



# AfricaFiles Newsletter

August–September 2010, No. 3

*AfricaFiles Newsletter* is a place for workers and friends of AfricaFiles to get an up to date overview of our network and activities. We hope you find it informative, challenging and encouraging. Please share your views and ideas at any time—email us at [info@afrcifiles.org](mailto:info@afrcifiles.org). Also, you can share this *Newsletter* to help spread the word about AfricaFiles: simply forward the pdf to your email contacts or print it out and give someone a hard copy.

## News & Events

### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On 27 June, AfricaFiles marked its 8th anniversary with a celebration barbecue and potluck. About 20 people came out and we also read greetings from AfricaFiles supporters who were unable to join us. Fortunately most of the cooking was done before a heavy rainstorm moved in! We were crowded but happy and dry indoors. Thanks to all who came and to all who joined us in spirit—you can read their messages on page 2 of the Newsletter.

### FAREWELL TO COORDINATOR

Craig Hincks has resigned as Coordinator of AfricaFiles and will be leaving us at the end of August. Although he served only six months as Coordinator, he has been involved with AfricaFiles in various capacities for the past eight years and is one of our co-founders. Craig felt unable to continue giving the amount of time and energy required and decided it was time to move on.

### NEW ARCHIVE MANAGER

AfricaFiles welcomes Christine Wong as our new Archive Manager. Christine, who is already looking after our Twitter programme, takes over the work of checking articles posted by our InfoServ editors before they go “live” online or are emailed to subscribers.

### AFRICAFILES AT PEOPLE’S SUMMIT

During the “People’s Summit” in Toronto—held a week before the G20 meeting on June 26-27—AfricaFiles shared part of the United Church of Canada’s information table. Our updated brochure (see page 3) as well as an Angola human rights focus by Paul Staal were the two main items handed out to the public. Thanks to Jim Kirkwood who personally represented AfricaFiles at the table and to the United Church for giving us space.

### TWO AFRICAFILES NOW WITH ISS

AfricaFiles congratulates Nyambura Githaiga on her recent appointment with the Institute of Security Studies (ISS). Nyambura was formerly with the Africa desk of the United Church of Canada but is now based in Nairobi as a Researcher for the Great Lakes region with the Africa Conflict Prevention Program of the ISS. She would love to connect with any Africafile who has a specific interest or experience in that region. Nyambura is now a (distant) colleague of Wafula Okumu, an associate of AfricaFiles who is also with ISS, in Pretoria. Wafula sends his regards to all Africafiles.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO MUNYA!

Munyaradzi Makoni, who is AfricaFiles’ Editor for the Health & AIDS section of InfoServ, has received an honourable mention, International Journalism Award for Solidarity with Refugees, to be conferred in September in Burkina Faso—see <http://www.ucip.ch/aw/2010/aa.htm#6>. Well done, Munya!

## Donate to AfricaFiles

Have you given to AfricaFiles this year?

**We need your help!**

Our services are free and our volunteers are generous, but we still have expenses...

**Click the button >  < to donate today.**

(Thank you!)

## 8th Anniversary Greetings

The greetings on this page were sent by people who were unable to make it in person to our 8th anniversary barbecue celebration in Toronto. About half of them were read out at the event. The others were not received in time, but we reproduce them all here...

*I want to wish you a fine celebration of eight years of great work. I follow the articles as much as possible, always interested after my years with Africa Information Afrique (AIA). Thank you for your commitment and continued work. Have a great get together -- wish I could be there with you!*

*Kind regards,  
Stephanie Wells*

Thanks for your mail and the invitation. I regret that I am not able to make it owing to a previously arranged family trip. I hope it all goes well. I shall definitely miss the company and the food. Give my warm regards to the hardworking team at AfricaFiles.

Kind regards,  
Lilian (WACC)

I couldn't come to the 25th Africafiles event. I live too far from Toronto. Yet, I am proud of being counted as member of the Africafiles family.

- Fr Bernard Tremblay

Dear Africa filers,

I have a picture in mind of a bunch of highly skilled wood carvers sitting in a shed behind a big sales barn in the Kenyan rift valley, looking very casual, but producing carvings with a collection of well used files and some sand paper: "Africa files," so to speak.

They shaped, honed, and polished things for the market, somewhat like AfricaFiles editors. I'm pretty sure they were very poorly paid, so the analogy may extend even further than the filing image. I admired their work, and I admire yours, too.

They produced very tangible keepsakes of a great land and continent. You produce less tangible but even more important artifacts of the life of so many vibrant cultures, and peoples who are sometimes vulnerable. Thank you for informing my own ministry and life with a window into a world of creativity, conflict, and endurance.

Rev. Robin Wardlaw  
Trinity United Church  
Newmarket, Ontario

To Africafiles.. Happy Birthday and thank you for all your constant and useful information.. it has helped me so much with our work in Burkina Faso.. Have a wonderful barbeque!! all best wishes for many many returns of the day..

