

Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo have signed a peace deal in Washington

DRC- RWANDA

The deal demands the "disengagement, disarmament and conditional integration" of armed groups fighting in eastern DR Congo. :



DR Congo and Rwanda sign long-awaited peace deal in Washington

Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo have signed a peace deal in Washington aimed at ending decades of devastating conflict between the two neighbours, and potentially granting the US lucrative mineral access. The deal demands the "disengagement, disarmament and conditional integration" of armed groups fighting in eastern DR Congo. Further details are scant and previous peace deals in the region have failed – yet that has not deterred the US and Congolese presidents from framing this as a generational victory.



Friday's signing follows a "declaration of principles" that were agreed in April

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UN80: Our Achievements Should Give Us Hope for a Better Future

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Netanyahu seeks to postpone trial summons after Trump backing

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Uganda's long-serving President Museveni to seek reelection, official says

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History Dislikes Falsehood, And Literature Does Not Recognize Heartless Words

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Israel and Iran agree on cease-fire to end 12-day war, Trump

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For first time, Webb telescope discovers an alien planet



From Forgotten To Fundamental: Reforming Namibian Law On Unclaimed Bodies For Medical Advancement

Introduction

On a solemn Wednesday morning, the ground behind Grootfontein State Hospital received the remains of 133 individuals, unclaimed since 2017. Nameless and storyless, they were returned to the earth not by the hands of family, but by the ma-

chinery of administrative necessity. Just weeks earlier, the University of Namibia (UNAM) called on the public to consider body donations to aid medical research and education, highlighting a desperate shortage of cadavers vital for medical student training.

This tragic juxtaposition, the burial of 133 unclaimed bodies while academic institutions clamor for donations, reveals a policy vacuum that demands urgent attention. These bodies, had they been lawfully repurposed for medical science, could have served as silent educators, fos-

tering generations of skilled health-care workers. Instead, they were interred, depriving society of knowledge and progress needed in the Na-

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Are East African governments uniting to silence dissent?

By: BBC
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- **“Rogue Regime”** – declared the headline of Kenya’s respected Standard newspaper as it pointed out that young people had flooded the streets in defiant remembrance of those gunned down a year ago in mass anti-tax demonstrations but “Instead of a listening ear they were met with razor wire, armoured trucks and the cold grip of repression”.
- **But as far as Interior Minister Kipchumba Murkomen is concerned, the police showed “remarkable restraint” as they foiled an “attempted coup”.**
- **“We condemn the criminal anarchists who in the name of peaceful demonstrations unleashed a wave of violence, looting, sexual assault and destruction upon our people,” he said, accusing the protesters of attacking police stations and injuring 300 officers.**



Kenya’s crackdown on protesters over the last year has sullied its image as a beacon of democracy

Kenya has been hit by a recent wave of repression, tarnishing its reputation as a beacon of democracy in East Africa.

Critics fear that it is sliding down the path of her neighbours – Uganda and Tanzania, both of which are notorious for cracking down on dissent.

Kenya’s laws are widely regarded as being more progressive – particularly in protecting fundamental freedoms like the right to protest.

But Kenya has witnessed an increasing crackdown on protests – the latest example being the killing of at least 10 people in nationwide demonstrations against President William Ruto’s government while it attempted to ban live TV and radio coverage of the protests.

“Rogue Regime” – declared the headline of Kenya’s respected Standard newspaper as it pointed out that young people had flooded the streets in defi-

ant remembrance of those gunned down a year ago in mass anti-tax demonstrations but “Instead of a listening ear they were met with razor wire, armoured trucks and the cold grip of repression”.

But as far as Interior Minister Kipchumba Murkomen is concerned, the police showed “remarkable restraint” as they foiled an “attempted coup”.

“We condemn the criminal anarchists who in the name of peaceful demonstrations unleashed a wave of violence, looting, sexual assault and destruction upon our people,” he said, accusing the protesters of attacking police stations and injuring 300 officers.

However, the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) condemned the police for their handling of the protest.

“The unnecessary aggression and brute force that culminated in the senseless loss of life and senseless destruction of property have no place in a free democrat-

ic society,” it said.

The crackdown came just weeks after a 31-year-old blogger and teacher, Albert Ojwang, died in police custody. He was arrested after being accused of defaming a senior police officer – and died in detention of assault wounds, an autopsy found. His death triggered a small protest in the capital, Nairobi, which police clamped down on and a street vendor, who was caught in the crossfire – shot at close-range, is fighting for his life in hospital.

The LSK denounced his shooting as unbecoming for “any sane democracy”.

Its comment brought into sharp focus the fact that Kenya risks losing its status as a democracy that many Tanzanians and Ugandans envied – and drew inspiration from.

Tanzanian political analyst Nicodemus Minde said there had long been an “appreciation” among Tanzanians of the ability of Kenyans to “speak truth to power”.

It was a view shared by Tanzania’s main opposition leader Tundu Lissu who told the BBC last year that “We have not pressed hard enough for democratic reform”.

“What Kenya did to build its democratic space is something we need to do,” he said.

Having miraculously survived an assassination attempt after being shot 16 times in 2017, Lissu has become a symbol of state repression in Tanzania.

He is currently in detention, charged with treason for rallying his supporters under the slogan “No reform; no elections”.

The government saw this as an attempt by Lissu to launch a rebellion – and he risks being sentenced to death if convicted.

The 57-year-old opposition leader sees his detention as an attempt by the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party – which has been in power since independence in 1961 – to clear its path

to victory in presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for October.

This perception has been strengthened by the fact that his Chadema party has been barred from contesting the poll after it refused to sign an electoral code of conduct that it believed would undermine its right to campaign freely.

The opposition in Uganda sees itself in a similar situation, pointing out that President Yoweri Museveni has been in power for almost 40 years, and – along with his son, Muhoozi Kainerugaba, who heads the army – is cracking down on political rivals in the build-up to elections in early 2026.

Ugandan opposition politician Kizza Besigye has been in detention since November, with the government wanting to try him for treason in a military court after accusing him of plotting to overthrow the government – a charge he denies.

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History

History Is The Key To Understanding Identity



By: Abdusharifova Sarvinoz
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Every person strives to understand who they are. Every nation is eager to know when and what paths they have taken and who they have become. History is the key to this understanding, a mirror of truth, a spiritual mirror reflecting our national spirit. We look to history to understand our identity. Because it is the root. A tree with deep roots does not fall. A nation with a deep history does not break either.

History is not just a collection of dates. It is the inscription of pain, pride, victories, losses, and great dreams imprinted in hearts. It is the diary of the people's soul, the notebook of the memory of generations. The people who close this book are the people who have lost. The nation that has lived by leafing through it is a nation with high consciousness, self-confidence, and acknowledging its roots.

We learn from history not only what happened, but also why it happened. Because if the past is without lessons, the future will not be free from mistakes. Every courageous step rests on the shoulders of history. Every mistake leaves a painful mark in history. So, studying history means understanding oneself, choosing one's path, and making the right choice.

A nation cannot live without history. A nation without history is like a body without a head and a heart. Our history is great from ancient times. The first signs inscribed on the walls of Afro-



siab, the scientific thought of Mirzo Ulugbek written on the stars, the just marches of Amir Temur, the struggles of the Jadids on the path of enlightenment - each of these is a torch that illuminates our identity. Studying history is a pride, a responsibility. We own the heritage of our great ancestors. Indifference to this heritage is a betrayal of our identity. Every young person must know, feel his-

story, and incorporate it into their lives. Because history is the spirit in our blood, the pride in our hearts, and the light in our eyes.

We learn history not only from books - from monuments, folk tales, stories of ancestors, manuscripts, architectural monuments. Every dome, every pattern, every Uzbek phrase is the language of history. Understanding it is the awakening

of national consciousness. Today, knowing history is not just science, it is a means of protection. In the era of information wars, a people who do not know their history quickly believe lies, lose their identity. Therefore, understanding history is preserving our identity, protecting the truth, and raising the honor of the nation.

History is not only the past, it is the present and the fu-

ture. Because it shows us the way, illuminates the path. Every nation survives only when it understands its history with its heart and lives with it, not by memorizing it.

History is the key to understanding its identity. Everyone who finds this key finds their own path, their own pride, their own strength.

Worth Noting:

- We learn from history not only what happened, but also why it happened. Because if the past is without lessons, the future will not be free from mistakes. Every courageous step rests on the shoulders of history. Every mistake leaves a painful mark in history. So, studying history means understanding oneself, choosing one's path, and making the right choice.

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Israeli strikes pummel south Lebanon hilltops

By: Reuters
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More than a dozen Israeli air strikes battered a row of hilltops in southern Lebanon on Friday, security sources said, with the Israeli military saying it had attacked a damaged military site that armed group Hezbollah was seeking to restore.

The simultaneous strikes hit a mountainous strip near the southern Lebanese city of Nabatieh, according to the Lebanese security sources, who said Hezbollah likely still had arms depots there. There was no immediate comment from the group.

The Israeli military said its fighter jets had attacked a site used to manage Hezbollah's "fire and defence system". It said the site was destroyed in last year's war but that Hezbollah was attempting to resume activities there in breach of the November truce that ended the conflict.

Lebanon's President Joseph Aoun on Friday fired the same accusation back at Israel, saying it was contin-

ually violating the U.S.-brokered ceasefire deal by keeping up strikes on Lebanon.

The ceasefire deal stipulates that southern Lebanon must be free of any non-state arms or fighters, Israeli troops must leave southern Lebanon as Lebanese troops deploy there, and all fire across the Lebanese-Israeli border must stop.

Israeli troops remain in at least five posts within Lebanese territory, and its air force regularly kills rank-and-file Hezbollah members or people affiliated with the group.



Smoke billows from the Nabatieh district, following Israeli strikes, as seen from Marjayoun, in southern Lebanon, June 27, 2025. REUTERS/Karamallah Daher

Haiti

A year in, Haiti mission leader warns of shortfalls in troops, funds, gear

By: Reuters
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The commander of the United Nations-backed security mission in Haiti, mandated to fight powerful armed gangs in the nation, on Thursday called on more countries to lend their support as he marked one year since the first troops deployed.

