



news • analysis • advocacy

## Introducing AfricaFocus Bulletin

**An independent e-mail bulletin on key issues affecting Africa**

***Subscribe today. It's free!***

To subscribe, unsubscribe, or change your e-mail address, write to [africafocus@igc.org](mailto:africafocus@igc.org). Voluntary subscription payments are requested but not required. You may continue a free subscription as long as you wish.

***In-depth analysis.***

Each issue of AfricaFocus Bulletin provides timely analysis and advocacy information on a single topic. The emphasis is on themes of continent-wide or regional relevance, or on selected country-specific topics.

***Draws on the best African, international, and U.S. sources.***

AfricaFocus Bulletin reposts selected statements, research reports, and conference presentations from a wide range of sources, including nongovernmental organizations, activist groups, international agencies, and governments. Links and contact information for the original sources are always provided, so you can follow up for more details.

***Fast, convenient, and just the right length.***

AfricaFocus Bulletin arrives in your e-mail 1 to 3 times a week. At about 6 to 8 pages (20K maximum e-mail size) - it's long enough to provide in-depth analysis, but short enough to skim quickly. Longer reports are included as executive summaries or excerpts only, with clickable links to the full texts. The whole bulletin comes in the body of the e-mail - no attachments to download.

***An editor's note puts the information in context.***

AfricaFocus Bulletin is edited by William Minter, a writer, researcher, and analyst and the former editor of Africa Policy E-Journal. Each issue of AfricaFocus Bulletin begins with a brief editor's note introducing the material and placing it in the context of current developments. A full archive, with additional news and information resources, is available at <http://www.africafocus.org>.

***Most recent issues on Migration***

*Note: For all AfricaFocus issues on migration, visit <http://www.africafocus.org/migrex.php>.*

**Oct 13, 2011** Africa: Migration, Inequalities, & Human Rights <http://www.africafocus.org/docs11/migr1110.php>

Issues related to the situation of refugees and other migrants are hotly contested in locations as diverse as Libya, South Africa, Kenya, Western Europe, and the United States. Anti-migrant sentiment is a recurring phenomenon, featuring restrictive legislation, official abuses against immigrants, and in extreme cases, xenophobic violence. Yet these issues are most often considered in isolation, rather than also as among the most telling indicators of fundamental structural inequalities between nations.

**Aug 18, 2011** USA/Africa: Wage Penalties for Black Immigrants <http://www.africafocus.org/docs11/mig1108b.php>

"Contrary to the popular impression, black male immigrants are not better off in weekly wages than U.S.-born black males after controlling for observable demographic characteristics [such as level of education and experience]. ... U.S.-born black men earn 19.1% less than similar U.S.-born white men. West Indian men do slightly worse and earn 20.7% less than similar native white men. Haitian men and African men do substantially worse than U.S.-born black men; Haitian men earn 33.8% less, and African men earn 34.7% less than similar native white men." - Economic Policy Institute study

**Aug 18, 2011** USA/Africa: New Data on African Immigrants <http://www.africafocus.org/docs11/mig1108a.php>

"From 1980 to 2009, the African-born population in United States grew from just under 200,000 to almost 1.5 million. Today, Africans make up a small (3.9 percent) but growing share of the country's 38.5 million immigrants. ... Over one-third of all African immigrants resided in New York, California, Texas, and Maryland." - Migration Information

Source

**May 12, 2011** Eritrea: Refugees and Responsibility <http://www.africafocus.org/docs11/er1105.php>

"If refugee flows are a sign of political meltdown, then Eritrea is a level seven nuclear disaster. Figures from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees indicate that Eritrea, with a population of only about five million, has been among the top ten refugee producing countries in the world for the better part of the decade." - Tricia Redeker Hepner

**Apr 22, 2011** Africa: Migration & Human Development <http://www.africafocus.org/docs11/migr1104b.php>

"The entry policies that have prevailed in many destination countries over recent decades can be largely characterized by denial and delay on the one hand, and heightened border controls and illegal stays on the other. This has worsened the situation of people lacking legal status and, especially during the recession, has created uncertainty and frustration among the wider population." - Human Development Report 2009

