

# Zambia, Tanzania cannot sell ivory stockpile: U.N.

Internet, not guns, the biggest threat to endangered species, says CITES

By PETER VALK  
Epoch Times Staff

Zambia and Tanzania's request to hold a one-off sale for their ivory stockpile, valued of approximately \$15 million, was rejected during the U.N.'s Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) annual meeting in Doha.

The increase of poaching and illegal ivory sales in both countries in 2009 were the main reasons for the rejection.

Since the ivory trade was banned in 1989, an exemption has been in place that allows countries that have proven effective in conservation measures to have a small amount of regulated trade in ivory. However, Zambia and Tanzania are currently forbidden to sell ivory.

"It's crucial that central and western African nations suppress the brazen poaching, mainly fueled by organized crime and illegal ivory markets openly operating within their borders before any further ivory sales take place," Sybille Klenzendorf, managing director of Species Conservation at WWF-U.S. said in a press release.

According to a report from the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS), which keeps track of ivory seizures, there exists a direct relationship between an increase in poaching and poor law enforcement. In the past two years, the number of elephants killed as a result of poaching has quadrupled.

Opponents of the ban say that Tanzania ought be allowed to dis-



BLACK MARKET: Custom officers display a total of 2.8 tons of ivory on March 1, 2007, a record amount seized in Japan, a top black market destination for elephant tusks. CITES rejected Zambia and Tanzania's request to sell off their stockpile of ivory. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

pose of its ivory stockpile to avoid spending large sums of money on security and storage.

During the meeting, in which 175 countries participated, some animals were added to the list of protected species. The rise of e-commerce is now believed to be one of the latest and big-

gest threats to wildlife, as global Internet access has made it increasingly easy to buy and sell illegal wildlife products with little control.

"The transactions kind of come and go and take place before anybody really even knows it, leaving it to the post office to be

enforcing this global regime of trade regulation," Paul Todd, a campaign manager for the International Fund for Animal Welfare (FAW) told Australia's ABC News.

Back in 2005, a FAW investigation reported that in one week alone, over 9,000 live animals

or products in five categories of animals were for sale on English-language Web sites, chat rooms and the popular auction site, eBay. The live animals included a gorilla in London and a Siberian tiger in the U.S. Body parts and products—including ivory—were also commonly sold.

"The Internet is becoming the dominant factor overall in the global trade in protected species," Todd said. "There will come a time when country-to-country trade of large shipments between big buyers and big sellers in different countries is a thing of the past."

## Net giant Go Daddy takes stance on Chinese surveillance

GO DADDY CONTINUED FROM P1  
The move follows increased Internet surveillance imposed by the Chinese regime, including requiring compa-

"Google fired a shot heard 'round the world, and now a second American company has answered the call to defend the rights of the Chinese people"

—Chris Smith

nies to provide full photo identification with any new hostname registrations in China. The company will continue servicing existing .cn domain names.

Go Daddy testified at the hearing, named "Google and Internet Control in China: A Nexus Between Human Rights and Trade?" alongside Google Inc., the Computer & Communications Industry Association, Human Rights in China, and former U.S. Ambassador Mark Palmer.

"Google fired a shot heard 'round the world, and now a second American company has answered the call to defend the rights of the Chinese people," U.S. Representative Chris Smith said in a statement, calling the testimony "a powerful sign that American [Internet technology] companies want to do the right thing in repressive countries."

The CECC, chaired by Senator Byron Dorgan, is a congressional committee comprised of nine Senators, nine Representatives, and five senior Presidential Administration officials, which has a mandate to examine human rights and the rule of law in China.

Go Daddy is the world's largest domain name provider, according to the Netcraft Internet services company.

## Leaked new Israeli settlement plan seen as U.S. snub

By STEPHEN JONES  
Epoch Times Staff

Israeli officials have again announced plans to build new Jewish homes in an Arab neighbourhood in east Jerusalem—a move opposition politicians say "spits in the eye" of the U.S. government.

The announcement has threatened to throw into disarray a fence-building mission in Washington by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

President Barack Obama was enraged at the beginning of March by the announcement of plans to build 1,600 new Jewish homes in east Jerusalem, timed as it was to coincide with the visit of Vice President Joe Biden to Israel.

The Obama administration is seeking clarification of the latest building plan, said White House spokesman Tommy Vietor.

The U.S. government has been opposed to the plans to build 20 homes in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood since last year, and believes the settlement expansion in east Jerusalem is detrimental to the Middle East peace process.

Netanyahu travelled to Washington to hold talks with Obama on Tuesday. The past month has seen relations between the two long-standing allies reach a new low.

The announcement of the new settlement plan, after weeks of protracted negotiations between U.S. and Israeli officials and a meeting between Obama and Netanyahu, is likely to be seen as an even greater faux pas.

The timing of the announcement drew fire from opposition politicians in Israel.

"Is this another 'unfortunate' mistake? Is this another 'misunderstanding'?" Eitan Cabel, a member of the Labour Party, was quoted as saying by

Associated Press.