The first deployment of police from Kenya, which is leading the mission, arrived last June, over a year and a half after Haiti's government had first requested urgent support.

"As a new model, funded by voluntary partners, the mission faces challenges - including funding, personnel and logistics - that are being addressed to enable the mission to achieve its objectives on schedule," Godfrey Otunge, commander of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission, told reporters at an event in Port-au-Prince, the capital. While the U.N. aimed for the mission, which was sent to aid the Haitian National Police, to reach some 2,500 troops, well under half are currently deployed. More than 3,000 personnel were pledged in initial commitments.

In a note sent to the U.N. Security Council last week, Kenyan President William Ruto said 991 troops were currently deployed, mostly Kenyans but also 150 Guatemalans, 78 Salva-

dorans, 23 Jamaicans, six Bahamians and two Belizeans.

He said that many were on standby because existing contracts for logistical support could not provide for them.

"The MSS is also operating below the required capabilities in terms of equipment and operational support necessary to execute the mission effectively," Ruto added. "The equipment levels stand at below 30% of planned capabilities."

Despite the lack of resources, Otunge said on Thursday that the mission had managed to establish two key strategic bases in the Artibonite department, the area outside the capital, worst hit by the violence. Haitian leaders have repeatedly called for the voluntary mission to be converted into a formal U.N. peacekeeping mission in order to shore up resources, but efforts stalled at the Security Council after opposition from Russia and China. Gang violence in Haiti has displaced some 1.3 million people from their homes, fueling hunger and insecurity, while hospitals have shut their doors, and much of the economy, judicial system and government remain paralysed.

Some 580,000 people were displaced before the first deployment.



Members of a neighbourhood watch drive up a hill while patrolling a residential area after gangs torched homes, amid a surge in violence that has displaced approximately 1.3 million people in six months, according to U.N. estimates, in Furcy, Haiti June 24, 2025. REUTERS/Jean Feguens Regala/File Photo

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Israel and Iran

Israel and Iran agree on ceasefire to end 12-day war, Trump says

By: Reuters
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Worth Noting:

- A senior White House official said Trump had brokered the deal in a call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israel had agreed so long as Iran did not launch further attacks.
- Trump appeared to suggest that Israel and Iran would have some time to complete any missions that are underway, at which point the ceasefire would begin in a staged process.
- Iran denies ever having a nuclear weapons program but Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has said that if it wanted to, world leaders "wouldn't be able to stop us".
- Israel, which is not a party to the international Non-Proliferation Treaty, is the only country in the Middle East believed to have nuclear weapons. Israel does not deny or confirm that.
- Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani secured Tehran's agreement during a call with Iranian officials, an official briefed on the negotiations told Reuters on Tuesday.



A 3D printed miniature model of U.S. President Donald Trump, Israel and Iran flags are seen in this illustration taken June 18, 2025. REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Monday a complete ceasefire between Israel and Iran, potentially ending the 12-day war that saw millions flee Tehran and prompted fears of further escalation in the war-torn region.

But there was no confirmation from Israel and the Israeli military said two volleys of missiles were launched from Iran towards Israel in the early hours of Tuesday.

Witnesses later heard explosions near Tel Aviv and Beersheba in central Israel. Israel media said a building had been struck and three people were killed in the missile strike on Beersheba. Israel, joined by the United States on the weekend, has carried out attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, after alleging Tehran was getting close to obtaining a nuclear weapon.

"On the assumption that everything works as it should, which it will, I would like to congratulate both Countries, Israel and Iran, on having the Stamina, Courage, and Intelligence to end, what should be called, 'THE 12 DAY WAR,'" Trump wrote on his Truth Social site.

While an Iranian official earlier confirmed that Tehran had agreed to a ceasefire, the country's foreign minister said there would be no cessation of hostilities unless Israel stopped its attacks.

Abbas Araqchi said early on Tuesday that if Israel

stopped its "illegal aggression" against the Iranian people no later than 4 a.m. Tehran time (0030 GMT) on Tuesday, Iran had no intention of continuing its response afterwards.

There have been no reported Israeli attacks on Iran since that time.

"The final decision on the cessation of our military operations will be made later," Araqchi added in a post on X.

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Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani secured Tehran's agreement during a call with Iranian officials, an official briefed

on the negotiations told Reuters on Tuesday.

U.S. Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff were in direct and indirect contact with the Iranians, a White House official said. Neither Iran's U.N. mission nor the Israeli embassy in Washington responded to separate requests for comment from Reuters.

Hours earlier, three Israeli officials had signaled Israel was looking to wrap up its campaign in Iran soon and had passed the message on to the United States.

Netanyahu had told government ministers whose discussions ended early on Tuesday not to speak publicly, Israel's Channel 12 television reported.

Markets reacted favorably to the news.

S&P 500 futures rose 0.4% late on Monday, suggesting traders expect the U.S. stock market to open with gains on Tuesday.

U.S. crude futures fell in early Asian trading hours on Tuesday to their lowest level in more than a week after Trump said a ceasefire had been agreed, relieving worries of supply disruption in the region.

END TO THE FIGHTING?

There did not appear to be calm yet in the region.

The Israeli military issued two evacuation warnings in less than two hours to resi-

dents of areas in the Iranian capital Tehran, one late on Monday and one early on Tuesday. Israeli Army radio reported early on Tuesday that alarms were activated in the southern Golan Heights area due to fears of hostile aircraft intrusion.

Earlier on Monday, Trump said he would encourage Israel to proceed towards peace after dismissing Iran's attack on an American air base that caused no injuries and thanking Tehran for the early notice of the strikes.

He said Iran fired 14 missiles at the U.S. air base, calling it "a very weak response, which we expected, and have very effectively countered."

Iran's handling of the attack recalled earlier clashes with the United States and Israel, with Tehran seeking a balance between saving face with a military response but without provoking a cycle of escalation it can't afford.

Tehran appears to have achieved that goal.

Iran's attack came after U.S. bombers dropped 30,000-pound bunker-buster bombs on Iranian underground nuclear facilities at the weekend, joining Israel's air war.

Much of Tehran's population of 10 million has fled after days of bombing.

The Trump administration maintains that its aim was solely to destroy Iran's nuclear program, not to open a wider war.

"Iran was very close to having a nuclear weapon," Vice President JD Vance said in an interview on Fox News' "Special Report with Bret Baier."

"Now Iran is incapable of building a nuclear weapon with the equipment they have because we destroyed it," Vance said.

Trump has cited intelligence reports that Iran was close to building a nuclear weapon, without elaborating. However, U.S. intelligence agencies said earlier this year they assessed that Iran was not building a nuclear weapon and a source with access to U.S. intelligence reports told Reuters last week that that assessment hadn't changed.

But in a social media post on Sunday, Trump spoke of toppling the hardline clerical rulers who have been Washington's principal foes in the Middle East since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Israel, however, had made clear that its strikes on Evin prison - a notorious jail for housing political prisoners - and other targets in Tehran were intended to hit the Iranian ruling apparatus broadly, and its ability to sustain power.

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African News

DR Congo and Rwanda sign long-awaited peace deal in Washington

By: BBC
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

- Flanked by Vice-President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and delegates from DR Congo and Rwanda in the Oval Office, Trump called the peace treaty “a glorious triumph”.
- “This is a tremendous breakthrough,” Trump said, shortly before adding his signature to the peace treaty signed earlier by the respective African delegates.
- The deal was signed by the Congolese and Rwandan foreign ministers at the US State Department.
- “Another diplomatic success for President Félix Tshisekedi – certainly the most important in over 30 years,” said the Congolese president’s office, ahead of the signing.
- There has been talk of Tshisekedi and Rwanda’s President Paul Kagame going to Washington to meet Trump together, though no date has been fixed.
- When tensions between the two countries escalated at the beginning of this year, Qatar intensified de-escalation efforts, according to a diplomat briefed on the negotiations.

“Today, the violence and destruction comes to an end, and the entire region begins a new chapter of hope and opportunity,” US President Donald Trump said on Friday.

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“This is a tremendous breakthrough,” Trump said, shortly before adding his signature to the peace treaty signed earlier by the respective African delegates.

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“Another diplomatic success for President Félix Tshisekedi – certainly the most important in over 30 years,” said the Congolese president’s office, ahead of the signing.

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When tensions between the two countries escalated at the beginning of this year, Qatar intensified de-escalation efforts, according to a diplomat briefed on the negotiations.

Qatar sent envoys to both capitals to urge de-escalation, and after the Congolese and Rwandan presidents met in Doha, a joint committee was established, supported by the US, the diplomat added.

Decades of conflict escalated earlier this year when M23 rebels seized control of large parts of eastern DR Congo including the regional capital, Goma, the city of Bukavu and two airports.

Thousands of people have been killed and hundreds of thousands of civilians forced from their homes following the recent rebel offensive.

After the loss of territory, the government in Kinshasa turned to the US for help, reportedly offering access to critical minerals in exchange for security guarantees. Eastern DR Congo is rich in coltan and other resources vital to the global electronics industries.

Rwanda denies supporting the M23 despite overwhelming evidence, and insists its military presence in the region is a defensive measure against threats



President Kagame meets with President Félix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of Congo Ahead of the 74th UNGA

posed by armed groups like the FDLR – a rebel militia composed largely of ethnic Hutus linked to the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Rwanda in turn accuses the Congolese government of backing the FDLR, which is denied by DR Congo. Their presence is of utmost concern to Kigali.

When some information about the deal was released last week, a statement spoke of “provisions on respect for territorial integrity and a prohibition of hostilities”, but there were no specifics. It also talked about the “facilitation of the return of refugees and internally displaced persons”.

According to a Reuters news agency report, Congolese negotiators had pushed for an immediate withdrawal of Rwandan soldiers, but Rwanda – which has at least 7,000 troops on Congolese soil – refused.

