



UN says world hunger not 1 billion

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2012/10/09/un-says-world-hungry-not-1-billion.html>

The United Nations (UN) states that its 2009 announcement, which tells 1 billion people in the world were in famine, was off-target, moreover, the number turn out to be only 870 million.

Flawed methodology and poor data for the bum project are the one to blame. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization added that it uses more accurate set of parameters and statistic to calculate its annual

estimate of the world's hungry. The main point of FAO did that is to set the straight record the number of the world's food shortage dating back to 1990

The good news of uttered by the FAO is that the number of starvation has actually declining over the past two decades, though the progress decelerated since 2007.

(Samuel Yefta Abednego)

Ethiopia frees Eritrean war prisoners

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/ethiopia-frees-eritrean-war-prisoners-1.1399419#UHKRtRyoVIE>

Seventy-five Eritrean prisoners of war, who had been captured during cross border attack, had been released, as what had been stated by the officials on 2 October 2012. "The government of Ethiopia believes it is proper to release these captive soldiers of Eritrea and let them go where they want," government spokesman Bereket Simon told AFP. The soldiers were moved to the International

Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Sunday, 30 September 2012.

Addis Ababa assaulted the Eritrean base in reprisal of the five tourist's assassination in Ethiopia's Afar region. Ethiopian group claimed responsibility and Asmara rejected the claim.

Further, Bereket Simon said that the Ethiopia does not have any interest to retain them. On the other side,

the Eritrean Government is adamant and has refused to discuss issues of common concern and there are no actual discussions taking place.

Way back to the history, Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993 after 30 years of endeavor, but burst into war in 1998-2000 because of the border conflict resulted 70000 death tolls. Two countries remain at odds over the flashpoint town Bedme, awarded to Eritrea by a UN-backed boundary commission but still controlled by Addis Ababa.

Seven of the released prisoners applied for political asylum in Ethiopia adding they were free to say if they wanted.

Back in January, tension begun when two Germans, two Austrian and one Hungarian were assassinated in the attack on the slopes of Ethiopia's Erta Ale volcano in Afar border region. Ethiopia denied its involvement in the incident and made claim of no retaliation is done after the attack, which took place in its military basis.

The Ethiopian-based Afar Revolutionary Democratic Unity Front (ARDUF) rebels, fighting a low-level insurgency against "political marginalization" by Addis Ababa, claimed responsibility. They said they have no ties to Asmara.

(Samuel Yefta Abednego)

Ban calls for 'concerted' efforts to bring peace to eastern DR Congo

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43246&Cr=Democratic&Cr1=Congo&UHkRixyqVIE>

The security and humanitarian situations in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has taken Ban Ki-moon's apprehensiveness. The Secretary-General called of "continued and sustained high-level dialogue" to bring peace to the region.

The Secretary General condemned violence and serious human right violence against the rebel March 23 Movement (M23) and other armed entities in eastern DRC in the occasion of Summit of the International

Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

The M23, added Mr. Ban, keeps on destabilizing activities in every area that it occupies, and is committing the severe human right violations, which include in its action the child recruitment and sexual violence.

Mr. Ban further told that other armed groups have stepped up their activities. Over 260,000 people have been displaced in North Kivu alone in the past several months, while

over 60,000 additional Congolese have crossed into Rwanda and Uganda. In respond to this situation, Mr. Ban urged that for all support to the M23 and other armed group should be stopped immediately and permanently.

Mr. Ban encouraged continued and sustained high-level dialogue at the bilateral and regional level aimed at conciliating the mutual trust and political will to tackle the underlying causes of the conflict. He offered UN to help to find peace solution to this matter.

He also said he looked forward to the outcomes of discussions on the proposed international neutral force to be deployed along the DRC-Rwan-

da border, which will be informed by the report of the ICGLR's Military Assessment Team.

By referring to the peacekeeping operation, UN Organization Stabilization in DRC, he added the importance of clarity on the concept and operational modalities of such force and coordination with MONUSCO.

Mr. Ban said that the United Nation, through MONUSCO, is supporting the work of the JVM, Joint Verification Mechanism, and of the Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre in Goma, and strongly encouraged close operation between the partners for their full and effective implementation.

(Samuel Yefta Abednego)

Libya: UN urges protection of civilians following deadly clashes in Bani Walid

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43271&Cr=Libya&Cr1=#.UHqWiByqV1E>

The United nation, in 12 October 2012, showed concern over the impact of the recent development in security in the middle of the clashes between armed group in the Libyan town of Bani Walid.

