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MPI Report Suggests Changes in DHS Immigration Enforcement Procedures

Noting that the Obama administration faces what it calls “significant demands and choices with respect to immigration,” the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) released a comprehensive report in mid-February assessing the performance of the three immigration agencies within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), offering detailed recommendations for policy

and operational changes that could be accomplished by the executive branch without legislation.

Titled *DHS and Immigration: Taking Stock and Correcting Course*, the report was co-authored by Doris Meissner, who directs MPI’s U.S. Immigration Policy Program and is a former commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, and Donald Kerwin, MPI vice president for programs.

“Regardless of how or whether Congress and the White House ultimately come to agreement on new immigration legislation, the DHS immigration agencies require policy and operational changes to improve their effectiveness and ability to implement existing laws,” Meissner said.

The MPI report follows a months-long review of the three agencies—U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)—along with overall DHS immigration policy.

The analysis, based on extensive MPI research, also was informed by roundtable discussions with senior DHS officials, congressional staff, stakeholders, state

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Observing International Women’s Day...

Obama, Clinton Honor ‘Women of Courage’

First lady Michelle Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton joined forces on March 11 to congratulate the 2009 winners of the secretary of state’s International Women of Courage awards, celebrate International Women’s Day and announce the Obama administration’s efforts to empower women everywhere.

Established in 2007 by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the awards pay tribute to emerging women leaders and recognize the courage and leadership shown by each in her struggle for social justice and women’s rights, according to a report by Jane Morse of *America.gov*. The

event was among a host of observances worldwide of International Women’s Day, and of Women’s History Month in the United States.

This year’s awardees are Hadizatou Mani of Niger, Ambiga Sreenevasan of Malaysia, Veronika Marchenko of Russia, Reem Al Numery of Yemen, Suaad Allami of Iraq, Mutabar Tadjibayeva of Uzbekistan, Wazhma Frogh of Afghanistan and Norma Cruz of Guatemala.

“Our honorees and the hundreds of millions of women they represent not only deserve our respect, they deserve our full support,” Clinton said at the awards ceremony at the Department of State.

“What I am committed to is doing everything in my power as secretary of state to further the work on the ground in countries like those represented here to make changes in people’s lives.” Women’s rights and human rights, Clinton said, “will always be central to our foreign policy.”

During their week-long stay in the United States, the awardees (with the exception of Reem Al

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First lady Michelle Obama and Secretary of State Clinton meet with the 2009 Women of Courage awardees at Department of State ceremonies.

Conference Set May 4-6

Under the theme *African Refugees and Immigrants: A Time for New Thinking*, ECDC’s 15th national conference will be held May 4-6 at the Holiday Inn Ballston in Arlington, Virginia. Plenary and workshop sessions will explore new ways of meeting the needs of newcomers amid current economic conditions; improving protection and assistance efforts; and strengthening community partnerships. For full conference and hotel information, visit: www.ecdc-cari.org.

*In My Opinion...**The Best of Worst Times?*

Amid what was seemingly becoming an uninterrupted stream of bad news about the economic woes confronting American workers and families, ABC News presented a feature story recently that prompted in my mind a transposition of the famous opening lines in Charles Dickens's novel "A Tale of Two Cities." Instead of the novel's premise that "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," the story described how furloughed auto workers at an idled General Motors plant in Missouri were converting the worst of their times into the best of times for local charities by volunteering their services to those facing even greater challenges.

For the local charities, reported ABC's Barbara Pinto, the union workers who were laid off for three weeks could not have shown up at a better time, noting that unemployment in the area was at its highest rate in decades, home foreclosures were rampant and heightened demands were taxing scarce resources at homeless shelters, food pantries and day care centers.



Tsehaye Teferra, Ph.D.

What the auto workers experienced through their donations of time and talents has been shared by generations of givers who have enabled non-profit organizations to fulfill their missions of service to those in need. And it is what is motivating the contributions of celebrities, business executives and caring individuals featured in this issue of our newsletter who are contributing so much to meet the needs of refugees and immigrants. The sense of personal reward and satisfaction derived from such service was expressed by one of the auto workers who volunteered in a shelter

for children whose families were dealing with financial trouble or abuse: "To work with these children—even for a little while—and see the smiles on their faces, it's a relief," said Ron Moore, a civil rights chairman at the plant. "It's a good feeling."