"Netanyahu decided to spit into Obama's eye, this time from up close. He and his pyromaniac ministers insist on setting the Middle East ablaze."

Palestinian officials have refused to enter even indirect negotiations with Israel unless Netanyahu calls a halt to settlement expansion in east Jerusalem.

Later this week Arab delegates will be joined by U.N. officials in Libya to discuss an effort to foster peace talks between Israel and Palestine.

However, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon came down on Israeli officials on Wednesday over the latest announcement to build 20 new homes in what he described as "the heart of an Arab neighbourhood."

"The settlements are illegal," Ban told reporters after a closed-door session with the Security Council. "This must stop."

News of the planning approval for the new settlement was leaked on the Jerusalem City Hall Web site minutes prior to a meeting between Netanyahu and Obama on Tuesday night.

A senior aide was quoted by AP as saying that Netanyahu was caught off guard by the announcement.

Peace Now, an Israeli anti-settlement watchdog, said in a statement on its Web site that Netanyahu needed to rein in the discretion of Jerusalem city officials.

"The mayor of the Jerusalem municipality has control over an independent policy that can be devastating in terms of the political process," the statement said.

"If Netanyahu wants to conduct foreign policy and lead the peace process, he must ensure that the municipality does not surprise him, not with bureaucratic or political decisions contrary to his policy commitments as the head of the government."

## Former Nazi Convicted by German Court 60 Years Later

By PETER VALK  
Epoch Times Staff

A German court on Tuesday convicted a former member of Adolf Hitler's Waffen SS—more than 60 years after a Dutch court convicted him of war crimes.

Heinrich Boere, 88, was given the maximum sentence of life in prison for killing three Dutch civilians during World War II.

As a member of an SS unit responsible for reprisal killings, Boere, who joined the SS at the age of 18, admitted killing the civilians—a bicycle shop owner, a pharmacist, and a businessman in 1944.

"These were murders that could hardly be outdone in terms of baseness and cowardice—beyond the respectability of any soldier," said Judge Gerd Nohl, according to the Associated Press.

The former Nazi defended himself by claiming that he was just following orders, but the prosecutor argued that he was a willing member of the Waffen SS hit squad.

Boere, who came to the courtroom in a wheelchair, stared at the floor during the proceedings.

After the war, while he was already living in Germany, Boere was sentenced to death in absentia in the Netherlands, a sentence that was later commuted to life imprisonment.

The son of a Dutch father and a German mother, Boere moved to the Netherlands when he was an infant. German courts refused to extradite him due to the claim that he has a right to German citizenship. According to international law, German citizens cannot not be extradited from Germany.

Boere worked as a coal miner until 1976, and then lived in a nursing home after retirement.

## Strikes and protests follow regional elections in France

By AURELIEN GIRARD  
Epoch Times Staff

PARIS—Under the banner of "jobs for all, pensions for all," hundreds of thousands of people participated in large street protests in main cities across France on Tuesday.

At least 600,000 joined 180 demonstrations throughout the country, according to the General Confederation of Labor union. Other unions, including the Confederation Generale du Travail (CGT), claim the actual figures could be much higher.

Official police figures put the March 23 participants at 380,000, which prompted Le Figaro newspaper to state that unions had failed to create momentum around the event. One year ago, 3 million took to the streets in a similar protest.

In Paris, 31,000 to 60,000 demonstrators rallied, depending on whose numbers you believe, with shouts of "resistance for state employment,

salaries, pensions."

At the national level, roughly 50 percent of trains were cancelled—a relatively modest disruption by French standards.

The intent of the unions by acting together was to exert pressure on the newly reorganized French government in the hopes that it will adjust its social and economic strategy according to the unions' requests.

Bernard Thibault, general secretary of CGT, has called for the organization of a "social summit" to prevent "any kind of radicalization by the government."

### OPPOSITION CONFIDENT

Prime Minister François Fillon made some minor adjustments to his government following the stunning defeat of presidential party UMP in last Sunday's regional elections. The shuffle was described as "technical" by President's Nicholas Sarkozy spokesperson and "cosmetic" by the opposition.



Several thousand people demonstrate on March 23, 2010 in Rennes, western France, as part of a nationwide day of protest against job cuts, wages, the high cost of living, and plans for pension reform. FRED TANNEAU/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Xavier Darcos was replaced as employment minister after performing poorly in the regional elections and seen as having lost democratic legitimacy.

The new minister, Eric Woerth will be in charge of reforming the current pension system—a system whose financial balance is threatened by a longer-than-average life expectancy in France.

The reform, an absolute necessity according to the government, is opposed by the leftist unions who said they will

fight any attempt to change the legal age of retirement, currently set at 60.

François Chereque, head of the French Democratic Confederation of Labour, asked his colleagues to "not fall in the trap set by the government that wants us to talk only of the pension system."

Meanwhile, the Socialist Party, buoyed by its definitive electoral victory—winning all but one of the 22 mainland regions—is now working to consolidate unity within its newly formed left-wing coalition.