Georg Charpentier, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in the North Africa nation, uttered that all the parties should remember their obligation under the Interna-

tional humanitarian law, which to protect the civilians and meet their basic needs. Moreover, he called on all parties to give their full support for a mediated settlement that allows the State to exercise its national authority and comprehensively tackles all prominent issues related to Bani Walid.

Report said that several people have been killed our wounded in

Bani Walid in relation to violence happened in overthrowing the Muammar al-Qadhafi' regime last year. The town was reportedly one of the last to fall to rebels groups during the conflict, and some are said to consider it a shelter for regime loyalists and criminal gangs.

Mr. Charpentier also reminded the parties to ensure immediate and unhampered protection and humanitarian assistance to the civilian. Adding to his statement, the UN in Libya supports ongoing humanitarian efforts and stand ready to provide as-

sistance as requested.

UNSMIL has been assisting the country's transition toward a modern democratic State, after decades of autocratic rule and the toppling of the al-Qadhafi regime.

The fighting in various parts of the country become the security challenges facing the North African nation, which also needs to prepare a new constitution, promote rule of law, protect human rights, and counter illicit arms proliferation.

(Samuel Yefta Abednego)

UN launches new initiative to empower rural women and girls

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43069&Cr=women&Cr1=empower#.UHQWpByqV1E>

The United Nations in 27 September 2012 launched a programme to empower poor rural woman through economic integration and food security initiatives.

Taking "Accelerating progress Toward the Economic Empowerment of Rural Woman" as a five-year initiative, focus will be given on improving food and nutrition security, increasing rural woman's incomes, developing leadership and participation in rural institution, and creating a more responsive policy environment at national and international levels.

"When women are empowered

and can claim their rights and access to land, leadership, opportunities and choices, economies grow, food security is enhanced and prospects are improved for current and future generations," said Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

The program will be carried out together by UN Women, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP). Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Ne-

pal, Niger, and Rwanda are the place where the program initiated.

Obstacles such as gaining access to public services, social protection, decent employment opportunities, and markets and other institutions still have been face by most rural women and girls.

“Together, UN Women, FAO, IFAD and WFP will generate syner-

gies that capitalize on each agency’s mandate to advance gender equality,” UN Women said in news release. “When women are empowered - economically and socially - they become leaders and agents of change for economic growth, social progress and sustainable development.”

(Samuel Yefta Abednego)

UN-Arab League envoy discusses Syrian crisis with Saudi King

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43276&Cr=syria&Cr1=#.UHqW4hyaVIE>

Lakhdar Brahimi, the Joint Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States on the Syrian Crisis, in 12 October 2012, discussed the situation that is happening in Syria with the King of Saudi Arabia, Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, during a meeting in Jeddah. Both men are in voice stated that the crisis was going worse everyday.

More than 20,000 death toll, mostly civilians, resulted because of the in the uprising against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad began some 19 months ago. A further 2.5 million Syrians urgently need humanitarian aid, according to UN estimates.

They agreed on this serious matter the necessity to cease the bloodshed and to provide humanitarian aid to more than 2.5 million Syrians inside the country, and over 348,000 refugees registered in neighboring countries.

Spokesperson said that Mr. Brahimi reviewed the consultation that has been done by the Syrian Government and the opposition, and emphasized his belief that this deplorable situation not be solved through military means, but rather through political process that would meet the legitimate aspirations of the Syrians people.

(Samuel Yefta Abednego)

Shelling forces relocation of UN staff in Sudanese city of Kadugli

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/02/ns-nuclear-iran-iaca-idUSTRE82110X20120302>

Indiscriminate mortar shelling in the Sudanese city of Kadugli in South Kordofan province has forced the United Nations to relocate its staff from a region where fighting has prevented aid agencies from reaching thousands of displaced people, especially in rebel-controlled areas.

Several mortar rounds landed near the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) offices, a local school and a local police station. On the other side, no group claimed to be responsible of the aggression. Because of such event, the UN staffs have been sent to base the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), a disputed area between Sudan and South Sudan.

Ali Al-Za'tari, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, claimed the attack, which caused number of casualties, a deplorable violation of international humanitarian law.

"UN and humanitarian partners have not been able to deliver assist-

ance to people in need in the SPLM-North (Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North) controlled areas of South Kordofan for quite some time, but are continuing to provide relief assistance to people affected by the fighting in government-controlled areas of the state," OCHA spokesperson Jens Laerke told reporters in Geneva.

UN Security Council uttered its concern regarding the deteriorating humanitarian situation in South Kordofan and neighboring Blue Nile state and urged the Sudanese Government to accelerate the unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance to the civilian populations that affected by the conflict.