The ABC news report came at a time when we were finalizing our annual report on last year's operations, themed on the 25th anniversary of ECDC's founding. In reviewing our commemorative booklet that included a listing of more than 200 corporations, foundations, public agencies and private organizations that have contributed to our growth and development, I was reminded anew—and with immense gratitude—of how the nation's spirit of generosity and compassion sustained us through the past quarter century.

Even as distressing news continued to describe how bad times—and fraud, greed and corruption—had depleted the wealth and resources of individuals and institutions, other reports offered encouragement that better times were still possible. Both houses of Congress approved legislation to create an array of new volunteer projects. Titled the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act (GIVE), the measure would create a Social Innovation Fund to help nonprofit organizations duplicate innovative programs that effectively meet social problems, and a Volunteer Generations Fund to help them recruit and manage volunteers. The Corporation for National and Community Service reported that interest in AmeriCorps is growing, with applications in February more than triple the number in the same month last year. Peace Corps applications are up by 16 percent. Charitable giving continued a record pace, breaking the \$300 billion mark for the first time in 2007 with a 3.9 percent increase over the previous year.

While clichés abound about how tough times can bring out the best qualities of individuals and nations, what the auto workers are doing in Missouri—and what refugees and those engaged in meeting their needs have demonstrated for so many years—is no trivial matter. It is a reaffirmation of the human spirit.

MPI Report Provides Recommendations for Immigration Changes

[Continued from page 1] and local law enforcement officials, advocates and policy experts.

Among the report's 36 recommendations:

- Until CBP conducts a full-scale review of border technology, including the role and effectiveness of physical and "virtual" fencing, and other barriers, no new fencing projects should be pursued.
- CBP should systematically analyze the biometric and border apprehension data it collects in order to understand crossing trends, smuggling patterns and other criminal behavior.
- Consistent with its homeland security mission, ICE should focus its operations on the criminal enterprises that underlie large-scale illegal migration.
- ICE should establish and implement guidelines that prioritize its investigative targets, as well as whom it arrests, places in removal proceedings and detains.
- ICE's principal worksite enforcement goals should be fostering the use of a viable mandatory employment verification system, ensuring compliance with that system, and punishing employers whose business models depend on the employment and exploitation of unauthorized workers.
- ICE should routinely refer for criminal prosecution those who commit egregious or repeated violations of immigration law, or who commit unrelated criminal offenses, avoiding overuse of criminal charges in routine immigration-status violation circumstances.
- Supervised release programs run by ICE should be expanded for discretionary detainees who do not threaten national security or public safety, and who would not represent a flight risk while under supervision.
- The Social Security Administration's "no-match" program, whose purpose is to credit earnings to those who paid into the system, should not be used by

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Former Liberian Refugee Helps Others Adjust to Life in U.S.

By Tim Irwin
UNHCR, New York

In the cramped basement of a public housing apartment block in New York's Staten Island, 25 minutes by ferry from Manhattan's financial district, a small group of mostly volunteer staff are preparing to open the doors of a health clinic in an area that recently saw the closure of two local hospitals.

The weekly clinic caters to a cross section of the blue-collar Park Hill neighborhood; day laborers, newly arrived immigrants and former refugees, most of the latter from Liberia.

Directing the preparations, and al-

ways in motion, is Jacob Massaquoi, himself a former refugee from Liberia and now director of African Refuge, which seeks to ease the transition for those adjusting to new lives in the United States.

It was as a result of Massaquoi's work as a human rights activist and humanitarian that he was invited by the UNHCR to attend a commemoration for the Year of the Volunteer in 2001 at the agency's Geneva headquarters. But his outspokenness had also come to the attention of the former Liberian strongman, Charles Taylor.

Upon his return from Geneva, Massaquoi was arrested and taken to a cell

where he says, without elaborating, "terrible things" were done to him. During a second attempted arrest some months later, he was able to escape, eventually finding refuge in Ghana before gaining asylum in the United States.

"I have seen a lot of violence and witnessed the execution of my brother," he said from his small office, which today doubles as the examination room. "But I am no better or more worthy of life than those who have died. I created African Refuge because I want to give voice to those who died. That is my purpose."

In addition to the weekly medical clinic, which is staffed by volunteer nursing students, African Refuge helps those who come to its drop-in center to find housing, jobs or a school for their children.

