwaku-T had his biggest success with the song 'Toto Mechanic' ('toto' is the Ga word for the female genitalia and Kwaku T is Ghana's self-proclaimed master technician). Of course, Hiplife's founding father Reggie Rockstone is also featured on the CD.

You can listen to some of the tracks on this link www.myspace.com/hiplifegeneration Copies of the CD can be ordered from this link www.ilkamedia.com

TRACK-LISTING

1. King Ayisoba feat. Kontihene, Kwabena Kwabena & Kwaku-T - *Modern Ghanaians*
2. Batman Samini feat. Amingo - *Do Something*
3. V.I.P. - *Ahomka Wo Mu*
4. Tony Harmony feat. Triple M - *Ma Body (remix)*
5. FBS Crew feat. Tinny - *Oldman Boogey*
6. Ofori Amponsah feat. Barosky & Kofi Nti - *Abelle*
7. Afroganic feat. Malaika - *Yani*
8. Tic Tac feat. Batman Samini - *Kangaroo*
9. Sheriff Ghale - *Illusions*
10. Terry Bonchaka - *Lomna va*
11. Tinny - *Aletse Ogboo*
12. Pidgen Allstars feat. Kwaku-T - *Toto Mechanic*
13. Nkasei feat. Reggie Rockstone - *Edua Neb U*
14. QDL - *Now Til Da End*

New compilation features Nigerian sounds of early 70s

A new 2CD compilation has been released presenting some of the best unreleased and forgotten sounds from Nigeria. The compilation covers the many styles that emerged and flourished in the early '70s.

A time when younger bands expounding Rock, Jazz and Funk collided with the older more established Highlife scene producing some unique & highly original recordings.

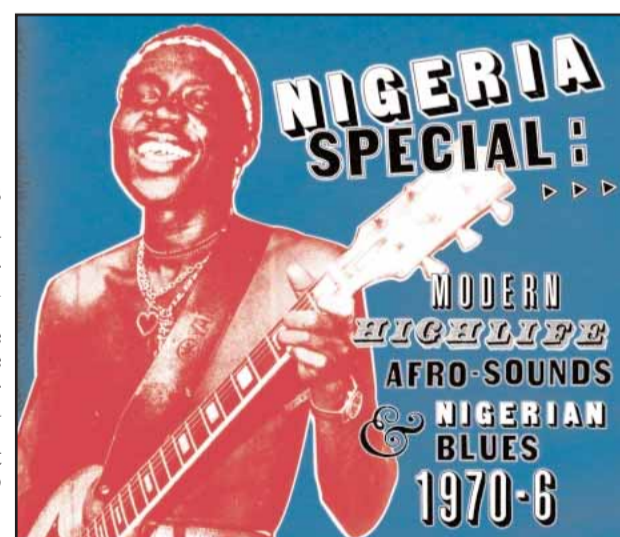
Most often linked with Afro-beat, Juju & Apala, the musical heritage of Nigeria runs deeper than just the Yoruba styles from the west.

Soundway records label boss and Compiler Miles Cleret spent five years working on this compilation (and the planned spin-off compilations)- travelling to Nigeria, interviewing musicians, label owners and distributors - tracking down the forgotten sounds of '70s Nigeria in dusty warehouses, studios and markets. He uncovered so much amazing music that the project became a double CD (with two accompanying spin-off albums to come). Over two hours of rare tracks from seminal artists like Celestine Ukwu, the Funkees, Victor Uwaifo, Tunji Oyelana, Bola Johnson,

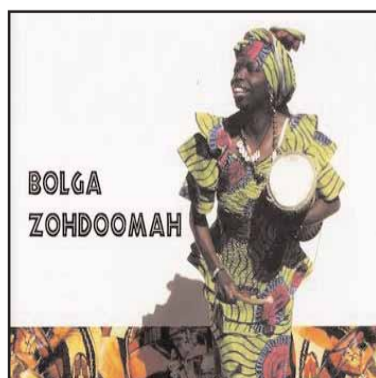
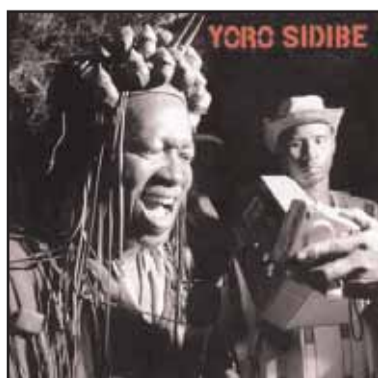
Etubom Rex Williams, as well as many unsung heroes.

