



Top Stories

Mugabe claims 'sweeping victory' of Zimbabwe election

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Cargo plane crash in Sudan leaves seven dead with one survivor

An Antonov An-12 has crashed North of Upper Nile State capital Malakal, Sudan. Seven crewmembers were killed but an eighth escaped injury. The aircraft, owned and operated by Juba Air Cargo, had departed Khartoum International Airport at 5:55 am (0255 GMT) and was an hour and ten minutes into its flight towards Juba Airport. Juba is the capital of Southern Sudan.

Guatemalan ministers killed in helicopter crash

Vinicio Gomez, the Guatemalan Interior Minister and Edgar Hernandez, the deputy Interior Minister, were killed yesterday in a helicopter crash, according to government officials. The helicopter lost contact at 1908 UTC yesterday, and as a result, this is believed to be the time that the incident occurred.

ORIGINAL REPORT

Wikinews interviews Kent Mesplay, Green Party presidential candidate

While nearly all coverage of the 2008 Presidential election has focused on the Democratic and Republican candidates, the race for the White House also includes independents and third-party candidates. Wikinews now interviews Green Party Presidential candidate Dr. Kent Mesplay.



WIKINEWS
ELECTION 2008

Wikipedia Current Events

Katie Hoff and Michael Phelps set world records for the 400-meter individual medley at the United States Olympics swimming trials in Omaha, Nebraska.

- Two medical helicopters collide in Flagstaff, Arizona, resulting in seven deaths and three people being critically injured.
- Spain wins the UEFA Euro 2008 championship defeating Germany 1-0 in the final through a goal by Fernando Torres.
- China will commence a new range of talks with representatives of the Dalai Lama in early July.
- At least six people die and 39 are injured by bomb blasts in Assam, India, with the United Liberation Front of Asom believed to be responsible.
- The Israeli cabinet votes in

Wikipedia Current Events

favour of a prisoner swap with Hezbollah.

- Voters in Mongolia go to the polls for the Mongolian legislative election, 2008.
- An investigation into the crash of a Black Hawk helicopter on HMAS Kanimbla that killed two concludes excessive loading on the engine caused it to lose power.
- Robert Mugabe is sworn in for his sixth term as President of Zimbabwe after a controversial run-off presidential election in which opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai withdraws his candidacy due to election-related violence.

Wikinews interviews Kent Mesplay, Green Party presidential candidate

While nearly all coverage of the 2008 Presidential election has focused on the Democratic and Republican candidates, the race for the White House also includes independents and third-party candidates. These prospects represent a variety of views that may not be acknowledged by the major party platforms.

Wikinews has reached out to these candidates throughout the campaign. We now interview Green Party Presidential candidate Dr. Kent Mesplay.

WN: Why do you want to be President?
I run for president to help improve

society, pointing out that we are more secure when we live in a sustainable manner. As of this writing our culture is based on the consumption of limited materials such as petroleum, coal and uranium with great emphasis placed on the consumption of "goods" that are produced and purchased with little regard for the well-being of future generations. Government, ideally, provides an independent, objective forum through which solutions to the needs and wants of our time can be raised, discussed and implemented in a thoughtful, respectful manner. In contrast to this ideal, our current central, national government exists largely to protect and preserve the status quo of relatively few stake-holders, having undue political influence and acting in a manner not in the best interest of the majority of people. We cannot blindly consume our way to peace and stability.

A Green presidential administration would put the needs of current and future generations above the rude demands and expectations of the well-heeled political donor class. It is not important that we have a new president bearing the face of change. We need vital, core change to our political institutions to decentralize control, empower rational science-based decision-making and cut the damaging influence of corporate money on public policy. This change is unlikely to arise from within the current two political parties that are intrinsically corrupted by the ubiquitous "greased-palm" bribing handshake with corporate entities. We need to only ask how many corporate media conglomerates regularly advertize the question, "Should a corporation have the legal status of a super-person?" to realize the extent of the current

dilemma. A corporation should never have been considered to have the legal rights of an individual. The Green Party is independent from business interests. This political arm of the environmental, peace and justice movements represents meaningful change to public policy and to our fragile, centralized, short-sighted way of life.