In an angry statement a day before the deal was signed, Rwanda’s Foreign Minister Olivier Nduhugirehe condemned “the leak of a draft peace agreement” saying Rwanda had “demanded the other parties to respect the confidentiality of the discussions”.

The calls for the total withdrawal of Rwandan troops

from DR Congo are a major point of contention.

But Nduhugirehe said “the words ‘Rwanda Defense Force’, ‘Rwandan troops’ or ‘withdrawal’ are nowhere to be seen in the document”.

Just hours before the signing ceremony, Tshisekedi’s office said the agreement “does indeed provide for the withdrawal of Rwandan troops... [but] preferred the term disengagement to withdrawal simply because ‘disengagement’ is more comprehensive”.

Unless and until full details of the signed deal are made public, several crucial questions remain unanswered:

- Will the M23 rebel group withdraw from areas they have occupied?

- Does “respect for

territorial integrity” mean Rwanda admits having troops in eastern DR Congo and will withdraw them?

- Would the agreed “return of refugees” allow thousands of Congolese back from Rwanda?

- Does “disarmament” mean that the M23 will now lay down their weapons?

- Who will disarm the FDLR, after the failure of several previous attempts?

- Would the agreed humanitarian access allow the reopening of the rebel-held airports for aid supply?

Prior to Friday’s signing, Rwandan government spokeswoman Yolande Makolo told Reuters news agency that the “lifting of

defensive measures in our border area” would be contingent upon the FDLR’s “neutralisation”.

One of the main actors in today’s conflict – the M23 rebels – were spawned by a previous peace deal 16 years ago that failed to ensure demobilisation.

Last year, Rwandan and Congolese experts reached an agreement twice under Angolan mediation on the withdrawal of Rwandan troops and joint operations against the FDLR – but ministers from both countries failed to endorse the deal. Angola eventually stepped down as a mediator in March.



Iran holds state funeral for military leaders killed in Israel conflict

A state funeral has been held in Iran for about 60 people, including military commanders and nuclear scientists, killed during the 12-day conflict with Israel.

By: BBC.
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Worth Noting:

- Bagheri was to be buried with his wife and daughter, who were killed in an Israeli strike. In total, Iranian authorities said 627 people were killed in Iran. Israeli officials said 28 people were killed in Israel following missile attacks by Iran.

- Hossein Salami, commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards, and nuclear scientists including Mohammad Mehdi Tehranchi – head of Azad University in Tehran – were also among those laid to rest.

- The funeral was attended by prominent figures including Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani – an advisor to the country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei – state television showed. Shamkhani was injured in an Israeli strike earlier this month.

- It comes after US President Donald Trump said he would “absolutely” consider bombing Iran again.



A state funeral has been held in Iran for about 60 people, including military commanders and nuclear scientists, killed during the 12-day conflict with Israel. Coffins draped in the Iranian flag, bearing portraits of deceased commanders, were flanked by crowds near Tehran's Enghelab Square.

The conflict ended with a ceasefire earlier this week, after the US became directly involved by bombing key nuclear sites in Iran.

Huge crowds of mourners dressed in black chanted slogans, waved Iranian flags and held portraits of those killed.

Ahead of the event, a media campaign urged people to participate, with authorities providing free bus and metro rides. Government offices were shut for the day.

Among those laid to rest on Saturday was Mohammad Bagheri, the highest-ranking military officer in Iran who was chief of staff of Iran's armed forces.

Bagheri was to be buried

with his wife and daughter, who were killed in an Israeli strike. In total, Iranian authorities said 627 people were killed in Iran. Israeli officials said 28 people were killed in Israel following missile attacks by Iran.

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It comes after US President Donald Trump said he would “absolutely” consider bombing Iran again.

Responding to a question from the BBC's Nomia Iqbal at a White House press

briefing on Friday, he said he would “without question” attack the country if intelligence concluded Iran could enrich uranium to concerning levels.

Trump has also repeated his assertions that Iran was “decimated”, writing: “Why would the so-called ‘Supreme Leader’ Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, of the war-torn country of Iran, say so blatantly and foolishly that he won the war with Israel, when he knows his statement is a lie?”

Trump also claimed to have known “exactly where he [Khamenei] was sheltered”, saying he “would not let Israel, or the US Armed Forces... terminate his life?”

“I saved him from a very ugly and ignominious death, and he does not have to say, ‘thank-you, president Trump!’”, Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, warned Trump against making “disrespectful” comments about Khamenei, who claimed US

and Israeli strikes on Iranian nuclear sites had achieved “nothing significant”.

“If President Trump is genuine about wanting a deal, he should put aside the disrespectful and unacceptable tone towards Iran's Supreme Leader, Grand Ayatollah Khamenei,” Araghchi posted on X.

“The Great and Powerful Iranian People, who showed the world that the Israeli regime had no choice but to run to ‘Daddy’ to avoid being flattened by our Missiles, do not take kindly to Threats and Insults.”

Araghchi has admitted that “excessive and serious” damage was done to Iran's nuclear sites by the recent bombings.

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has said it is still not known how much of Iran's nuclear capabilities – including highly-enriched uranium and the centrifuges needed to purify the metal – have been destroyed or moved.

The agency's director general Rafael Grossi also said that stopping Iran from being able to build nuclear weapons would not be achieved through military attacks.

“You are not going to solve this in a definitive way militarily, you are going to have an agreement,” he told the BBC's US partner CBS News.

On social media, Trump claimed that in recent days he had been “working on the possible removal of sanctions, and other things, which would have given a much better chance to Iran at a full, fast, and complete recovery”.

But he said Khamenei's comments had deterred him, declaring: “Instead I get hit with a statement of anger, hatred, and disgust, and immediately dropped all work on sanction relief, and more.”

World

UN80: Our Achievements Should Give Us Hope for a Better Future

Eighty years ago this month, the Charter of the United Nations was signed in San Francisco, turning the page on decades of war and offering hope for a better future

By: Philemon Yang
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Philemon Yang, President of the seventy-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, chairs the informal meeting of the General Assembly plenary to hear an update on the UN80 Initiative

Worth Noting:

- We continue to witness heart-wrenching scenes of war—in Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine and elsewhere. The recent escalation between Iran and Israel is a stark reminder of the fragility of peace particularly in the tension-prone Middle East region.
- Yet amid the violence, we have managed to avert a third global war. In a nuclear age, that is an achievement we can never take for granted. It is one we must preserve with the full force of our efforts.
- Over the past eight decades, much of human development also bears the direct imprint of the United Nations. Consider the success of the Millennium Development Goals, adopted in 2000 by 189 Member States and more than 20 international organisations, which gave the world a shared roadmap for action.

Eighty years ago this month, the Charter of the United Nations was signed in San Francisco, turning the page on decades of war and offering hope for a better future. For 80 years the United Nations has stood as the highest expression of our hopes for international cooperation, and as the fullest embodiment of our aspiration to end the “scourge of war.” Even in a world steeped in cynicism, this is a milestone worth acknowledging. The United Nations remains the only organisation of its kind, and the only one to have endured for so long. That longevity is remarkable when we consider the context of its founding: assembled from the rubble of not one, but two global cataclysms. Its predecessor, the League of Nations, had collapsed in disgrace.

No organisation is flawless. But to paraphrase the second Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld: the United Nations was created not to take humanity to heaven but to save us from hell. In that mission, it has not failed. We continue to witness heart-wrenching scenes

of war—in Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine and elsewhere. The recent escalation between Iran and Israel is a stark reminder of the fragility of peace particularly in the tension-prone Middle East region.

Yet amid the violence, we have managed to avert a third global war. In a nuclear age, that is an achievement we can never take for granted. It is one we must preserve with the full force of our efforts.

Over the past eight decades, much of human development also bears the direct imprint of the United Nations. Consider the success of the Millennium Development Goals, adopted in 2000 by 189 Member States and more than 20 international organisations, which gave the world a shared roadmap for action.

By 2015, compared to 1990, extreme poverty was more than halved. Child mortality had fallen by nearly 50 percent. And millions of children — especially girls who had long been denied the right — had entered school for the first time.

Now, as we strive to achieve

the Sustainable Development Goals, we must build on that legacy of progress. We must continue efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, achieve universal health coverage and produce and consume sustainably.

There is another story of progress, often overlooked: the dismantling of empire. Eighty years ago, colonialism cast its shadow over much of the world. Today, more than 80 former colonies across Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific have gained independence and joined the United Nations. That transition, supported and legitimised by this Organisation, reshaped the global order. It was a triumph of self-determination, a profound affirmation of the Charter’s most fundamental principle: the sovereign equality of all States.

Evolving for the future

The world has changed dramatically since 1945. Today, the Organisation faces a deepening liquidity crisis. Despite the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, progress has

been uneven. Gender equality continues to elude us. Our pledge to limit global temperature rise and protect our planet is slipping beyond reach.

These setbacks do not warrant diminished ambition but greater resolve. The United Nations has always shown its worth in times of crisis. Its founders had witnessed humanity at its most destructive and responded not with despair, but with boldness. We must draw on these achievements.

The spirit of San Francisco was not utopian. It was grounded in a sober understanding of what was at stake. It held that, even amid deep division, nations could still choose cooperation over conflict and action over apathy.

We saw that spirit last September, when world leaders gathered in New York for the Summit of the Future. After difficult negotiations, they adopted the Pact for the Future and its annexes—the Declaration on Future Generations and the Global Digital Compact—by consensus. In doing so, they pledged to renew multilater-

alism for a world more complex, connected, and fragile than the one imagined in 1945.

That spirit endures today. It lives in the resolve of 193 Member States, in the integrity of international civil servants, and in the quiet determination of those who believe firmly in the promise of the Charter. It is carried forward by the Secretary-General’s UN80 initiative, which calls on us to deliver better for humanity; and to look to the future with adaptability and hope. As we mark this anniversary, we must rekindle the call for unity and solidarity that rang out from San Francisco 80 years ago.

We built a world order once, in the ruins of war. We did so with vision and urgency. Now, again, we find ourselves at a moment of consequence. The risks are high. So too is our capacity to act.