A youth center gives young people a place to go after school while their parents work, many as home health aides and security guards. With high levels of illiteracy among those who come to the center, assistance can also come in the form of help deciphering a utility bill.

African Refuge employs just three staff, two of them part-time, but its work is attracting attention beyond the shores of Staten Island. Massaquoi was recently profiled by a national news program for a segment called "Making a Difference."

The organization relies on voluntary contributions. In 2007, those amounted to \$10,000. "I paid myself a salary of \$16 a month," said Massaquoi. Today, its budget has increased more than tenfold, but with the economy in freefall and unemployment over eight percent, Massaquoi is aware that challenges remain.

"Tough times demand innovative solutions," he said. "There will always be people and foundations looking to support effective organizations. We provide more than \$5 million in services on a budget of around \$120,000."

So confident is Massaquoi, that his ambitions now stretch beyond African Refuge to include the people he left behind in Liberia eight years ago. "My ultimate goal is to be able to provide the sort of services we do here in Staten Island to the people of my village," he said. "I'd like to be able to give some of them the sort of opportunities I've had."

Jacob Massaquoi meets with African Refuge staff ahead of a medical clinic held weekly at the organization's office in Staten Island.

Photo by Tim Irwin



Obama Administration Honors 'Women of Courage'

[Continued from page 1]

Numery, who was not able to leave Yemen) met with officials at the State Department, the White House and the U.S. Agency for International Development and with members of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues.

In her remarks at the awards ceremony, first lady Michelle Obama noted the president's signing of an executive order earlier the same day that called for a White House Council on Women and Girls.

The council's mission will be to coordinate federal response to the challenges confronted by women and girls and to ensure that all cabinet and cabinet-level agencies consider how their policies and programs affect women and families, the First Lady said.

The council will be chaired by Valerie

Jarrett, assistant to the president and senior White House adviser, and will include as members the heads of Cabinet-level federal agencies.

The importance the Obama administration places on social justice for women, Clinton said, is further demonstrated by the president's March 6 announcement of a new foreign policy position focused on global women's issues and his nomination of Melanne Verveer as ambassador-at-large for international women's issues.

Verveer is the co-founder and chair of Vital Voices Global Partnership, a nonprofit organization that identifies, trains and empowers emerging women leaders and social entrepreneurs around the globe. If approved by the U.S. Senate, Verveer will report directly to the secretary of state.

On Visit to African Refugee Camps...

Business Executives Pledge Continuing Support for UNHCR's Mission

By Jerome Nhan
UNHCR, Geneva

Some of UNHCR's top business partners pledged to continue supporting the refugee agency despite the world's most severe economic crisis in decades. The promise came when members of UNHCR's Council of Business Leaders visited Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa in late February.

In what has become almost an annual event, top executives from Manpower, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Microsoft and Young & Rubicam visited UNHCR field operations to get a first-hand view of life for displaced people and how the agency is helping them.

This year the four participating Council members visited the three countries in southern Africa, where they met and talked to refugees in camps as well as those living in urban areas.

Starting their visit in Pretoria, where they toured a refugee reception center and UNHCR's regional office, the group then went to Namibia, visiting Osire Refugee Camp. In Mozambique the group met refugees in Marratane Camp before returning to South Africa, where they wrapped up their five-day visit after travelling to the city of Musina, near the Beit Bridge border crossing with Zimbabwe.

The executives were particularly struck by what they saw in Musina, where UNHCR helps the South African government at a refugee reception office set up last year to handle the increased volume of Zimbabweans crossing the border to seek asylum.

"The processing is taking far too long and people are kept in these desperate situations for far too long a time," Jonathan Murray, who heads Microsoft's technology officer network, commented after visiting the center. He said the Council would work with UNHCR to address this issue.

David Arkless, president of corporate and government affairs at Manpower, also pledged continuing help, saying his company would make "every effort to work with UNHCR to help bring some new kinds of solutions to situations like this."

In Mozambique's Marratane camp, which houses 5,000 mainly Congolese



Refugee youngsters meet the UNHCR Council of Business leaders party at Osire camp in Namibia. Photo Age Flintman

and Burundian refugees, the executives saw staff use the registration software program, ProGres, which was developed by Microsoft for UNHCR and is now used in more than 50 countries.