Green solutions are largely local solutions: more community gardens and small farms, reasonable use of fresh water, grey-water and waste-water, including more water storage and community responsibility for the entire water stream, energy-efficient housing and transportation, health care for all, protecting besieged ecosystems. Practically, what this means is a higher base-line of essential services with the costs shared and supported broadly. To be clear, our basic physical security deserves support, not gaming at the hands of profiteers. A common wealth for all citizens is possible, with local regional flavors in commerce and culture atop this "baseline" of security. To be danced out of the way, one finds the current heavy-handed players of agribusiness, pharmaceuticals, energy, insurance and the congressional-military-industrial complex all dependent upon "corporate socialism" for subsidies and protection from real, meaningful, positive change and shielded from probing questions as to why, for example, we so frequently go to war. Mottos include "sustainability is security" and "freedom to debate." I run to help define, popularize and grow the Green Party, to be an advocate for: single-payer health-care, renewable energy, increased energy efficiency, rail transport, organic local

agriculture, indigenous rights, wise water use, banning lobbying/bribery, over-turning the legal fiction that a corporation is a person, and equal media exposure for all political candidates, having open debates between all political parties and beating those "swords into plowshares" by focusing on improving diplomacy, communication and basic physical security in water, food and energy in particular to mitigate the negative effects of global climate change and to provide emergency readiness. Also, I get bored easily and this keeps me busy.

WN:Have you ever run for political office before? (President, senate, congress, city councillor, school trustee... etc.) Have you ever been a member of a political party, other than the one you're currently in?

I ran for president in 2004 and 2008, being one of the four "finalists" at the nominating conventions. Also, I ran for U.S. Senate in California as part of a contested race in the Green Party Primary Election in 2006. I plan to run for U.S. Congress in 2010 and I am now taking the steps to begin running for the 2012 presidential race. I have been a member of both main U.S. parties and I cannot adequately express my disgust for them both. I encourage people everywhere to register Green, vote Green and support Green Party efforts at achieving and maintaining ballot access within the current hostile political environment. Ideally, we can together displace one of the two major parties; such is the near-majority level of disapproval of the antiquated mainstream parties and the desire for a true alternative.

WN:Have you ever campaigned for another political candidate? In 1996 I helped organize a press

conference for then-presidential candidate Ralph Nader, after having helped support efforts to draft him as a candidate.

What skills or ideas do you bring from this position, or previous positions, that will benefit the Oval Office?

I believe in the separation of power within government, including economic power. Due to the influence of money in politics and within government we do not have a political system that works well to advance the needs and concerns of "we the people." There are few, muted voices within our government supporting the dispossessed, the disenfranchised, the "left out," the lower echelon within our socio-economic strata. Especially now, with high energy costs, questionable food supplies, shredded social safety nets, job loss due to outsourcing and other losses, loss of civil liberties and rights, the consolidation and concealment of governmental power, the "fascist" confluence of military-industrial business with governmental power, threats of unstable weather, retaliation by terrorists and opportunistic foreign governments following our model it is a good time to not be silent. I have lived with and among many different cultures, religions and peoples, I have a multi-cultural background and a mixed ancestry, I value art, music and science, I am both intuitive and analytical and I enjoy solving problems. Our nation would benefit greatly from my services. Plus, I am not "on the take."

WN: Campaigning for the American presidency is one of the most expensive exercises in the world. How do you deal with the cost and fundraising?

Small contributions from many people not expecting a return of

favours approximates public funding of campaigns. In order to "get the word out" about my existence as a candidate it is necessary to adapt and adopt alternative, low-cost strategies. With my campaign team steadily growing I anticipate utilizing modern low-cost communication methods to help "spread the word." Fund-raising is among the least palatable activities that I have to endure as a candidate and I will be the first to admit that I have done very little fundraising. The reader who is a U.S. Citizen of voting age is encouraged to support my candidacy by visiting my web site, www.mesplay.org, and making a small donation in accordance with Federal Election Commission guidelines. Also, simply e-mailing friends helps tremendously with these small campaigns.

WN: What are you/were you looking for in a running mate? My running mate would likely represent a demographic that I do not, such as being female and non-white, since I am a white male. As to character and experience, I would want to be supported by someone with great practical public experience who has remained in integrity with the original idealistic hopes and dreams that once drew them into the public eye or political arena.

WN: Can you win the 2008 Presidential election?

I can win the 2008 presidential election by becoming the Green nominee, by inspiring otherwise non-voters to register Green and to grow Green Parties in those states where they are not yet granted ballot access and to subsequently vote in some creative, time-urgent manner circumventing the severe limitations put on candidates and parties by the secretaries of state

through the country. I would have to win many of the states where the Green Party is on the ballot and I would have to find a manner allowing erstwhile green voters to legally vote in those states where we are not on the ballot.

WN: If you can't make it into the Oval Office, who would you prefer seeing taking the presidency? I cannot support candidates who foolishly support nuclear power and weapons, who do not recognize the need for peace and who do not offer real, meaningful, substantive systemic change.

WN: What should the American people keep in mind, when heading to the polls this November?

When heading for the polls this November U.S. citizens should support Green Party candidates, policies and values. Thank you.