The CDs are accompanied by a 32-page booklet with rare photos, cover art and historical information on the musicians, giving an in-depth look at the scene and its influences. The Vinyl release is split into 2 separate high quality double gatefold LPs.

For more information about the new compilation, please go to www.nigeriaspecial.info



NEW RELEASES



Kidman: Support campaign to eliminate violence against women

Academy-Award winning actress and UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman is encouraging millions of people to raise their voices against violence against women. "I know that there are millions around the world who care deeply about the issue - and I urge all of them to come on board," she said in April at a press conference at the United Nations.

The actress encouraged widespread participation in the Say NO to Violence against Women campaign (www.sayNOtoviolence.org), a global Internet-based advocacy initiative by UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women. Ms. Kidman is the campaign's spokesperson. "I have been UNIFEM's Goodwill Ambassador for more than two years now and I have seen how being born a woman puts you at risk of the most appalling and widespread human rights violation of our time," she said.

"The Say NO campaign provides people all over the world with an opportunity to add their names to an ever-growing movement of people demanding that ending violence against women be made a top priority for governments around the world," she added.

When asked about her motivations in taking part in the movement, the Ambassador said that as a mother of two who is seven months pregnant, she seeks to help both her own children and children around the world have a "better life."

The UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro welcomed UNIFEM's Internet initiative as an important contribution to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's multi-year campaign on violence against women. "We need more of this and other initiatives throughout the UN system in the next years as we join together around the UN Secretary-General's campaign," she said. "By raising awareness, [the Say NO cam-

"I have been UNIFEM's Goodwill Ambassador for more than two years now and I have seen how being born a woman puts you at risk of the most appalling and widespread human rights violation of our time. The Say NO campaign provides people all over the world with an opportunity to add their names to an ever-growing movement of people demanding that ending violence against women be made a top priority for governments around the world"

UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman



© UN PHOTO

paign] helps to make visible the hidden pandemic of our time. Violence against women is hidden in homes and schools and other places where women and girls should feel safe, but do not because too often they are abused by a family member. It is hidden in the billions of dollars earned by criminal networks from human trafficking, the third most lucrative illicit business in the world after arms and drugs, with some 80 percent of those trafficked women and children," added the UN Deputy Secretary-General. It is estimated that worldwide, one in three

women will be beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime.

Since its launch late last November, the "Say NO to violence against women" petition has garnered more than 200,000 supporters.

"By signing on, citizens send an unequivocal message to leaders around the world, letting their governments know that they want to see decisive action," Joanne Sandler, UNIFEM Executive Director, said. "They want to see an end to impunity, services for survivors and - most importantly -

strong investments in prevention."

Ms. Sandler said that governments have started to sign on to the campaign, including the entire Senegalese Cabinet, led by the West African nation's President.

UNIFEM's Say NO initiative continues until 25 November 2008, the internationally recognized day to eliminate violence against women, when UNIFEM will hand over the signatures to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in support of his global campaign.

You can sign the petition on this link: <http://www.saynotoviolence.org/>

Pro-immigration celebration with premieres of two films in London

WORLDwrite hosted a pro-immigration celebration, which included the premieres of two short films, inspiring speakers, campaign stalls, wine, canapés & more besides.

The event took place on 20th April in London. Apart from WORLDwrite, the other organisations that helped host the event were: Churches' Refugee Network; Congolese Fighters in the UK; Women for Common Cause and Bundu Dia Congo.

"As the title of one of the films The More the Merrier suggests it's time to put freedom of movement for all on the map, not borders. We need you to be there and help make this message count," the organisers said.

The More the Merrier presents a uniquely pro-immigration case based on positive arguments from the Battle of Ideas.

The film The More the Merrier inter-

weaves compelling archive with inspiring argument to present the case for an open door policy.

Immigration and emigration represent striving for a better world, yet from the 1905 aliens act onwards the UK began to shut its' borders. The film suggests that while attitudes to immigration have been de-racialised there has been more closure than ever before and situates today's anti immigrant sentiment within a culture of limits. Ideas of over population, finite resources and segregated communities have replaced old fashioned racism.

The film features Bruno Waterfield Brussels correspondent for The Daily telegraph who argues "anti immigration sentiments represent a closure of the historical imagination" and quoting American writer P J O'Rourke he points that if the whole of the

worlds' population moved to one place they would cover a space the size of former Yugoslavia at the same density as Manhattan and he says "Manhattan is a pretty good place to live." Philippe Legrain author of Immigrants Your Country Needs Them explains internal migration outstrips migration overseas today and this has "not for example caused China to collapse." Legrain ridicules the 'points system' and argues immigration controls today represent a form of global apartheid. Illustrating these points Sadhavi Sharma a young Indian student obliged to go home, explains why she wants to stay and has more friends here than in Bombay.