*H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang,
President of the 79th session
of the UN General Assembly*

NEWS PAPER



IN BUSINESS

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WORLD

From Forgotten To Fundamental: Reforming Namibian Law On Unclaimed Bodies For Medical Advancement



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyatimes

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

- The Public and Environmental Health Act complements the Burial Place Ordinance by providing a broader legal framework for public health and sanitation, including the management of human remains.

- For example, the Public and Environmental Health Act addresses the handling of radioactive human remains, while the Burial Place Ordinance focuses on the general protection of graves and the disposal of bodies.

- In essence, the Burial Place Ordinance provides specific regulations for burial practices, while the Public and Environmental Health Act provides a wider context for public health, including issues related to death and disposal of human remains.

- The Burial Ordinance and Public Health Act primarily focus on sanitation and public safety, with no provisions for anatomical donation in cases of unidentified or unclaimed remains. This has led to a de facto policy of burial after a certain period, usually a few years, without considering alternative uses.

Namibian medical universities. This article argues for legal reform that allows unclaimed bodies, after a designated and respectful waiting period, to be utilized for medical research and training. Drawing on ethical frameworks, global best practices, legal precedents, and Namibia's public health needs, I propose the enactment of a well-regulated cadaveric donation policy for unclaimed remains. This is not merely a pragmatic proposition; it is a respectful, ethically anchored step toward medical self-sufficiency and human dignity.

Legal Background: Namibia's Silence on Postmortem Use of Unclaimed Bodies

Namibia, like many African countries, lacks a comprehensive legal framework governing the postmortem use of unclaimed bodies.

The Burial Place Ordinance, 1966 (Ordinance 27 of 1966) and the Public and Environmental Health Act, 2015 (Act 1 of 2015) are key pieces of legislation in Namibia concerning burial practices and public health. The Burial Place Ordinance focuses on the protection of graves and the proper handling of dead bodies, while the Public and Environmental Health Act addresses broader public health concerns, including the management of infectious diseases and sanitation.

Burial Place Ordinance, 1966: This ordinance aims to prevent the desecration of graves and regulate the removal or disposal of dead bodies.

Key Provisions: It prohibits the disturbance or destruction of graves without permission from the Administrator (now the Minister of Health). It outlines procedures for the exhumation and removal of bodies, requiring proper authorization. It safeguards grave markers and monuments.

Public and Environmental Health Act, 2015: This Act establishes a framework for a structured and uniform health system in Namibia, addressing various public health matters.

Key Provisions: It provides



Grootfontein State Hospital

for the prevention and control of infectious diseases, including pandemics. It regulates sanitation and public water supplies. It addresses the management of human remains, including radioactive remains. It outlines procedures for exhumations and reburials.

Relationship between the two laws

The Public and Environmental Health Act complements the Burial Place Ordinance by providing a broader legal framework for public health and sanitation, including the management of human remains.

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In essence, the Burial Place Ordinance provides specific

regulations for burial practices, while the Public and Environmental Health Act provides a wider context for public health, including issues related to death and disposal of human remains. The Burial Ordinance and Public Health Act primarily focus on sanitation and public safety, with no provisions for anatomical donation in cases of unidentified or unclaimed remains. This has led to a de facto policy of burial after a certain period, usually a few years, without considering alternative uses. This silence stands in contrast to legislative developments in countries like South Africa, where the Human Tissue Act permits the use of unclaimed bodies for educational and research purposes, provided specific ethical conditions are met. In Ghana, the Anatomy Act similarly enables teaching hospitals to use unclaimed corpses after due process. Namibia's failure to adapt

its legal statutes to include modern medical training needs places undue strain on institutions such as UNAM. The university's appeal for voluntary body donations reflects a growing crisis: fewer donations, overreliance on textbooks and 3D models, and minimal hands-on cadaveric experience. Without legal reform, this academic deficit will ripple outward, affecting clinical care, surgical training, and ultimately, public health. A progressive legal policy should align with both constitutional protections of human dignity and international norms around human tissue use. The absence of such a framework perpetuates ethical grey areas and hinders the country's advancement in medical sciences.

Ethical Considerations: Consent, Dignity, and Public Trust

The ethical implications of repurposing unclaimed bodies must not be understated. The foundational principle of autonomy, that individuals have the right to decide what happens to their bodies in life and death, collides with the reality that unclaimed remains are often devoid of clear directives.

To navigate this ethical tension, a reformed legal framework should emphasize:

Presumed Consent: After a thorough and publicized waiting period (e.g., three to five years), unclaimed bodies may be ethically considered for medical research, unless the individual had explicitly refused such use in life.

Safeguards and Oversight: An independent ethics re-

Contd Page 15

WORLD

From Forgotten To Fundamental: Reforming Namibian Law On Unclaimed Bodies For Medical Advancement

By:
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Contd from Page 14

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- This silence stands in contrast to legislative developments in countries like South Africa, where the Human Tissue Act permits the use of unclaimed bodies for educational and research purposes, provided specific ethical conditions are met. In Ghana, the Anatomy Act similarly enables teaching hospitals to use unclaimed corpses after due process.
- Namibia's failure to adapt its legal statutes to include modern medical training needs places undue strain on institutions such as UNAM. The university's appeal for voluntary body donations reflects a growing crisis: fewer donations, over-reliance on textbooks and 3D models, and minimal hands-on cadaveric experience. Without legal reform, this academic deficit will ripple outward, affecting clinical care, surgical training, and ultimately, public health.
- A progressive legal policy should align with both constitutional protections of human dignity and international norms around human tissue use. The absence of such a framework perpetuates ethical grey areas and hinders the country's advancement in medical sciences.

view board should monitor the use of cadavers to ensure respect, prevent abuse, and uphold public trust.

Anonymity and Ritual Respect: Institutions must handle remains with dignity, preserving anonymity, allowing memorials, and committing to respectful final disposal post-research. Religion and cultural customs pose additional complexity. Namibia's spiritual landscape includes strong beliefs about death and ancestral sanctity. Therefore, engagement with religious leaders and community representatives must precede any policy reform. The aim is not to trample tradition, but to foster understanding: that turning a forgotten body into a vessel of healing honors both the dead and the living. International bioethics literature increasingly supports the idea that when families cannot be found, and efforts have been made to do so, the broader societal good, especially in under-resourced contexts, justifies the use of such bodies. Transparency and ethical rigor remain paramount.

Global Comparisons: What Namibia Can Learn

Several countries have already developed systems that convert unclaimed bodies into educational resources while safeguarding ethical norms:

1. South Africa – The Human Tissue Act (No. 65 of 1983) allows medical schools to utilize unclaimed bodies after 30 days, following police clearance and public notice. The bodies are respectfully used, then cremated or buried with institutional ceremonies.
2. India – Under the Bombay Anatomy Act, bodies unclaimed for 48 hours may be handed to government-approved medical institutions. Despite some controversy, the practice has significantly improved anatomical training, especially in public hospitals.
3. United States – Practices vary by state, but most allow for the use of unclaimed remains for science after attempts to contact rela-



The Grootfontein State Hospital on Wednesday buried 133 bodies

tives. Transparency, donor respect, and strong regulatory oversight are the cornerstones of trust in the system.

Namibia can adapt these models by:

1. Setting a reasonable holding period (suggested 3–5 years) for bodies to be claimed.
2. Requiring advertisement in national newspapers before repurposing.
3. Instituting mandatory reporting and audits of bodies used.
4. Mandating ethical training for all students and researchers who work with cadavers.

With legal clarity and public engagement, Namibia can emulate the best elements of these systems without compromising cultural values.

The Case for Reform: Medical, Educational, and Societal Gains

UNAM's call for body donations underscores a critical gap in anatomy education. Textbooks and mannequins, while useful, cannot replicate the tactile complexity of the human body. Without sufficient cadavers, students miss out on:

1. Hands-on exploration of muscular, nervous, and vascular structures.
2. Realistic surgical simulations and autopsy practice.
3. Learning the variability in human anatomy,

something models can't mimic.

The implications are profound. Doctors trained without adequate cadaveric exposure may lack confidence in surgeries or misdiagnose conditions. In rural areas, where referrals are rare and immediate interventions necessary, the consequences can be fatal. Moreover, research into disease pathology, forensic science, and new surgical techniques all depend on access to real human tissues. Unclaimed bodies could be invaluable assets in these pursuits. From a societal standpoint, this proposal also reframes how we think about the unclaimed and the marginal. Granting these bodies a posthumous purpose, education, healing, discovery, bestows a dignity that erasure cannot. It transforms societal neglect into scientific benefit.

Policy Recommendations and Path Forward

The time is ripe for Namibia to enact a Cadaveric Donation and Utilization Act. This law should provide a holistic and ethical framework for handling unclaimed bodies. Key components should include:

1. Waiting Period & Due Diligence
Bodies should be considered eligible only after a minimum of 3 years, with documented attempts to locate

next of kin, including public notices.

2. Regulatory Oversight
Establish a National Cadaver Use Ethics Commission, incorporating medical experts, ethicists, religious leaders, and civil society stakeholders.

3. Institutional Certification
Only accredited teaching hospitals and research institutions should be permitted to receive cadavers, with mandatory ethical training and facilities that ensure respectful handling.

4. Transparency & Reporting
All cadaveric use must be logged, with periodic public reports published by institutions.

5. Cultural & Religious Sensitivity
Require institutions to offer interfaith commemorations and facilitate appropriate burial or cremation rituals after use.

6. Educational Integration
Introduce courses on medical ethics and postmortem care in all health science programs to foster professional respect for human remains. A nationwide consultation process will be vital to secure public buy-in. Dialogue, not decree, must lead the way. Pilot programs can begin with UNAM and expand gradually, allowing room for oversight, review, and recalibration.

Conclusion: Honoring the Forgotten through Purpose

To bury 133 unclaimed bodies without considering their potential is not merely administrative concern, it is a missed moment to dignify the dead by serving the living. With an increasingly strained health system, a growing medical school, and untapped postmortem resources, Namibia stands at a legislative crossroads. Reforming the law to allow ethical, well-regulated use of unclaimed bodies for medical research is not about commodifying death. It is about revering it, transforming forgotten lives into fundamental lessons. With proper safeguards, public consultation, and institutional accountability, Namibia can lead the region in crafting a model of medical learning rooted in dignity, science, and social justice. By turning silence into structure, and neglect into knowledge, we do not desecrate memory, we expand legacy.

