

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Representatives from the Egypt mission to the United Nations have expressed their displeasure with the public comments by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon that were critical of the regime of President Hosni Mubarak, and encourage bold transition.

WATER - Leaders in Africa - where half the population does not have access to clean water - are being asked by Bolivian President Evo Morales to support a proposed UN resolution that would bar the sale of public water services to private companies. "Water is a basic public need that must not be managed by private interests, but should be for all people, including people of rural areas," Morales said Sunday at the 2011 World Social Forum in Dakar, Senegal.

HUMAN RIGHTS - United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has been vocal in her condemnations of abuses and authoritarian rulers in countries including Egypt, Tunisia and Cote d'Ivoire winning broad support from international human rights group. Ms. Pillay has publicly warned leaders they will be held accountable for abuses and dispatched experts to Tunisia to advise new authorities on possible judicial reforms.

AFRICA

Africa could be a breadbasket to the world, with its fertile land, winding rivers and cheap farm labor. But most African countries import the majority of their food staples, spurring dozens of major foreign corporations and national governments to invest in African land in order to grow food and crops that could be turned into biofuels for export - a trend that could make the continent more food and trade self-sufficient, yet also could lead to unrest.

ETHIOPIA - Poor rains, especially in the Somali and Oromiya regions of Ethiopia, have led to food shortages and prompted the government and its international partners to appeal for US\$226.5 million in relief aid for almost three million people, a government official said.

MOZAMBIQUE - Five of the 23 districts in Manica Province in central Mozambique have been "severely affected" by heavy rains.

SUDAN - Amid renewed pockets of unrest throughout Sudan and continuing violence in Darfur, government officials in Khartoum announced Monday that a whopping 98.83 percent of southern voters - numbering more than 3.8 million in a country of over 42.3 million - cast their ballots in favour of secession during last month's highly anticipated referendum.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

COLOMBIA - Social mobilisation against gold-mining is growing in Colombia, which is now one of the world's biggest per capita polluters of mercury, used in artisanal mining, according to the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation.

WFWO's Communications Team