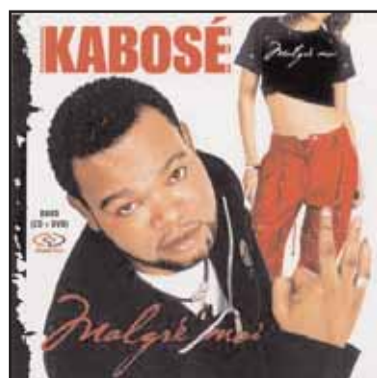
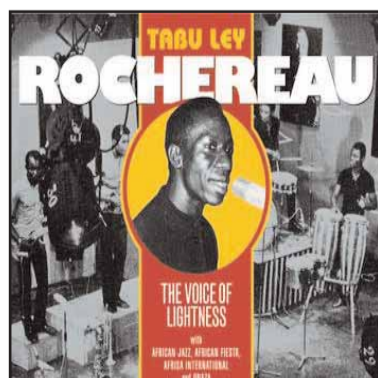
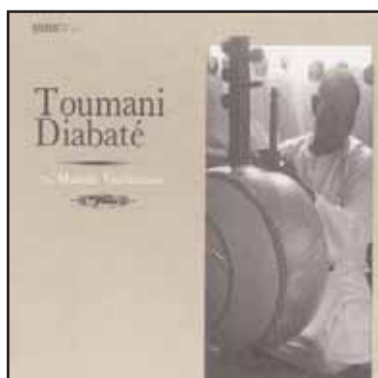
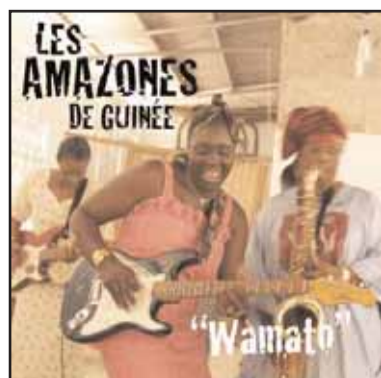
WORLDwrite Director Ceri Dingle explains: "This is a positive pro immigration film, not a tragic story, not an exceptional case but a fresh appraisal of the debate with

a much needed historical perspective. Cutting through the depressing low expectations we have for what is possible today, the title of the film says it all."

The More the Merrier was launched along with a further short documentary Cash Back highlighting the vital role of remittances (monies sent by migrants and diasporas back to countries of origin). These out-strip aid and foreign direct investment and don't have the strings attached.

These films are part of WORLDwrite's "London Behind the Scenes project". Speakers will include Philippe Legrain, (Author Immigrants their country needs you) Claire Fox (Director Institute of Ideas) and a representative of Open the Borders - a spiked-online campaign.

TOP CHARTS



2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa

SA, Norway join forces for 'green' 2010

By Ndaba Dlamini*

The Norwegian government has pledged R1.2-million to help Johannesburg host a "green" 2010 Fifa World Cup.

Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg made the announcement in April at the Soccer City stadium, South Africa's flagship 2010 venue.

Stoltenberg said the money would be used to plant trees and consequently counteract carbon emissions in the city. "We are proud to be able to work together with you and make this championship in South Africa as 'green' and as environmentally friendly as possible."

The executive director of the City's 2010 unit, Sibongile Mazibuko, said the World Cup would bring large numbers of visitors to Johannesburg. "An increase in travel - both by air and road - as well as rising levels of consumption will have an impact on Johannesburg's carbon footprint.

"Through innovation and creative planning we can introduce carbon offset measures [like planting trees] to mitigate the impact of the event on our environment," Mazibuko said. "Norway has been among the global leaders in research in this field, and we welcome its contribution to this initiative."

Carbon offset

Norway's ambassador to South Africa, Tor Christian Hildan, said his government had also committed R750 000 for a feasibility study of a carbon offsetting programme



Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg and his wife Ingrid pay a visit to Johannesburg's Soccer City stadium, accompanied by the city's environment MMC Prema Naidoo (left) and 2010 unit executive director Sibongile Mazibuko (right)

in partnership with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

The Norwegian embassy had held meetings with the department to explore initiatives to make the World Cup as environmentally friendly as possible.

"Our intention is to build partnerships and contribute to the goal of scoring 'green'

in 2010," Hildan said. "A decision was taken that the most relevant area of support would be carbon offsetting of the event to ensure that the 'carbon footprint' of 2010 is as low as possible."