Another outcome of the mission was a commitment by the Council to work with companies in South Africa to fight against illegal labor and to allow refugees to work in decent conditions.

"We want to start a business council that will ask other corporations to check their own company and their supply chains for any illegal labor or abused labor," said Arkless, whose company is the world's largest employment agency.

The group's mission concluded with a roundtable meeting with managers of South Africa-based branches of Burson-Marsteller, Manpower, Microsoft, Nike and PricewaterhouseCoopers, in addition to representatives from major law firms, businesses and foundations with operations in South Africa.

UNHCR officials applauded the participants, noting that in the coming months, the refugee agency hopes to work with all of the partners to create a South African Council of Business Leaders that will hopefully play a constructive role alongside UNHCR in finding durable solutions for the thousands of refugees and asylum seekers in the region.

UNHCR Seeks Nominations for 2009 Nansen Award

Nominations are being sought for the 2009 Nansen Refugee Award, with a deadline set for April 24. Given annually since 1954 to individuals or organizations, the award is named after Fridtjof Nansen, the first League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the 1922 Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

The award consists of a commemorative medal and a monetary prize of \$100,000, donated by the governments of Norway and Switzerland. The prize money goes to refugee assistance and protection projects which are drawn up and selected by the winner in consultation with UNHCR.

Candidates for the award should be inspiring individuals, groups or organizations involved in work supporting refugees, contributing to their wellbeing and improving the conditions in which they live. This work might include activities such as protecting the vulnerable, fundraising, designing or implementing projects, advocacy or helping bring about solutions. Efforts to prevent refugee situations from arising in the first place would also qualify. The ingenuity, originality and the dedication involved in ensuring a successful outcome are far more relevant. A seemingly minor initiative by an individual or group can be just as important as a large-scale operation, UNHCR says.

Additional information, including a nomination form is available at: www.unhcr.org/events.

'Not On My Watch,' Say Celebrities Seeking to End Atrocities

Continuing a concerted effort to heighten public awareness about the plight of African refugees, actor Matt Damon, a founding member of the celebrity-studded organization Not On Our Watch, visited in early March with Zimbabweans who have fled their homeland and are now crowded into a camp in the border town of Musina, South Africa.

Damon, star of *The Bourne Ultimatum*, is in South Africa shooting *The Human Factor*, Clint Eastwood's upcoming film about Nelson Mandela, which will feature Morgan Freeman in the starring role, according to a report by E-online. In February, Not on Our Watch

co-founder George Clooney, accompanied by Nicholas Kristof of the *New York Times* and Ann Curry of NBC News, visited with Sudanese refugees on the Chad-Sudan border. Upon his return, Clooney met with President Obama and Vice

President Biden at the White House to push for a high level, full-time envoy to



Matt Damon

Darfur, an action Obama took soon thereafter with the appointment of Major-General J. Scott Gration. (See item below.)

Speaking with victims of rape and government-sponsored violence, orphaned and unaccompanied children, and those fleeing the collapse of public health and education systems, Damon described the situation in Zimbabwe as "untenable," reiterating a call to the international community to take immediate action to address worsening conditions for people both inside and outside the country.

Zimbabwe's longstanding political and human rights crises have recently been compounded by an ongoing cholera epidemic that has reached 80,000 cases, with approximately 4,000 deaths resulting. The United Nations World Food Program reports that nearly 7 million Zimbabweans—well over half the country's population—are in need of food assistance, and UNICEF estimates that approximately 15 percent of the population is infected with HIV/AIDS.

In addition to Clooney and Damon, other founding members of Not On Our Watch are Don Cheadle, Brad Pitt, David Pressman and Jerry Weintraub. The organization uses "the powerful voices of artists, activists and cultural leaders" to focus global attention and resources to end mass atrocities and to generate humanitarian assistance protection for the vulnerable, marginalized and

Obama Names Gration as Envoy to Sudan

Pledging renewed efforts to end the humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan, President Obama appointed retired Air Force Major General J. Scott Gration in mid-March as a special envoy to Sudan.

A foreign policy adviser to the president, Gration has deep experience in the region, according to a report by Merle David Kellerehals, Jr., of *America.com*. He speaks Swahili and grew up in Africa as the son of missionaries. He traveled with Obama in 2006 when the president, then a senator, visited Africa, including stops to visit Darfur refugees in Chad.