America

Netanyahu seeks to postpone trial summons after Trump backing

By: AFP
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Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses a joint meeting of Congress at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, U.S., July 24, 2024. REUTERS/Craig Hudson/File Photo

Worth Noting:

- In a filing to the tribunal, Netanyahu's lawyer Amit Hadad said the premier's testimony should be delayed in light of "regional and global developments".
- "The court is respectfully requested to order the cancellation of the hearings in which the prime minister was scheduled to testify in the coming two weeks," the filing said.
- It said Netanyahu was "compelled to devote all his time and energy to managing national, diplomatic and security issues of the utmost importance" following the conflict with Iran and during ongoing fighting in Gaza where Israeli hostages are held.
- Trump on Wednesday described the case against Netanyahu as a "witch hunt".
- In a message on his Truth Social platform, Trump said the Netanyahu trial "should be CANCELLED, IMMEDIATELY, or a Pardon given to a Great Hero", after the end of the war with Iran.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked a court on Thursday to postpone his testimony in his long-running corruption trial, after US President Donald Trump called for the case to be cancelled altogether.

Trump's move in support of Netanyahu over the case drew criticism from some Israeli politicians, including a member of the Israeli leader's own coalition and the leader of the opposition.

It came days after Trump and Netanyahu declared victory over Iran in a 12-day conflict that saw Israel bombard the Islamic republic and US planes also drop powerful missiles on its nuclear installations.

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Netanyahu on Thursday thanked Trump for his "heartfelt support for me and your incredible support for Israel and the Jewish people".

"I look forward to continue working with you to defeat our common enemies, liberate our hostages and quickly expand the circle of

peace," Netanyahu wrote on X, sharing a copy of Trump's Truth Social post.

Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid said in an interview with news website Ynet: "We are thankful to President Trump, but... the president should not interfere in a judicial trial in an independent country."

- Corruption charges -

Israel's longest-serving prime minister, Netanyahu has denied any wrongdoing in the trial, which has been delayed many times since it began in May 2020.

In a first case, Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, are accused of accepting more than \$260,000 worth of luxury goods such as cigars, jewellery and champagne from billionaires in exchange for political favours.

In two other cases, Netanyahu is accused of attempting to negotiate more favourable coverage in two Israeli media outlets.

One of Netanyahu's coal-

ition allies, Simcha Rothman of the far-right Religious Zionism party, also called for Trump to stay out of the court case.

"It is not the role of the president of the United States to interfere in legal proceedings in the State of Israel," said Rothman, who chairs the Israeli parliament's judicial affairs committee.

Rothman, a vocal critic of what he argues is judicial overreach, however said that "the management of Netanyahu's cases is transforming the image of the State of Israel from a regional and global power into a banana republic."

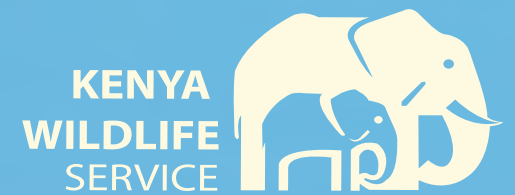
National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, the leader of another far-right party in Netanyahu's coalition, backed Trump's call, branding the trial politically motivated.

Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said it was "distorted, unreasonable, contrary to the basic sense of justice" to continue Netanyahu's trial while Israel is at war, also

backing Trump's call to drop the charges.

During his current term since late 2022, Netanyahu's government has proposed a series of far-reaching judicial reforms that critics say were designed to weaken the courts.

Netanyahu has requested multiple postponements in the proceedings, most recently citing the ongoing war in Gaza since April 2023, later in Lebanon and earlier this month in Iran.



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Uganda's long-serving President Museveni to seek reelection, official says

By Reuters

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni will seek reelection for another term in polls due early next year to extend his nearly four-decade rule, according to a senior official from the ruling party.

Although he was widely expected to run for office again, it is the first confirmation from his National Resistance Movement (NRM) party.

Uganda will hold its general election in January, in which voters will also elect lawmakers.

Museveni, 80, has been in power since 1986 and is Africa's fourth longest-ruling leader. The ruling party has changed the constitution twice in the past to allow him to extend his rule.

In a video posted late on Monday by state broadcaster UBC on social media platform X, the chairperson of the ruling party's electoral body Tanga Odoi said Museveni would pick up forms on June 28 to represent the party in the polls.

"The president ... will pick (up) expression-of-interest forms for two positions, one for chairperson of the party and the other to contest if he is given chance for presidential flag bearer," Odoi said.

NRM and other political parties are at present vetting and clearing their candidate for the polls.

Museveni's closest opponent will be pop star-turned-politician Bobi Wine who came second in the last polls in 2021 and has already confirmed his intention to run in 2026. Wine, whose real name is Robert Kyagulanyi, rejected the 2021 results, saying his victory had been stolen through ballot stuffing, intimidation by security forces and other irregularities.

Rights activists and critics have long accused Museveni of using patronage and security forces to maintain his grip on power but he has denied the accusations and says his long rule is due to popular support.



Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni

Iran says Baku denies letting Israel use its airspace in 12-day war

The Iranian presidency said Thursday that Azerbaijan has denied reports it allowed Israel to use its airspace to launch strikes during the 12-day war with Iran.

The remarks came during a telephone call between President Masoud Pezeshkian and his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev, the president's office said.

Israel launched a major bombing campaign on June 13 that targeted Iranian nuclear and military facilities and killed top scientists and commanders.

A ceasefire between Iran and Israel took effect on Tuesday.

Pezeshkian urged Azerbaijan to investigate reports that Israel had launched "drone and microlight attacks into Iranian skies through the airspace of the Republic of Azerbaijan," the presidency said.

It added that Aliyev had denied the reports, saying "the Azerbaijani government would not in any way allow its skies to be used against the friendly and brotherly country."

A readout of the telephone call from the Azerbaijani side did not mention that part of the discussion.

A day after the start of the Iran-Israel war, Azerbaijan said it would not allow its territory to be used for at-

tacks against Tehran.

"Azerbaijan will never allow its territory to be used for attacks on third countries, including friendly Iran," Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov told his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi at the time.

Tehran has previously expressed concern that Azerbaijani airspace could be used for an attack by Israel, a major arms supplier to Baku.

AFP



Masoud Pezeshkian, Iran's president is pictured at a candidates debate in Tehran, June 17, 2024, in this picture made available by Iranian state-run IRIB TV.

YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

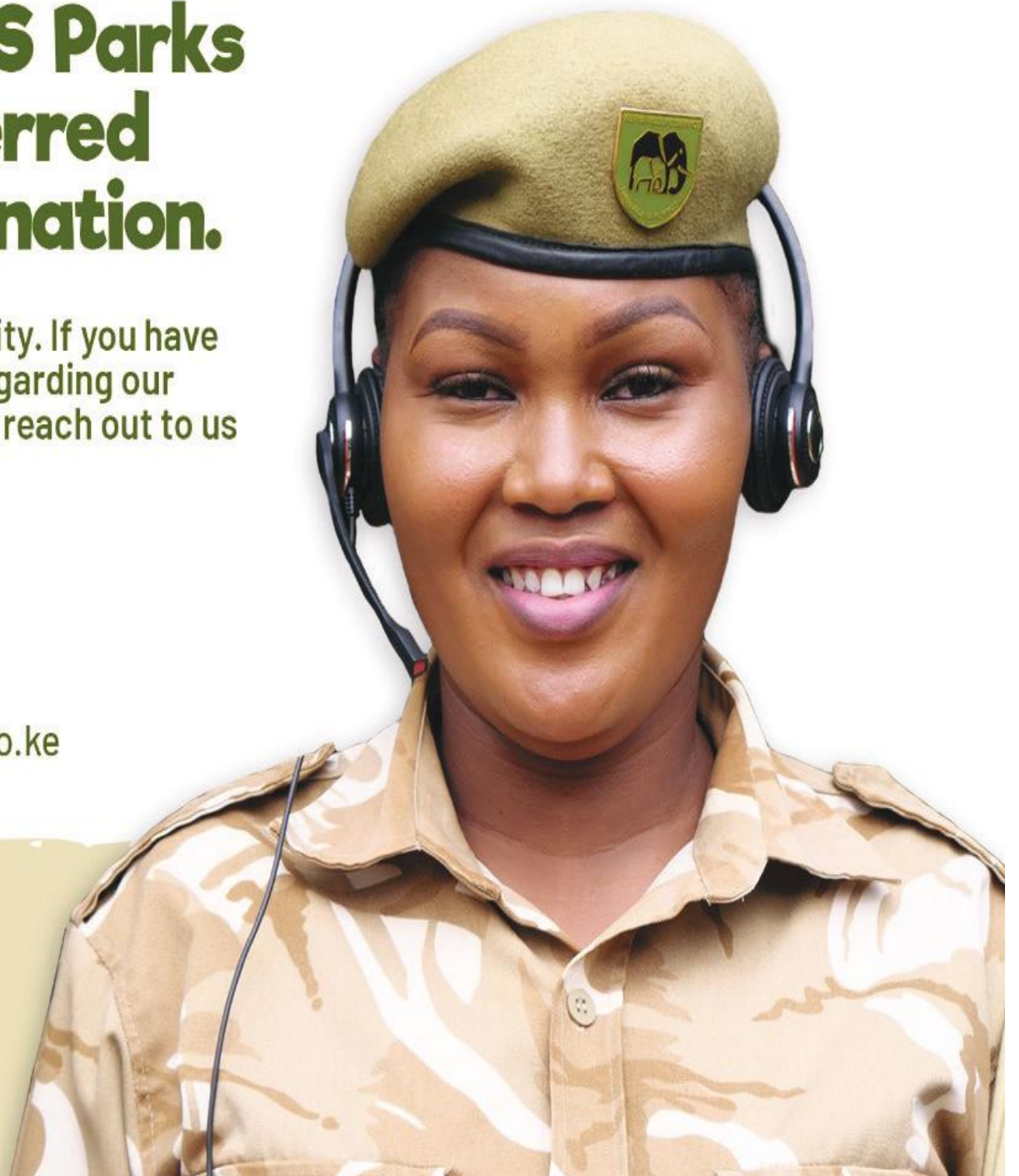
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Diaspora

History Dislikes Falsehood, And Literature Does Not Recognize Heartless Words



By: Jakhongir NOMOZOV
xxxxxxxxxxxx

ems: ideological, mechanical, artificial. History has sifted them out — today, neither the poems nor the names of those poets are remembered. For history despises deceit, and literature does not tolerate heartless words.