Hildan added that his government was willing to commit an additional R12-million to implement measures that would mitigate

the carbon footprint of 2010.

Also speaking at the announcement, the member of Johannesburg's mayoral committee for the environment, Prema Naidoo, said that the city was busy planting trees, mainly in previously disadvantaged areas. It was confident it would achieve its target of planting 200 000 trees by 2010.

"The city is involved in various 'greening' projects, including the rehabilitation of the Kliprivier-Klipspruit catchment area in Soweto," Naidoo said. "These projects are

"We are proud to be able to work together with you and make this championship in South Africa as 'green' and as environmentally friendly as possible."

Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg

all about the creation of green ways and open spaces for people's enjoyment."

On the day, Stoltenberg viewed the construction of the 94 700-seat Soccer City stadium, where he congratulated South Africa and Johannesburg in particular for the progress being made in building an "impressive stadium".

*City of Johannesburg

Eto'o: I never said I would leave Barca

Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o has said he never threatened to leave Barcelona if they do not win a trophy before the end of next season.

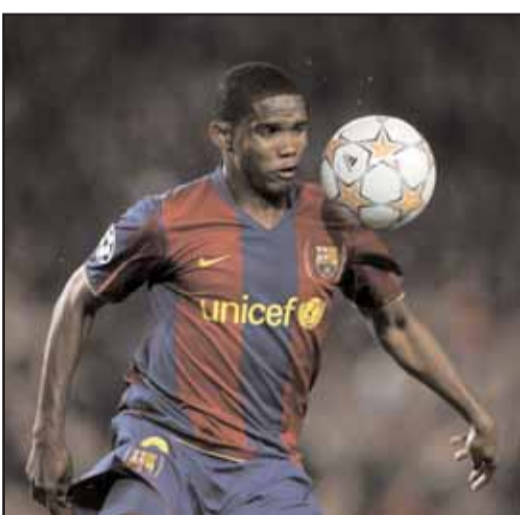
He said: "There was no threat behind my words only the reality that players have responsibilities. Barca bought me to score goals and win cups, and if I don't do that I've got to go," BBC reported.

Eto'o was reported to have threatened to quit Spanish side after his side's 0-0 to Espanyol in mid April, a result that ended their already slim hopes of winning the league title.

He said: "If things carry on next season like this, well, I want to win titles and if I can't do that here, then it will be another club.

"However, if I move, it will be away from Spain.

"Spain feels like home and I've



© AP PHOTO

"There was no threat behind my words only the reality that players have responsibilities. Barca bought me to score goals and win cups, and if I don't do that I've got to go"

Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o

reached the sky with Barcelona," added the Cameroon striker, who played at Spanish first division sides Real Madrid, Espanyol and Real Mallorca earlier in his career.

Obodo withdraws from Nigeria squad

Christian Obodo will not be part of Nigeria squad for June's 2010 World Cup qualifying matches.

Obodo who plays in Italy for Udinese, has been out of action for more than a year and is recuperating from more surgery to a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

"It's impossible to be fit and give my all during these matches," he said.

"I feel so honoured to be in the plans of the new coach, I hope I can give my best when I'm back to full fitness."

Nigeria's coach Shaibu Amodu has included striker Kayode Odejayi in his squad for the 2010 World Cup qualifying matches to be played in June.

Odejayi plays for Barnsley in the English Championship, and his goal gave the Tykes a famous victory over Chelsea in the FA Cup quarter-finals in March.

The 26-year-old is one of 10 England-based players in a 27-man list.

BBC reported that Amodu has dropped six men from the squad that travelled to Ghana for this year's Africa Cup of Nations. Stephen Makinwa, Ifeanyi Emeghara, Dickson Etuhu, Onyekachi Okonkwo, Richard Eromogbe and Rabiu Afolabi have all been left out.

The other players who have been called up include the France-based Elderson Echiejile, along with the duo of Yusuf Ayila and Chidi Odiah, who are both returning from long-term injuries.

On 27th May Nigeria will face Austria in a friendly in Vienna before beginning their 2010 World Cup qualifiers at home to South Africa on 1st June. Six days later they'll later face Sierra Leone. The Super Eagles will then play Equatorial Guinea away and at home, in Malabo on 14 June and in Abuja on 21st June.