"General Gration's personal and professional background, and his service to the country as both a military leader and a humanitarian, give him the insights and experience necessary for this assignment," Obama said in a White House announcement.

"Sudan is a priority for this administration, particularly at a time when it cries out for peace and for justice. The worsening humanitarian crisis there makes our task all the more urgent," the president said.

Gration's appointment came in the aftermath of Sudan President Omar al-Beshir's expulsion of international aid groups from Darfur after he was indicted on March 4 by the International Criminal Court on seven counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, the first such charge against a sitting head of state.

In addition to his knowledge of Afri-



Major General J. Scott Gration

can issues, Gration is well-versed in the operational requirements of training peacekeepers and of airlift capabilities.

The Save Darfur Coalition of some 180 faith-based and advocacy groups welcomed the selection of Gration, calling on him to begin at once to agitate for peace and human rights in the region.

A command pilot with more than 5,000 flight hours, Gration is a former director of strategy, policy and assessments for the U.S. European command. He entered the Air Force in 1974 through the Air Force ROTC program at Rutgers University. He has previously served as a White House Fellow, operations group commander and two-time wing commander.

U.S. Leads in Accepting Asylees

The United States continued to be the main country of destination for asylum seekers of all nationalities in 2008, with an estimated 49,000 new claims, according to provisional statistics released by UNHCR in late March. Representing a 12 percent increase over the previous year, worldwide claims totaled some 383,000, with Iraq, Somalia, the Russian Federation, Afghanistan and China ranking highest among countries of origin. After the United States, the main countries of destination were Canada (36,900), France (35,200), Italy (31,200) and the United Kingdom (30,500).

NEWS BRIEFS

Wynne Will Direct ORR's Anti-Trafficking Division

Margaret Wynne, a former House monitor of legislation who played a key role in development of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, has been named director of the newly-formed Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division within the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

Most recently serving as a special assistant to the director of the Office of Global Health Affairs at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Wynne will direct the certification of, and services to, victims of human trafficking. She will also oversee the Administration for Children and Family's (ACF) collaboration with other federal government agencies on policy issues related to anti-trafficking measures, said Daniel Schneider, acting assistant secretary for ACF.

ACF's anti-trafficking implementation activities were previously performed by a team of ORR staff.

Somali Violence by Islamist Groups Spawns Exodus

An estimated 30,000 people were displaced in mid-March in Wabho town in the Galgadud region of Somalia following fighting between Islamist groups, according to a report from IRIN.

"Most of the residents of Wabho and the surrounding villages fled after intense fighting between two groups," said Khalif Kariye, the deputy district commissioner of Eil Buur. He said local people had helped the displaced with food and shelter.

A local journalist said the fighting between the Al-Shabab and Ahlu Sunna Waljama'a (ASW) Islamist groups began on March 14, with ASW trying to dislodge Al-Shabab from the area.



Meanwhile, unknown armed men abducted four U.N. staff members on March 16 in Waajid, southern Somalia, according to a statement from the office of the U.N. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia.

New Census Report Charts Foreign-born Populations

According to a new analysis of data about the U.S. foreign-born population from the 2007 American Community Survey (ACS), those from several African countries are among the likeliest to have graduated from high school and those from Nigeria and Egypt rank high among those with bachelors degree or higher.

"These new 'selected population profiles' highlight the diversity among the many different foreign-born groups in the United States," said Elizabeth Grieco, chief of the Census Bureau's Immigration Statistics Staff. "This diversity is due in part to the way the various communities were established, whether it be through labor migration, family reunification or refugee flows."

Those from China rank highest among those who are high school graduates (80%), and those from India with bachelors degrees (74%).

Somalis and Kenyans are the most likely to be newcomers, and Somalis are

among the youngest and poorest. Approximately 81 percent of the foreign-born age 16 and over from Nigeria and Kenya are in the labor force. Nationally, about 65 percent of the U.S. population in this age group are in the labor force, compared with approximately 67 percent of the foreign-born population and 64 percent of natives.

Violent Clashes Hamper Refugee Returns in Sudan

Because of a deteriorating security situation in Southern Sudan, repatriation of hundreds of Sudanese refugees from Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya was interrupted in late March, according to a UNHCR report.