Best wishes,  
Bettie Petith  
ASSOCIAZIONE FITIL ONLUS  
Via dei Cartari, 11  
00186 Roma  
ITALIA

Dear Africa Files  
Organizing Committee

Thanks very much for the Quarterly Update. It helps us Foreign Service Officers keep updated on all the latest in Africa. I would have loved to have been part of your barbecue or braai as we call it here in Namibia. Please forward my message of goodwill all the way from Namibia to all those members who made it and keep up the good work!

With warm regards,  
Valombola Kalomoh  
Foreign Relations Officer  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Namibia

Sorry that I won't be able to join all of you to mark the Africafiles anniversary. Living in the Okanagan Valley is wonderful in so many ways but I do miss out on gatherings of old friends and organizations frequently, and of the opportunity to meet new folks who share that passion for social justice on a global scale.

Sunday, June 27th, I am responsible for "Education Sunday" and the morning service will be one that has lots of music from Africa (Senegal, Tanzania, Zimbabwe...) I will be sure to include Africafiles and all of you in the congregational prayer as well.

Take care,  
Jacqueline

**Congratulations on your landmark achievement, and thank you all for keeping us so well informed!**

**- Ashok R Mirchandani.  
Consul General Hon. de l'Inde au Benin  
Indian Hony. Consul Gen. in Republic of Benin (West Africa)**

*Well done to all those at Africa Files for what I believe is another very successful year of growth and stimulation and learning. May we continue to raise those issues in Africa that are dear to our hearts and minds as we struggle for equality and justice in this very special continent.*

*With G8 and G20 being hosted in Toronto and Ontario this week, I trust that some of their decisions will have a positive impact on Africa... Sorry I cannot be with you for this barbecue but I hope the presence of my daughter Claire will somehow make up for my absence!! I am sure she will.*

*Blessings to all, Doug*

Unfortunately, I'm not going to be able to attend the anniversary BBQ but I do want to pass on my warm greetings and appreciation to all who have contributed to reaching this milestone. It's an amazing achievement by those who initially set AfricaFiles on its way and a rich legacy for the new workers as they support its objectives in future years.

Best wishes to all.  
Jay

# Programmes Development

## LINKS – Now over 225

AfricaFiles' [Links page](#) does not always get the attention it deserves, so it was with some pleasure that we recently received email from someone who not only found it useful but also took the time to tell us:

Hello... I found this page helpful for a project I'm working on regarding African culture... As I was browsing the thought occurred to me that other students may also find it a helpful replacement.

Your other resources have proven quite useful to me as well, thank you for putting them together.

Thanks to Jay Scott, who keeps our Links page up to date, we now have over 225 annotated links. Take a look here—[LINKS](#)—you may be surprised how good it is ... and find it useful in your work or studies.



From vol. 12, no. 3 – Mozambican voters queue outside a polling station in a suburb of Maputo: a “donors’ darling” rewarded for holding periodic multi-party elections.

© UN Photo/P. Sudhakaran

## AT ISSUE EZINE – Two more for liberation

Since the last Newsletter, two more articles have been posted in our current—and (we think) excellent—*Ezine* series, Volume 12:

“[The Liberation of Southern Africa](#).” They are No. 3, “[Mozambique: Not Then But Now](#),” by John S. Saul (who is also guest editor for the series); and No. 4, “[Zimbabwe: Liberation Nationalism, Old and](#)

[Born Again](#),” by Richard Saunders. If you haven't read them yet, you're missing something—click on their titles above.

## AFRICAN PULSE – Online dating

Have you heard AfricaFiles' latest podcast about African women's experience of online dating? Go to [African women in online dating: Voices from Cameroon](#) to download the mp3 file. This episode features African women talking about their reasons for online dating, including friendship, contact with people from other countries, money and gifts. They also talk candidly about the sex, risks, highs and lows that are often part of the online dating experience.



From vol. 12, no. 4 – ZANU-PF woefully misjudged Zimbabweans' depth of anger: MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai meets with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Accra in April 2008, during the long period when elections results were being withheld.

© UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

## AFRICA ARCHIVE – Search over 24,000 articles

There are now over 24,000 articles in AfricaFiles' Archive, going back well over a decade. Did you know they are all fully searchable? Go to the [Africa Archive](#) page and try it out. You can do a **Text Search** by keywords or phrases—e.g. “Kenya”, “women”, “San”, “Julius Nyerere”, “AIDS”, “water”, “conflict diamonds”. (Related to this, you may be interested to see on page 4 of this Newsletter which keywords leading to AfricaFiles' website are used the most.) You can also call up a **Chronological List** of all articles in a given InfoServ category—e.g. “Angola”, “Economic Justice”, “Western Region”. Issues of the *Southern Africa Report* can be browsed. There are also **Advanced Options** available for more detailed searches.

## BROCHURE – Revised and ready

AfricaFiles brochure has been updated! You can download it in pdf form from here—[AfricaFiles brochure](#). Why not print out a few copies and give them to your friends or colleagues or distribute them at your community centre or church? If you print it out on coloured paper, it looks even better.



An online network of people committed to the promotion of human rights, economic justice, African perspectives and alternative analyses.