— Have you ever faced false praise or baseless criticism? How did they affect you?

Yes, quite often. False praise has become a habit in our circles. Sometimes they shower you with hollow compliments—it may feel nice for a moment, but then you realize it was meant to stroke someone's ego, not yours.

Baseless criticism, on the other hand, can burn you. But over time, I understood that a writer must learn to endure not only criticism but also silence and misunderstanding.

— In your poetry, is history just a subject, or is it also spirit, memory, remembrance?

In my work, history is more than plot—it's a state of mind. It's not just about remembering; it's about carrying that spirit, bringing it into the present, keeping it alive. In my lines, you can hear the echo of Attila's or Asparukh's horses' hoofbeats: the 12th-century Mongol shaman recites a prayer, Genghis Khan on his steed symbolically sees through the Chinese wall with his fierce eyes, wise figures and oracles like Tonjukuk recite the earliest and final songs of the Turkic people in the Orkhon inscriptions. Each line carries the breath of that spirit.

— How does a poetic mind develop? Does thought give birth to inspiration, or does inspiration give birth to thought?

They are processes that give birth to each other, complementing one another. Sometimes a moment of reflection triggers inspiration; other times a spontaneous wave of inspiration plunges a person into deep thought. But I believe that sustained creativity requires a structured thinking system. Inspiration may come and go—but the intellect should not abandon you.

— How do philosophy and spirituality merge in your work? Was that fusion natural, or born of searching?

At first, it was a natural state for me. But as time passed, I realized that the philosophical layer in each line is no coincidence. It stems from my inner spiritual quest as well as from the influence of philosophers and poets I've read — Nizami, Nasimi, Omar Khayyam, Navoiy, Rumi, and others. Spirituality comes from the heart; philosophy is the voice of the mind. When they unite, the poem becomes deeper and more enduring.

— Should a poet hide their feelings,

Our guest is Nicat HUNALP — a promising young Azerbaijani poet and writer, a member of the Union of Azerbaijani Writers and the World Union of Young Turkic Writers.

— You studied History at the university. What is the importance of history for a poet's heart? How has this subject influenced your poetic thinking?

Yes, Mr. Jakhongir, I studied in the History faculty at Sumgait State University from 2015 to 2019. I have been passionate about history since a young age. By the time I was nine or ten, I was already reading historical encyclopedias, exploring ancient civilizations, Turkic peoples, and mythologies. History, for me, is not merely a collection of events, but also the spirit, memory, and spiritual code accumulated within a people.

This historical spirit shines through openly in my poetry. In poems like "Where Did the Horses Lead Their Ancestors?", "Wolf's Memory", and "Shaman Writes My Dream", you can find the worldview of ancient Turks, the spirit of shamanism, and the philosophy of the steppes. Even the Uzbek—translated version of "Where Did the Horses Lead Their Ancestors?" in your publication carries the echo of this historical soul.

— When you write, do you feel closer to yourself or further away?

When I write, I move away from myself. The writing process becomes a kind of self-loss. To immerse in the depth of one's own lines and become another version of Nicat — perhaps that is the path to reach Nicat himself again. Writers and poets typically have a different mindset, which occasionally separates them from their society.

Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Camus, Sadegh Hedayat — their works were born in the depths of their personal labyrinths. When I write, I enter those labyrinths as well.

— Can a genuine poem be born without an inner ache, without a sense of wonder or beauty?

No, it is impossible. A poem is the poetic embodiment of something lived and truly felt. Lines written without feeling that ache—without that inner burn—remain lifeless. Consider the Soviet-era forced po-



Nicat HUNALP

or transfer them onto paper exactly as they are?

A poet is the voice for what cannot be spoken. To conceal is a trait of fear. I believe that a true poem should not remain silent. That is why they skinned Nasimi alive for refusing to be silent. True poets cannot be contained in palaces — as Nasimi said, they are too vast to be contained in the world.

— How do you distinguish between "creating" a poem and "finding" one?

"Creating" refers to expressing an idea you formed internally into words. "Finding" refers to discovering a thought that already existed somewhere, and capturing it. I believe poetry is often found — emerging from a dream, a moment of silence, a glance. It hovers in the air, and you catch it. But catching it is also a creative act.

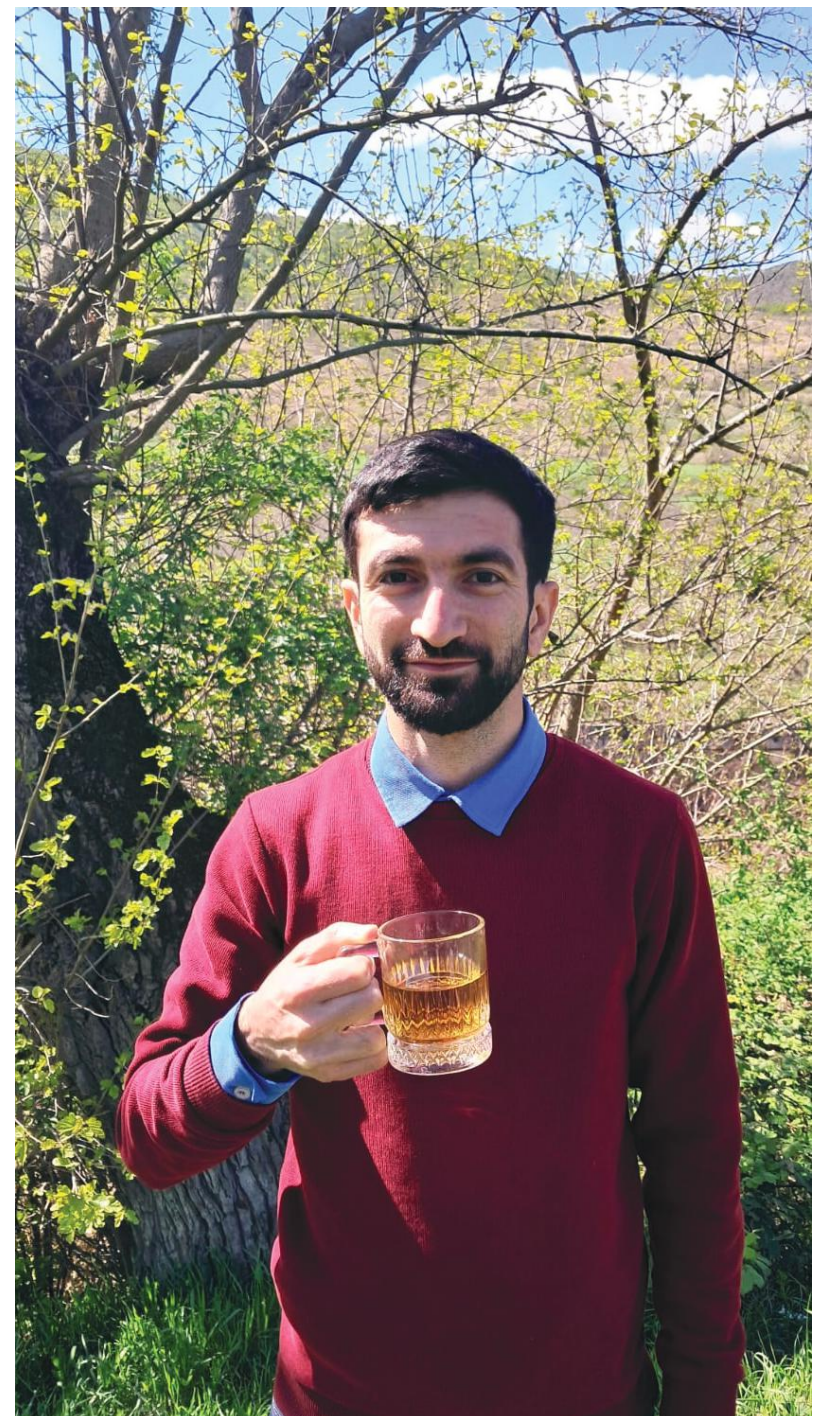
— How does your personal life reflect in your work? And how do you transform the personal into the universal?

My personal life is the core of my creativity. But I don't present it just as it happened; I filter it into universal emotions. For example, when writing about a separation, I don't consider only my own sorrow—I think about the feelings of thousands. The poet's role is to transform what he has lived into what everyone can feel. Personal pain becomes part of collective suffering—and that is how literature is born.

I hope this translation captures the depth, sincerity, and poetic nuance of the original. Let me know if you'd like any adjustments or poetic enhancements!

Jakhongir NOMOZOV,

Is a young poet and journalist from Uzbekistan. He is also a Member of the Union of Journalists of Azerbaijan and the World Young Turkic Writers Union.



Nicat HUNALP

Diaspora

Spiritual and educational properties of the epic
“Hurliqa and Hamro”

By: Ozodova Nafosat Sherkhon
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth
Noting:

• Hurlika and Hamro's addressing each other as friends is described with excellent quality through visual imagery. In the work, the character of “Hurliqa” is described as a fairy with a figure like the letter alif and a moon-face. In the character of “Khurizafaron” in the work, the qualities of evil and immorality are clearly manifested. Because he cannot see “Hurliqa and Hamra”, he always does evil to them. He even conspires with the judge and does not spare his own sister.