Blockades organized by unpaid war veterans from the Sudan People's Liberation Army disrupted life in the towns of Yei, Nimule and Kapoeta for several days, halting five repatriation convoys carrying some 920 returnees. UNHCR had earlier suspended repatriation of Sudanese refugees from Ethiopia following clashes between the SPLA and armed forces in Malakal. More than 50 people died and warehouses were looted.

The number of Sudanese refugees who voluntarily repatriated to South Sudan and Blue Nile state with the help of UNHCR since December 2005 has now reached 154,070 people.

FY 2009 African Refugee Admissions

As of March 31, 2009 • Ceiling for FY 2009 is 12,000

Country of Origin	Refugees	Country of Origin	Refugees
Angola	1	Mauritania	11
Burundi	417	Nigeria	2
Cameroon	2	Rwanda	58
Central African Republic	6	Sierra Leone	26
Congo	48	Somalia	1,940
Dem. Rep. Congo	436	Sudan	254
Djibouti	3	Togo	10
Eritrea	364	Uganda	7
Ethiopia	128	Zimbabwe	4
Gambia	9		
Guinea	3		
Kenya	1	TOTAL	3,823

Entertainers Promote Mosquito Net Use in Ugandan Camps

Popular entertainers Tom Cavanagh and Gavin DeGraw visited refugee settlements in Uganda in mid-March to help raise awareness about the deadly danger of malaria and to distribute hundreds of mosquito nets.

Canadian actor Cavanagh and DeGraw, an award-winning American singer and musician, toured Nakivale and Oruchinga with UNHCR assistance during a five-day visit. The two settlements are home to some 50,000 refugees, mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Somalia and the Sudan.

"It is shocking that malaria still kills so many refugees today," said Cavanagh, star of the new television drama "Trust

Me." The visitors helped hand out 800 long-lasting, insecticide-treated nets to Congolese refugees forced to flee fighting in recent months in their homeland, according to a report from UNHCR's Vanessa Akello.

Of the millions of people of concern to the UNHCR, two thirds live in malaria endemic areas. UNHCR estimates that about 930,000 refugees are infected with malaria every year in Africa. Children are particularly vulnerable. Last year, Uganda had the highest death rate from malaria among children under five years of age. In Nakivale, more than 4,000 children under the age of five are treated for malaria every month.

"We have to continue to raise funding for mosquito nets for all refugees," said DeGraw, referring to the U.N. Foundation's "Nothing But Nets" campaign, which last year formed a partnership with UNHCR to eliminate malaria deaths in refugee camps.

"Refugees in these camps have survived losing their homes, violence and genocide—they should not then die of a mosquito bite," Nothing But Nets Executive Director Elizabeth Gore said. "We know Gavin and Tom's supporters will provide funds to provide life-saving



Tom Cavanagh meets with young Somali refugees.

bed nets."

The campaign hopes to distribute 257,600 nets for more than half-a-million refugees in Uganda, Kenya, Sudan and Tanzania.

After the distribution, DeGraw gave an impromptu hour-long concert for more than 1,400 children at a school built earlier this year in Nakivale to cater for the influx of Congolese. The kids sang along to his song, "Freedom," reflecting their desire for a peaceful and happy future.

Ambassador Carson to Fill Key Africa Position at DOS

President Barack Obama announced in late March his intention to nominate Ambassador Johnnie Carson as the Department of State's Assistant Secretary for African Affairs.

Currently serving as the national intelligence officer for Africa on the National



Amb. Johnnie Carson

Intelligence Council, Carson is a 37-year veteran of the foreign service and a former senior vice president of the National Defense University.

Carson's foreign service career included ambassadorships to Kenya (1999-2003), Zimbabwe (1995-1997), and Uganda (1991-1994). He served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of African Affairs (1997-1999). Earlier in his career he had assignments in Portugal, Botswana, Mozambique, and Nigeria.

Before joining the foreign service, he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tanzania. He has a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from Drake University and a Master of Arts in International Relations from the School of Oriental and Africa Studies at the University of London.