- [www.africafiles.org](http://www.africafiles.org)
- [info@aficafiles.org](mailto:info@aficafiles.org)
- [www.africafiles.org/rsslist.asp](http://www.africafiles.org/rsslist.asp)
- [twitter.com/aficafiles](https://twitter.com/aficafiles)
- [www.facebook.com/pages/AfricaFiles/152235367828](https://www.facebook.com/pages/AfricaFiles/152235367828)

### AfricaFiles' programmes:

- 1. At Issue** – an online magazine featuring series of provocative original articles on topical issues;
- 2. InfoServ** – a listserv and online information service with news, opinion and analysis;
- 3. Action Focus** – an advocacy and solidarity nexus with urgent action appeals;
- 4. Pulse** – an African podcast offering uncensored downloads on current events and culture;
- 5. Resources** – photos, archives, links, *Southern Africa Report*, education modules, and more.

# Stats & Metrics

## AFRICAFILES' SUBSCRIBERS

The table below gives some details on new subscribers to AfricaFiles in the months of April and July. It indicates great diversity among subscribers with most coming from Africa itself.

Month	Gender	Country	Position/Occupation	Organisation	Interests/Sections
April 2010	n/a	Cameroon	Student	n/a	12 sections
	M	Germany	Economist	GTZ	17 sections
	F	Botswana	1st Secretary	Namibian High Commission	Southern Region
	n/a	Kenya	Student	n/a	9 sections
	M	Malawi	Programme Officer	ICCO	9 sections
	M	Kenya	Deacon	Independent church	2 sections
	F	n/a	Programme Officer	UN	n/a
	M	Malawi	Journalist, video editor	Africa News, G&A International	14 sections
	F	Canada	Student	York University	14 sections
	M	Nigeria	Businessman	Estate	2 sections
	M	Kenya	Chairperson	Khayega Youth Initiative	19 sections
	M	South Africa	Editor	Sare	9 sections
	F	Canada	n/a	n/a	2 sections
	July 2010	M	Benin	Epidemiologist	WHO
F		Canada	Counsellor	Canadian HC	Africa Union
F		n/a	n/a	n/a	12 sections
F		Netherlands	Communications & Fundraising Officer	NIZA	Resource Extraction
M		Angola	Pastor	Congregational Church	Angola
M		Angola	Church leader	Congregational Church	Angola
M		South Africa	Student	University of Johannesburg	Broad
F		Kenya	Student	School of Law	Kenya
F		USA	n/a	n/a	Broad
F		Zimbabwe	n/a	n/a	Broad
F		USA	Consultant	Independent	Broad
M		USA	Associate	Milken Institute	Africa Union/NEPAD

## KEYWORDS TO AFRICAFILES' WEBSITE

The table below shows the top 20 keywords entered into search engines such as Google and Yahoo leading to visits to AfricaFiles' website over the last six months. We have left out of the ranking unhelpful words such as "in", "is" and "what". It is interesting how many of the same themes and countries make it into the top 20.

#	FEB 2010		MAR 2010		APR 2010		MAY 2010		JUN 2010		JUL 2010	
	WORD	VISITS	WORD	VISITS	WORD	VISITS	WORD	VISITS	WORD	VISITS	WORD	VISITS
1	africa	2,305	africa	2,700	africa	3,103	africa	3,371	africa	2,349	africa	2,136
2	south	1,428	south	1,767	south	2,254	south	2,436	south	1,655	south	1,604
3	african	800	african	875	african	1,018	african	1,115	african	881	african	802
4	kenya	717	zimbabwe	808	zimbabwe	851	zimbabwe	891	nigeria	674	zimbabwe	495
5	zimbabwe	625	kenya	795	land	557	nigeria	556	zimbabwe	581	nigeria	484
6	education	500	nigeria	505	kenya	556	kenya	550	women	443	kenya	384
7	water	365	land	479	women	472	women	506	kenya	430	women	370
8	nigeria	357	education	474	water	433	water	471	tanzania	389	world	320
9	land	346	women	444	nigeria	403	land	469	land	312	land	293
10	women	321	water	363	education	379	tanzania	456	cameroon	276	angola	239
11	free	278	aids	342	reform	309	cameroon	380	water	270	tanzania	230
12	tanzania	275	tanzania	265	apartheid	281	education	365	rights	260	congo	228
13	aids	255	rights	261	tanzania	278	rights	344	education	251	cup	224
14	rights	229	reform	251	rights	269	human	334	2010	244	education	217
15	botswana	222	angola	247	aids	257	aids	324	congo	230	water	210
16	challenges	219	2010	230	congo	250	apartheid	316	world	221	2010	203
17	angola	217	crisis	220	human	232	2010	288	aids	220	uganda	196
18	problems	217	botswana	218	economic	230	congo	276	development	219	rights	191
19	facing	210	jos	218	angola	227	esap	269	human	217	development	186
20	articles	203	mozambique	213	namibia	214	development	267	angola	213	hiv	181
		10,089		11,675		12,573		13,984		10,335		9,193