• That evil and goodness have always been reflected in works like this. But goodness always prevails. Hamra's kindness to his brothers is wonderfully described. Seeing his brothers' difficult situation, he buys them clothes and horses. The brothers, thinking, “He found Bulbuligoya, she will tell us about our situation,” gouge out Hamra's eyes and throw them into the well. Does a person even wish evil for his own liver?



Annotation: The spiritual and educational properties and educational significance of the epic “Hurliqa and Hamro” are considered in three articles.

Keywords: Hurlika and Hamro, kindness, goodness, love, evil, loyalty, spirituality, education.

One of the largest genres of Uzbek folklore is epic poetry. Examples of folk oral art, namely epics, play an important role in the spiritual and physical development of people. Folklore examples are sung by unique Bakhshis and continue to this day. One of these epics is the epic “Hurliqa and Hamro”, which is part of the “Oshiqnoma” epic series. The epic has been performed by many Khorezm bakhshis and has survived to this day. One of these epics is the epic “Hurliqa and Hamro”. The three epics are a romantic epic widely spread among the Turkic peoples. Some researchers believe that the history of the formation of the epic dates back to the 12th - 17th centuries. There are Uzbek, Turkmen, Kazakh, and Karakalpak versions of the epic. One of the main characters of the epic, Hamro, is distinguished from other heroes by being depicted in the work as a brave, compassionate, and kind person. The fact that some residents of the city,

together with their brothers, felt sorry for the helpless people when they saw their way of life and helped them as much as they could is a manifestation of compassion. Hamro's single act of kindness and compassion saved his life, as well as the lives of his brothers and sisters. A person should never shy away from doing good. A person who thinks only of himself cannot achieve any results. The work impressively depicts the relationship between a father and a child, respect for each other, and kindness. The father's advice to his children is poetically described. Some events in the epic resemble events in fairy tales. For example, the brothers' long journey to find Buligoya takes them three times on a journey, “If he goes, he will come,” “If he goes, he will never come,” “If he goes, he will come, he will not come,” and various events in them are similar. But the difference between the epic is the large number of characters in the work. The semantic assistant also has an educational enterprise.

Hurlika and Hamro's addressing each other as friends is described with excellent quality through visual imagery. In the work, the character of “Hurliqa” is described as a fairy with a figure like the letter alif and a moon-face. In the character of “Khurizafaron”

in the work, the qualities of evil and immorality are clearly manifested. Because he cannot see “Hurliqa and Hamra”, he always does evil to them. He even conspires with the judge and does not spare his own sister. That evil and goodness have always been reflected in works like this. But goodness always prevails. Hamra's kindness to his brothers is wonderfully described. Seeing his brothers' difficult situation, he buys them clothes and horses. The brothers, thinking, “He found Bulbuligoya, she will tell us about our situation,” gouge out Hamra's eyes and throw them into the well. Does a person even wish evil for his own liver? It's all because of wealth. A person should never give up his liver for money. After the work, Hamro regains his sight as before because of Hurlika. You can also see what kind of noble person Hamro is, from the fact that he forgave his brothers. Of course, goodness does not go unpunished, goodness does not go unrewarded. If we touch on the image of Hurlika in the work, he is depicted as a brave, loyal, devoted and kind person. He did not abandon Hamro even when he was in a difficult situation. That is, he showed his loyalty to his friend. When Hamro lost his sight, he tried to help him. He fought to cure his eye. And of course, he achieved

his goal. The epic encourages people, that is, the reader, to always be in good shape, to show love, no matter what the situation is. In the work, the relationship between father and son, brother and sister, has an educational aspect. All fathers in the world are ready to do anything for their children. The hero of the work, King “Khisrav”, is one of such fathers. There are some conflicts between the brothers. Hamro's brothers, in order to look good to their father and gain wealth, gouge out their brother and throw him into the well. It is not right for any brother or sister to do such evil to each other. Hamro's ability as a brave person can be seen from the fact that he forgave them without doing anything. He is also a noble person. Love, loyalty, nobility, goodness, kindness, and spiritual and moral qualities are reflected in the epic. What attracts the reader is that the details of the events in the Khorezm epics are described in prose, and feelings and experiences are expressed lyrically in poetic passages. Examples of artistic creativity always encourage people to do good, to spiritually improve, to gain knowledge, to embody good qualities, and to demonstrate human qualities. Epics are one of such creative products. This epic also encourages people to spiritually improve, to

become kind, noble, hard-working, always doing good to people, and loyal people. Especially in today's growing younger generation, the role of works like this epic is incomparable in guiding them on the right path, in helping them become fully developed people, and in broadening their worldview. From the products of artistic creativity, humanity receives spiritual nourishment, its mental state improves, and its attitude towards people around it changes for the better. Based on the character traits and moral qualities of the heroes of the epic, the younger generation draws appropriate conclusions for itself. It is undeniable that the epic has a good effect on the upbringing and spiritual and physical development of young people. Because the epic reflects the lives of various virtuous people, the consequences of good and evil, and qualities such as love and loyalty.

In conclusion, examples of artistic creativity, especially epics, are of great importance in helping people grow into mature individuals, spiritually and physically perfect.

Ozodova Nafosat Sherkhon qizi, NukusDPI named after Ajinyoz, Faculty of Turkic Languages, Uzbek Language and Literature student

Youth declare commitment to forest governance, climate action

Young environmental leaders issue joint declaration at AY4F workshop in Cameroon

By:KBC Digital
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AY4F National Youth Workshop participants during a field visit to the Mbalmayo demonstration and training forest, managed by Cameroon's National Forestry School (ENEF). Credit: Felix Odhiambo / AFF.

Worth Noting:

- Participants identified key threats to Cameroon's forests—illegal logging, agricultural-induced degradation, weak law enforcement, urban expansion, and limited youth involvement in environmental decision-making. They also cited restricted access to finance, digital tools, and technical training as major barriers to effective youth-led actions in sustainable forestry.

- Despite facing numerous challenges, the youth displayed a strong commitment to driving change through innovation, entrepreneurship, and community-based action—proposing solutions such as precision agroforestry, tree nurseries, reforestation, eco-tourism, digital conservation tools, sustainable forest management, community-based carbon markets, and responsible non-timber forest product enterprises.

- “Nothing for us without us. Young people are not waiting to be invited to the table – we are building our own,” states the youth declaration. “We don't have to choose between earning a living and saving the planet. We can – and must – do both.”

Young environmental leaders from across Cameroon have issued a bold joint declaration calling for greater youth involvement in forest governance, as part of their commitment to climate action and the transition to a green economy. This declaration was issued at the conclusion of the AfricanYouth4Forests (AY4F) National Youth Workshop, held from 11–13 June 2025 at the National Forestry School of Cameroon in Mbalmayo. Convened under the theme “From Science to Youth Action for Sustainable Forestry,” the workshop was organized by the African Forest Forum (AFF) in collaboration with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and hosted with the support of Formas – the Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development.

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“Nothing for us without us. Young people are not waiting to be invited to the table – we are building our own,” states the youth declaration. “We don't have to choose between earning a living and saving the planet. We can – and must – do both.”

Calling for mindset shifts and behavioural change, the youth emphasized their readiness to act: “Give youth the tools and trust – we will

build a greener tomorrow.” The AY4F initiative empowers Africans aged 18–35 to lead environmental transformation by bridging scientific knowledge and indigenous ecological wisdom. In Mbalmayo, participants were trained in sustainable forest management, green enterprise development, digital tools, and advocacy, with a focus on turning knowledge into action.

However, participants emphasized that youth remain underrepresented in forest governance structures, despite being digitally savvy, highly motivated, and deeply rooted in their communities.

To address this, they called on the Cameroonian government to create an enabling environment for youth-led climate action, simplify administrative procedures to encourage youth participation, enhance access to internships and permits through targeted incentives, integrate environmental education into all levels of basic education, establish more community-managed and youth-led forest reserves, and enact

supportive laws that incentivize youth-driven climate initiatives.

They also called on the private sector, NGOs, and international partners to offer mentorship, financing, and digital platforms to amplify youth-led forest businesses, storytelling and advocacy. “This workshop is a turning point,” said Mitin Sandrine Yaah, environmental engineer and CEO's Youth Advisor at the Global Centre on Adaptation. “We have gained not just knowledge, but purpose,” added Anya Dabite Abeh, a young conservation biologist.

Dr. Chemuku Wekesa (KEFRI/Taita Taveta University) noted: “To deliver on forest restoration and green goals, the ambition of young researchers must be as big as the forests they protect.”

AFF Consultant Dr. Peter Mbile encouraged youth to embrace frontier opportunities like carbon markets, GIS, drones, and AI, urging them to “focus less on what hasn't worked, and more on what's possible.”

Representing the AFF Executive Secretary Prof. Labode Popoola, Dr. Moussa Mas-

saoudou emphasized the importance of digital literacy among African youth: “Training young people on emerging technologies. GIS, drones, and AI can save time and unlock resources.” Dr. Massaoudou, a Visiting Scientist / Programme Officer at AFF, concluded: “With over 60% of Africa's population under 30 years, meaningful youth inclusion in forest governance is vital for long-term sustainability. Youths don't have a choice. They must engage, innovate, and stay informed.”

As the world prepares for COP30, the Mbalmayo workshop stands as a testament to the transformative power of youth in shaping Africa's climate and forest future—equipped with science, solidarity, and an unshakable sense of purpose.

SEWA to improve access and utilisation of meteorological data by African Union member states

The African Union has moved to improve access to meteorological data through the newly launched Space for Early Warning in Africa (SEWA) project.

By: Judith Akolo
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Worth Noting:

- Vilakati appealed to member states to put in place budgets for capacity building in the generation of meteorological data as well as delivery of usable information of weather and climate forecasts, adding that “with the current geopolitical self-centred politics there is need for Africa to plan to invest in meteorological infrastructure that provides timely data.”
- The Deputy Executive Director in the Ministry of Works and Transport, Jonas Sheelongo called for synergy between the researchers and academia in translating meteorological data into usable information, “timely forecasts that are well packaged can improve response and better use of meteorological information for proactive action.”
- Sheelongo said that investing in disaster preparedness is more cost effective than having to deal with the consequences of adverse weather patterns that become disasters affecting large populations of people.