Sudanese forces and the SPLM-N have been beset since last year. SPLM-N was previously part of the rebel movement that fought for the independence of South Sudan, which seceded from Sudan last year.

(Samuel Yefsa Abednego)

Drone strikes threaten 50 years of international law, says UN rapporteur

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jun/21/drone-strikes-international-law-un>

The US policy of using aerial drones to carry out targeted killings presents a major challenge to the system of international law, says Christof Heyns, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial killings, summary or arbitrary executions. This comment was a response to the recent use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) by US CIA in several attacks in Pakistan, Yemen, and elsewhere.

The discussion on US drones was brought up in a conference organized by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which was attended by several UN rapporteur, ambassadors, and various international legal experts. Among all the comments towards the use of UAVs, majority shows disapproval and disregard of its use in wars by the US.

Pakistan Ambassador to the UN in Geneva Zamir Akram, even referred the US actions as a "totally counterproductive attacks" and calls for international legal action to halt further attacks.

Among the most vocal legal scholar was Heyns, a South African

Law Professor which doubted the use of drones as it relates to major changes to the international legal system which has been in existence since world war two. He fears that US actions to use drone in the future might be taken as an example for the justification of use of drones by other states in their attacks, and this would surely cause mayhem in the International Legal system.

The Major problem identified in the CIA use of UAVs was the fact that the US was not being transparent with their operation, as this involves classified missions taken by CIA, and several allegation was found that the UAVs was used outside the territories considered to occur armed conflicts, and several casualties of civilians were found to be caused by such UAVs.

Until now, China and Russia, also backed with other countries have jointly issued a statement at the UN Human Rights Council, condemning drone attacks.

(Samuel Yefta Abednego)

UN and Somalia sign action plan on ending killing and maiming of children

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42647&Cr=somalia&Cr1=>

The United Nations and Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG) have signed an action plan on ending the killing and maiming children in the Horn of Africa country on 8 August 2012.

Signed on Monday by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, Hussein Arab Isse, on behalf of the TFG, and the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Somalia, Peter de Clercq, on behalf of the United Nations, the plan commits the Somali National Armed Forces, allied militia and military groups under its control to ending the killing and maiming of children in contravention of international law.

Mr. De Clercq in a news release issued by the UN Political Office for Somalia calls for supports and donors

in helping the Somali Government to bring about and enforce the changes that will put the terrible practice of child killing maiming to an end.

The plan is the second one signed between the TFG and United Nations that helps bring about measures to halt and prevent the violation of children's rights. The first action plan – to end the recruitment and use of children by the Somali National Armed Forces – was agreed on by the TFG in July.

According to UNPOS, full compliance with the latest action plan will result in the Government of Somalia being removed from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's list of parties who recruit, use, kill and maim children.

(Samuel Yefta Abednego)

South Korea and Japan face off over disputed islands

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/aug/10/south-korea-japan-disputed-islands>

Japan and South Korea were heading for a diplomatic showdown on Friday, after Lee Myung-bak became the first sitting South Korean president to visit a group of islands at the centre of a decades-old territorial dispute.

Lee, who will step down as president later this year, ignored calls from Japanese leaders to cancel the trip to one of the islands that make up the Takeshima chain, known as Dokdo among Koreans.

Lee's visit drew an angry response from Japan, which insists the islands, which lie roughly equidistant between the two countries in the Japan Sea – or the East Sea according to Koreans – are an integral part of its territory.

The region of the island is considered to be beneficial for countries that lay their territory in it. A freshwater lagoon helps sustain about 80 species of plants, and dozens of birds and insects. The meeting of cold and warm water currents has led to a profusion of fish and other marine life. The islands sit amid rich fishing grounds and, according to some reports, near frozen natural gas deposits that could be worth billions of dollars.

A coastguard garrison has been stationed on Takeshima since 1954, and their only known civilian residents are Kim Seong-do, an elderly fisherman, and his wife, Shin-yeol.

Lee's visited the island soon after Japan renewed its claim over Takeshima in its annual defence paper, and days before South Korea marks the anniversary of its liberation from Japanese rule at the end of the Second World War.

The Takeshima islands, comprising two small islands and more than 90 rocks and reefs, were made part of Japan's Shimane prefecture in 1905. The countries' competing claims are mired in historical ambiguity, and complicated by several name changes and cartographical evidence from myriad Korean, Japanese and western sources stretching back centuries.

In 2010, South Korea's media reported the discovery of a 1949 US military map that, according to the Chosun Ilbo newspaper, "clearly states that Dokdo belongs to Korea". a suicide bomber detonated an explosive close to a mosque in a mainly Shia neighborhood in the Kurram tribal region.

(Samuel Yefia Abednego)