**Apr 22, 2011** Libya: Migrants Situation Update <http://www.africafocus.org/docs11/migr1104a.php>

"So far, only about 2,800 out of a total of 500,000 people fleeing the violence in Libya have arrived in Europe. This is less than 0.6 percent of all cross-border movements. ... The movement out of Libya is unrelated to the arrivals of some 20,000 mainly Tunisians on Lampedusa, which is part of the 'normal' boat migration by mainly North African young men in search of work." - Hein de Haas

**Mar 5, 2011** North Africa: New Threats to Migrants <http://www.africafocus.org/docs11/na1103.php>

"Sub-Saharan African workers [in Libya] are in dire need of evacuation because of the threats they face. The people most in need are mainly from poorer countries in Asia and Africa... whose governments have apparently been unable or unwilling to rescue them" - Human Rights Watch

**Aug 6, 2010** Africa: Migrant Rights Updates <http://www.africafocus.org/docs10/migr1008.php>

"An astounding 100 deportees a month come to ARACEM [in Mali] for shelter, food and clothing. They are expelled from Libya, Morocco and Algeria as they make the way from Central and West Africa in an attempt to find work. These three North African countries have signed agreements with European countries to act as external border control agents to prevent migrants from reaching Europe."

**Aug 6, 2010** South Africa: Xenophobia & Civil Society <http://www.africafocus.org/docs10/xeno1008.php>

"Virtually every author concludes that violence against African migrants will continue and increase unless some profound socio-economic and attitudinal changes occur. This text thus sounds a loud warning bell to South Africa about our future. And it does so not merely based on the opinions of the authors, but because of the views of ordinary South African citizens that informed the research. ... survey after survey, focus group after focus group, have shown deeply xenophobic attitudes rising steadily over time." - David Everatt in introduction to report on South African Civil Society and Xenophobia, July 2010

**Apr 12, 2010** Africa: Profiling Cash Drains <http://www.africafocus.org/docs10/fin1004.php>

"Estimates [for the period 1970-2008] show that over the 39-year period Africa lost an astonishing US\$854 billion in cumulative capital flight--enough to not only wipe out the region's total external debt outstanding of around US\$250 billion (at end-December, 2008) but potentially leave US\$600 billion for poverty alleviation and economic growth. Instead, cumulative illicit flows from the continent increased from about US\$57 billion in the decade of the 1970s to US\$437 billion over the nine years 2000-2008." - report by Global Financial Integrity

**Mar 10, 2010** Africa: Remittances Update <http://www.africafocus.org/docs10/rem1003.php>

A 2009 report from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) notes that some 30 million African workers outside their countries send home approximately \$40 billion a year in remittances. But with only as many "payout" locations on the continent as in one Latin American country (Mexico), the process is expensive and dominated by two large money transfer companies which work primarily with banks. There are large untapped opportunities for lower costs, particularly for rural Africans, if more governments allowed and fostered the participation of post offices and micro-finance institutions in remittance transfers.

**Nov 15, 2009** Eritrea: No Welcome in Italy <http://www.africafocus.org/docs09/er0911c.php>

"We were fortunate to spend two days in a small coastal town of Agrigento where in the central part of the city stands a Catholic church with the figure of a black priest carved in stone perched high above in the church tower. It is a statue of Saint Calogero, an African priest who came to Sicily around the 14th century and is revered as the town's patron saint. But in the 21st century, African refugees who traverse the treacherous waters of the Mediterranean Sea find Calogero's city, indeed the entire country, unwelcoming, even hostile to them. A well-known Italian Bishop is said to have remarked that if the saint-priest were to arrive in Agrigento today, he would find himself in similar circumstances as the refugees who are detained and disdained." - Nunu Kidane and Gerald Lenoir