The African Union has moved to improve access to meteorological data through the newly launched Space for Early Warning in Africa (SEWA) project. The program which is part of the Africa-EU Space Partnership Programme, aims to enhance disaster preparedness and response in Africa using space-based technologies and Earth observation data.

Speaking during the launch of the project in Windhoek, Namibia, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) Moses Vilakati appealed to the media on the continent to be more engaged and aid in unpacking complex information for use by the last mile.

“There is need to build the

capacity of the media to be able to translate the information for use by the whole spectrum of the population,” he said and added, “people living with disability, need the information and so this information should be packaged and given in a language that is easily understood by all.”

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The Zambia Director of Meteorological Services Edson Nkonde noted that through co-production of weather forecasts that are tailored towards the needs of various sectors, “provision of information free of scientific jar-

gon can help communities to act on the information to save lives and livelihoods,” he added the Permanent Representative of Zambia with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). The Abidjan Declaration, that was signed in 2018, focused on leveraging the Meteosat Third Generation (MTG) satellite system for improved weather and climate services in Africa, emphasising on strengthening “African capacities to utilize data from the new generation of satellites for operational services and early warning systems through the establishment and operationalization of the African Meteorological Satellite Application Facility (AMS-AF).”

The SEWA project is aimed at enhancing the resilience of member States’ through

improved access to and use of Earth Observation (EO) meteorological data, and weather services; Strengthening human capacities, knowledge and community shaping across the Early Warning value chain with a focus on space-based data and technologies; Strengthened coordination with institutional frameworks for hazardous weather and climate early warning and knowledge sharing across regions through the establishment and operationalization of the African Meteorological Satellite Application Facility (AMS-AF); and Strengthened Impact-Based Forecasting capabilities and continental, regional and national levels.

For first time, Webb telescope discovers an alien planet

In addition to providing a trove of information about the early universe, the James Webb Space Telescope, since its 2021 launch, has obtained valuable data on various already-known planets beyond our solar system, called exoplanets.

By: Reuters .
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Worth Noting:

- “Webb opens a new window - in terms of mass and the distance of a planet to the star - of exoplanets that had not been accessible to observations so far. This is important to explore the diversity of exoplanetary systems and understand how they form and evolve,” said astronomer Anne-Marie Lagrange of the French research agency CNRS and LIRA/Observatoire de Paris, lead author of the study published on Wednesday in the journal Nature.
- The planet orbits its host star, called TWA 7, at a distance about 52 times greater than Earth’s orbital distance from the sun. To put that in perspective, our solar system’s outermost planet, Neptune, orbits about 30 times further from the sun than Earth. The transit method of discovering exoplanets is particularly useful for spotting those orbiting close to their host star rather than much further out, like the newly identified one.

In addition to providing a trove of information about the early universe, the James Webb Space Telescope, since its 2021 launch, has obtained valuable data on various already-known planets beyond our solar system, called exoplanets. Now, for the first time, Webb has discovered an exoplanet not previously known.

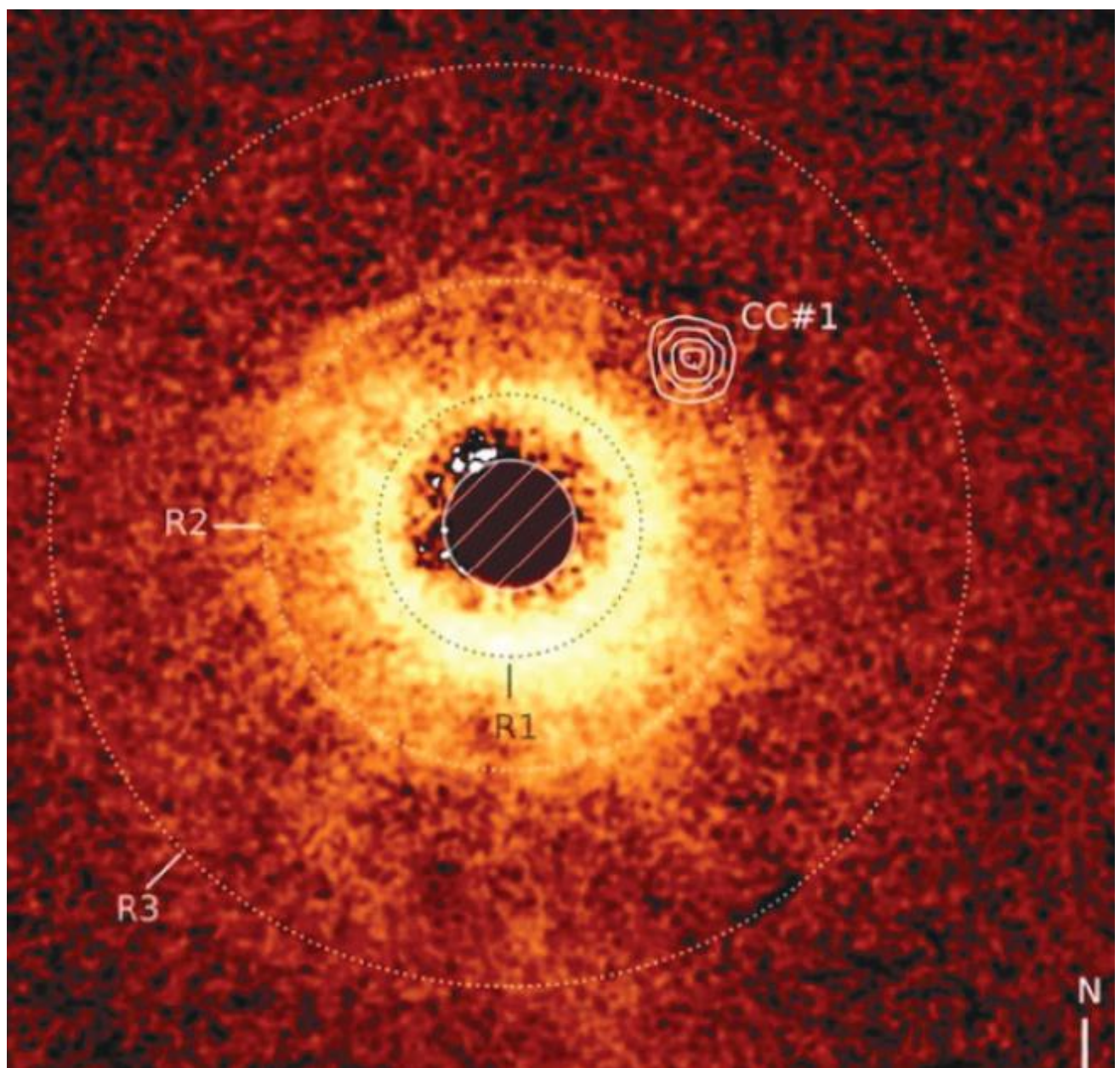
Webb has directly imaged a young gas giant planet roughly the size of Saturn, our solar system’s second-largest planet, orbiting a star smaller than the sun located about 110 light-years from Earth in the constellation Antlia, researchers said. A light-year is the distance light travels in a year, 5.9 trillion miles (9.5 trillion km).

Most of the roughly 5,900 exoplanets discovered since the 1990s have been detected using indirect methods, such as through observation of the slight dimming of a star’s light when a planet passes in front of it, called the transit method. Less than 2% of them have been directly imaged, as Webb did with the newly identified planet.

While this planet is large when considered in the context of our solar system, it is actually the least massive one ever discovered through direct imaging, 10 times less massive than the previous record holder. This speaks to the sensitivity of Webb’s instruments.

This discovery was achieved using a French-produced coronagraph, a device that blocks out the bright light from a star, installed on Webb’s Mid-Infrared Instrument, or MIRI.

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An image of the protoplanetary disk around the star TWA 7, recorded using the European Southern Observatory’s Chile-based Very Large Telescope’s SPHERE instrument, is seen with an image captured with the James Webb Space Telescope’s MIRI instrument overlaid in this image released on June 25, 2025. The empty area around exoplanet TWA 7 B is shown in the R2 ring, CC #1. AM Lagrange et al/JWST/ESO/Handout via REUTERS

is, lead author of the study published on Wednesday in the journal Nature.

The planet orbits its host star, called TWA 7, at a distance about 52 times greater than Earth’s orbital distance from the sun. To put that in perspective, our solar system’s outermost planet, Neptune, orbits about 30 times further from the sun than Earth. The transit method of discovering exoplanets is particularly useful for spotting those orbiting close to their host star rather than much further out, like the newly identified one.

“Indirect methods provide incredible information for planets close to their stars. Imaging is needed to robustly detect and characterise

planets further away, typically 10 times the Earth-to-sun distance,” Lagrange said. The birth of a planetary system begins with a large cloud of gas and dust - called a molecular cloud - that collapses under its own gravity to form a central star. Leftover material spinning around the star in what is called a protoplanetary disk forms planets.

The star and the planet in this research are practically newborns - about 6 million years old, compared to the age of the sun and our solar system of roughly 4.5 billion years.

Because of the angle at which this planetary system is being observed - essentially looking at it from above

rather than from the side - the researchers were able to discern the structure of the remaining disk. It has two broad concentric ring-like structures made up of rocky and dusty material, and one narrow ring in which the planet is sitting.

The researchers do not yet know the composition of the planet’s atmosphere, though future Webb observations may provide an answer. They are also not certain whether the planet, being as young as it is, is still gaining mass by accumulating additional material surrounding it.

While this planet is the smallest ever directly imaged, it is still much more massive than rocky planets like Earth that might

be good candidates in the search for life beyond our solar system. Even with its tremendous capabilities of observing the cosmos in near-infrared and mid-infrared wavelengths, Webb is still not able to directly image Earth-sized exoplanets. “Looking forward, I do hope the projects of direct imaging of Earth-like planets and searches for possible signs of life will become a reality,” Lagrange said.