NIGERIA'S SQUAD

Austin Ejide (Bastia, France), Vincent Enyeama (Hapoel Tel Aviv, Israel), Dele Aiyenugba (Bnei Yehuda, Israel)

Defenders

Taye Taiwo (Olympique Marseille, France), Obinna Nwaneri (FC Sion, Switzerland), Joseph Yobo (Everton, England), Chidi Odiah (CSKA Moscow, Russia), Onyekachi Apam (Nice, France), Elderson Echiejile (Rennes, France), Danny Shittu (Watford, England), Yusuf Mohammed (Al-Hilal, Sudan)

Midfielders

Jon Mikel Obi (Chelsea, England), Haruna Lukman (Monaco, France), Yusuf Ayila (Dynamo Kiev, Ukraine), Seyi Olofinjana (Wolverhampton Wanderers, England), Kalu Uche (Almeria, Spain)

Strikers

Obafemi Martins (Newcastle United, England), Nwankwo Kanu, John Utaka (Portsmouth, England), Osaze Odemwingie (Lokomotiv Moscow, Russia), Yakubu Aiyegbeni (Everton, England), Obinna Nsofor (Chievo Verona, Italy), Ikechukwu Uche (Getafe, Spain), Victor Anichebe (Everton, England), Kayode Odejayi (Barnsley, England), Emmanuel Okoduwa (Westerlo, Belgium)

Alima voted best player in Italian tourney

By Reggie Tagoe

Ghanaian female footballer, Alima Moro, was voted the best player in a special football tournament played in Treviso, North of Italy.

Alima who ply her trade as a professional with Italian Serie 'B' S.D. Laghi in the national female football league came up on top with an award as Italy men's World Cup winning squad of 1982 were pitched against a selected female team, a tournament organised by Paolo Rossi who was Italy's World Cup hero in 1982.

The Italian squad won 6 - 4 but Alima was outstanding in the post pulling out some spectacular saves.

The Italian media carried out a series of interviews about her and she was featured on the local and national newspapers and TV stations.

Team coach of the female side, Massimo Alfano, was full of praise for the Ghanaian keeper. He said he was delighted about her and how she has handled herself since she started playing in the Italian female league.

Alima said: "I think I'm doing well in the women's league and if given the chance will play for Ghana's national female soccer team, the Black Queens".

The 28-year-old said she felt disappointed with the way she was treated by the Ghana FA. The FA invited her prior to the



"I believe with my experience in Europe I will do well playing for the national team of Ghana. I congratulate the Confederation of Africa Football (CAF) for organising Africa Cup of Nations for only home based-players in Africa and I'm appealing for a similar competition for the women playing outside Africa."

Alima Moro

World Cup in China, gave her some brief moments of training session and dropped her like a piece of rag, following bad reports they received from the team's female goalkeeper's coach.

Alima said there are many good players in Ghana and called on the Ghana FA to establish a female football league to tap players from the regions.

"I believe with my experience in Europe

I will do well playing for the national team of Ghana. I congratulate the Confederation of Africa Football (CAF) for organising Africa Cup of Nations for only home based-players in Africa and I'm appealing for a similar competition for the women playing outside Africa."

She said this will help expose African female footballers outside the continent and



improve their chances of playing for their national team. The Ghanaian keeper also urged African footballers who are not making it well abroad to consider returning home and kick-start their career.

500 MINUTES FROM YOUR MOBILE GHANA



Buy a phone card directly from your mobile today!

£5

SIMPLY DIAL

0151 265 3653

at the prompt press '1' to buy £5 call-credit & make international calls by entering your full International destination number. Wait to be connected.

GHANA
500 min

ZAMBIA
300 min

SOUTH AFRICA
350 min

RWANDA
100 min

MAURITIUS
100 min

NIGERIA
300 min

⌘g7\YUd/ '7cbj Yb]Ybh""7U""Bck °

T&Cs: Ask bill payer's permission. Charges apply from the moment of connection. After pressing '1' an SMS will be sent to confirm the £5 charge. Calls to the 0151 number cost mobile standard rate to a landline or may be used as part of inclusive minutes. Check with your network operator. Minutes quoted are based on the first call made to the landline destination, unless otherwise stated. A completion fee of 9p per call applies. On every call 9p will be deducted from your credit balance every 400 seconds. Credit expires after 90 days. Prices are subject to change without prior notice. See website for minutes to other destinations. To stop auto recharge when credit is low, text STOP to 65656 (standard SMS rate). This service is provided by Auracall Ltd. Agents required, call 084 4545 3788. Helpline: 084 4545 3642.

k k k "gi dYfWfXk cfX"Wë "i _



THE WESTERN UNION® SPEED



With the Western Union Money Transfer® service, it only takes a few minutes* to make the money you send available for collection by your loved ones in Africa or around the world.

Always demand

WESTERN UNION®

* Subject to hours of operation and differences in time zones.