

International

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Opposition to Anti-Kony video

A recent video highlighting Joseph Kony's ruthless behavior as the leader of the rebel army in Uganda has provoked criticism from Ugandans. The video, made by the Invisible Children organization, went viral March 5 and had 50 million hits after three days.

But Ugandans said it omits important elements of their complex history that inform the world how Kony was able to achieve power. Originally, Kony waged war against Uganda's army, which had been known for brutally attacking human rights, but according to Ugandans, this aspect of their past is frequently overlooked.

Venezuelan inmates release hundreds of captured relatives

Approximately 1,200 relatives of inmates were released from a Venezuelan prison March 7. The inmates seized the relatives March 4 during visiting hours after attempting to negotiate human rights with prison authorities.

Venezuelan prisons have been the subject of contention since a riot killed 22 people last year.

Afghan police officer kills nine colleagues in Taliban terror plot

An Afghan policeman allowed Taliban insurgents to sneak into a room full of sleeping police officers and kill nine of his colleagues.

The policeman under investigation was serving the night shift at a checkpoint in Uruzgan Province in southern Afghanistan. Authorities believe the policeman to be a Taliban infiltrator, and they are seeking his whereabouts to press charges.

Pope denounces the moral teachings of American bishops

Pope Benedict XVI, who is adamantly against premarital sex and homosexual marriage, referenced American politics March 9 when he denounced that American bishops needed to push the ideals of no premarital sex and no gay marriage harder than they had been.

He said there was an intense and sudden need for Catholics to promote chastity as well as a lack of proper teachings by American bishops on the subject.

These remarks come at a politically-charged time with the upcoming November elections.

Power plants shut down in Japan to eliminate nuclear energy use

Japan shut down all but two of its 54 commercial reactors, and the last two reactors are scheduled to become idle as soon as next month. The nuclear energy industry provides one-third of Japan's electricity, but after the nuclear disaster that came as a result of a tsunami last year, Japan has decided to temporarily shut down its plants.

Japan has plans to gradually phase out nuclear energy power over the coming decades.

Bin Laden's three wives charged with illegal immigration

Bin Laden's three wives were charged with illegal immigration March 8 after entering into Pakistan with their children.

The families are under house-arrest in the capital of Pakistan, but the children have not been prosecuted.

The wives failed to present legal travel documents necessary for entering the country.

Senegalese presidential elections require run-off between candidates

Katherine Wise
International Reporter

DAKAR, SENEGAL - The results of the Senegalese presidential election Feb. 26 require a run-off election March 18 between Abdoulaye Wade and Macky Sall. In the first round of the election, none of the 14 candidates won more than 50 percent of the vote, which means a runoff election is mandatory.

According to CENA, the national committee for elections, Wade placed first with 34.85 percent of the vote. Macky Sall placed second with 28 percent of the vote. The results of the election were officially released to the public Feb. 29.

The election followed weeks of demonstrations by opposition groups who argue that Wade should not have permission to run for a third presidential term.

"He wants to be president for eternity," said Mohammed Mbaye, a law student at Institut Superior de Droits de Dakar. "But that is not possible."

Now that Mbaye is 21, this election was the first time he was old enough to vote for a president. He said he liked Wade before 2007 when he began to implement unfair policies and regulations.

"Wade wants to be president because he wants to give power to his son, Karim Wade," Mbaye said.

Wade, 86, has also been questioned about running for president at such an old age.

"He can't do something that a man of 55 can do," Mbaye said.

But Mbaye does not have confidence in Macky Sall either.

"Macky Sall, for me—he's a good worker, but he has a responsibility for the situation of this country right now (since) he was the prime minister of Wade until 2009," said Mbaye.

Sall and Wade worked together in the same political party until 2009, when Sall created his own political party, Alliance



A Senegalese woman waited for hours to submit her vote for the Dakar presidential elections Feb. 26. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KATHERINE WISE

Pour la Republique, or ARP.

But Mbaye said he thinks Sall will win because the other candidates who did not win will endorse him.

Moustapha Niasse and Ousmane Tanor Dieng, two candidates who finished third and fourth in the first elections, have already endorsed Sall, along with Yousou N'dour, a Senegalese singer who previously considered running for

president but was denied permission from the Constitutional Court. They promised support for "the other candidate" before the first election occurred.

Election Day and voting locations were calm despite the political unrest in the days leading up to the election.

Mbaye said more people participated in this year's election due to the efforts of Y'en a Mare.

"For me, that's a good thing for democracy, because everyone must participate when we choose the president," Mbaye said.

Senegalese citizens waited in long lines at the local schools to choose their next president.

Voters picked up 14 pamphlets showing the name and photo of each candidate and inserted their choice into an envelope behind a curtain. The envelopes were dropped into a plastic box.

Mbaye voted for Cheikh Bamba Dieye, who came in fifth place out of the 14 candidates. But Mbaye said he still plans to participate in the runoff election.

"I was disappointed (about Dieye losing)," Mbaye said. "I think that he could win in the next election, in 2018. (But) I will vote for Macky Sall. We don't have a choice."



Senegalese people wait in long lines at the local schools to vote for the presidential elections in Dakar Feb. 26. The result was a run-off election between Abdoulaye Wade and Macky Sall. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KATHERINE WISE

Correspondents' Corner

Rachel Southmayd
International Reporter

HAIFA, ISRAEL — Israel is a country that is beautiful from all angles. My time here has just begun, but I am already in love with the architecture, the land, the history and the passion of the people who live here. No matter what your political leanings, you can't help but admire the spirit and strength that is tangible at every turn, from the smallest alley

market to the grandest temples to the local bar. And the people are incredibly welcoming. They just want you to know as much as they can share and to let you feel like a piece of it, too.



Rebecca Cummings
International Reporter

CAPE TOWN — The captain of our ship rerouted us to help avoid the tropical storm off the coast of Africa. It would not be fun on a ship if it got any rougher than it already has. As we were going around the Cape of Good Hope (also known as the Cape of Storms), the crew went through and tied everything down to the ship. I just hope we hit most of it at night so I can sleep through it, and I don't want to have to clean up my room after it. If we hit really big waves everyone has to clean their rooms because everything ends up on the ground.



Evan Studenmund
International Reporter

SANTIAGO, CHILE — Why are Americans so afraid of strangers? A Chilean professor explained to me that

Americans act cold when exchanging salutations and goodbyes. We Americans live with much unnecessary paranoia and preoccupation that prevents us from interacting with those we do not

know. Perhaps we are so caught up in the day-to-day cycle of our lives, so consumed by material possessions, that we miss those wonderful opportunities to broaden our perspectives that come free from a friendly new face. But hey, in the words of my professor, "At least you Americans aren't as cold and paranoid as the British."