African Refugee NETWORK

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The African Refugee NETWORK is a bimonthly publication of the ECDC Center for African Refugees and Immigrants (CARI). ECDC is a community-based organization established in 1983 to promote cultural, educational and socio-economic development programs to assist refugees and immigrants in becoming productive members of their new homeland. The Center includes three program areas: refugee resettlement, public education, and community development initiatives. Funding for the newsletter is provided by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, DHHS. Opinions presented in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official viewpoints of the funder or ECDC, and you should not assume endorsement by them. Material appearing in the newsletter may be reproduced with credit. For additional information, contact:

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Marking Repatriation Milestone...

UNHCR Assists 300,000th Refugee Returning to Southern Sudan

Among the 241 southern Sudanese refugees who returned to their homeland from Uganda in mid-February was Antazia Dujlu, 72, officially designated the 300,000th returnee since the signing of a peace accord in 2005.

Arriving on an eight-truck UNHCR convoy in the border town of Nimule in Sudan's Eastern Equatoria state from a refugee camp in northern Uganda's Adjumani district, Dujlu said she planned to return to her home village where her two surviving sons live, according to a report by UNHCR's Ronald Drichi.

"I was not happy in Uganda because I was a foreign beggar in someone else's home, but now I am back home and not a beggar any more," said the delighted 72-year-old Dujlu who has spent almost two decades in exile.

"I will need the support of UNHCR and the government to take care of me," she said, adding that she also expected her sons to help. "They are now old enough to take care of their mother, who struggled for them during times of hardship."

Of the 300,000 returnees, more than 43,000 have gone back to Sudan through the Nimule crossing point with the help of UNHCR since August 2007. UNHCR's assisted voluntary repatriation



Antazia Dujlu, 72, became the 300,000th southern Sudanese refugee to return home since the peace agreement of 2005.

UNHCR photo by S. Lemena

program for South Sudan began in December 2005, almost a year after the end of the long North-South war.

Kazuhiro Kaneko, head of the UNHCR field office in Nimule, noted that previous returnees had settled in well and had received reintegration assistance from the refugee agency, including funding for wells, schools and medical

clinics.

Meanwhile, a tripartite commission gathering representatives of UNHCR and the governments of Sudan and Kenya met in the South Sudan capital of Juba to discuss the repatriation of southern Sudanese refugees from Kenya.

The three sides set a repatriation target of 5,000 refugees from Kenya for 2009. There are an estimated 23,000 Sudanese refugees remaining in Kenya, mostly in Kakuma camp in the north-west.

The commission members also backed further efforts to ensure continued sustainable repatriation, including the development of educational facilities in South Sudan.

CALENDAR

May 4-6 — ECDC's 15th national conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Ballston in Arlington, Virginia. For information, visit: www.eccdinternational.org.

June 20 — World Refugee Day will be observed around the world through special events designed to raise awareness about protection and assistance needs and to honor the courage and achievements of those who have experienced violence, persecution and discrimination. Information and suggestions for activities will be available at: www.unhcr.org.

RESOURCES

UNHCR/Videos is a YouTube Internet site featuring reports on refugee affairs from Goodwill Ambassadors Angelina Jolie, Ben Affleck and others. Recent content included personal reflections by Burundian refugee Mawazo Pardon, who has spent his entire life in Tanzania and recently attained citizenship there. Another presentation documented the challenges UNHCR faces in serving Somali refugees at the Dadaab camp in Kenya. The site is at: www.youtube.com/unhcr.

MPI Study Suggests Changes in DHS Procedures

[Continued from page 2]

DHS as an immigration enforcement tool.

- Funding for USCIS should be "right-sized" and adjudication procedures should be streamlined so that the agency can break the recurring cycle of backlogs that impedes its ability to function as a true immigration services agency.
- To encourage legal immigration for all who are eligible for benefits under current laws, USCIS should adjudicate in the United States, not at consulates abroad, "extreme hardship" waivers for persons approved for family-based visas.
- While visa and immigration processes have been substantially strengthened since 9/11, DHS should undertake a

rigorous review of all post-9/11 security procedures with the goal of identifying gaps that must still be addressed and streamlining processes to eliminate redundancies.

- DHS should strengthen its immigration policy coordination role by appointing a Senior Assistant to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary whose sole duty is to oversee all aspects of DHS immigration policy implementation and coordination.
- DHS should take the lead in developing a comprehensive immigration enforcement vision and strategic plan that involves all key stakeholders within the administration and beyond.

To view the full report and learn more about the resources and programs of MPI, visit: www.migrationpolicy.org.