Boxing: Pacquiao downs Davis in nine rounds

Former United States Olympian boxer David Díaz surrendered his title as World Boxing Council Lightweight champion to Filipino, Emmanuel "The Pacman" Pacquiao in the ninth round.

Two minutes, twenty four seconds into the ninth round, Pacquiao knocked down Diaz to become the first Asian in boxing history to win four different titles.

Prior to winning the WBC Lightweight title, Pacquiao who hails from General Santos City in the Philippines was WBC super featherweight and flyweight champs and also holds the IBF super bantamweight crown, simultaneously holding the title of the super featherweight for Ring Magazine.

Way before the prized fight

happened at the Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, Pacquiao's chances of trumping Diaz was high, out classing Diaz.

Pacquiao was aggressive at the very beginning showing off how his right hand has improved.

Pulling a lefty on Diaz on Round 4, bruising and later causing the Mexican-American's nose bridge to bleed. During Round 6, referee Vic Drakulich paused the fight to have Diaz's bleeding nose checked.

Diaz was heard saying in his corner that, his (Pacquiao) punches were "too fast."

Seeing that Diaz was not letting up, Pacquiao delivered punishing blows in succeeding rounds and a one-two punch hurled Diaz down to the canvass, ending the match in favor of a victorious Filipino.

The Filipino boxer's record now stands at 47-3-2 with thirty six victories was won as a knockout while Diaz now has his second career-loss in his 34 win record.

Pundits added a new title to Pacquiao, after grabbing titles from four Mexican fighters, he is now being called, "The Mexican-cutioner."

Future plans

Pacquiao was interviewed after the match and asked about his plans, saying it will all depend on his manager's decision.

Staying at the 135 pound class is still unsure but he is willing to go higher if warranted.

Bob Arum, promoter of the fight said they will want Pacquiao to stay top form.

Arum, boss of Top Rank Boxing

showed off the strict regimen he and trainer Freddie Roach implemented. Arum says that there will be serious training in Los Angeles instead of going back to the Philippines. He also said, "No fight, no training in the Philippines anymore. Look at the shape he's in, look at the punches he threw."

Arum and Roach were also concerned over Pacquiao's focus. The Filipino boxer has been busy with other activities that inhibits the Filipino boxer from concentrating on training.

Pacquiao while holding boxing titles ran for a congressional seat last May 2004 and lost. Pacquiao also hosts a weekly television show.

Mugabe claims 'sweeping victory' of Zimbabwe election

Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwean president who has recently been widely criticized by world leaders, has claimed the the current results show that he will have a 'sweeping victory' in the unopposed presidential run-off elections.

Mugabe announced his victory on one of the state run television networks. "The returns show that we are winning convincingly, that we have won in all the 26 constituencies in Harare, an MDC stronghold where we won in only one constituency in March," he said.

Robert Mugabe was recently under a large amount of pressure to postpone the election after the main opposition candidate, Morgan Tsvangirai, pulled out due to fears of violence. For example, Ban Ki-moon, secretary general of the United Nations yesterday called for the election to be postponed. He said that he "strongly supports the statement of the Chairman of

SADC (Southern African Development Community) that conditions do not exist for a run-off election to be held at this time and that they should be postponed."

Cargo plane crash in Sudan leaves seven dead with one survivor

An Antonov An-12 has crashed North of Upper Nile State capital Malakal, Sudan. Seven crewmembers were killed but an eighth escaped injury.

The aircraft, owned and operated by Juba Air Cargo, had departed Khartoum International Airport at 5:55 am (0255 GMT) and was an hour and ten minutes into its flight towards Juba Airport. Juba is the capital of Southern Sudan.

Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) spokesman Abdel Hafiz spoke with AFP, and told them "One person survived out of eight. His name is Mohamed Hamza, a Sudanese. Two Sudanese were among the dead (as were) four from Ukraine and one from Armenia," he said, adding "A thunderstorm hit the plane, as the survivor said, one of the crew. This apparently is the cause. The survivor is not injured but was taken to hospital (as a precaution)."

Those killed were removed from the wreckage and flown back to a Khartoum morgue.

The Sudan Media Centre (SMC), which is thought to be tied to the intelligence services, said the aircraft had returned to Sudan recently after major maintenance work in the United Arab Emirates. The SMC also agreed with he nationalities of the deceased, adding that one of the Sudanese was the pilot-in-command.

It said the surviving air operations officer had said the plane was struck twice by lightning. It also said the plane had been talking to Air Traffic Control in Khartoum at the time to request permission to reduce altitude to avoid the worst of the storm.

Major General Abdubaker Jafar, manager of the CAA, was quoted by the SMC as praising the quick emergency response, which was conducted with three helicopters owned by local companies.

Today in History

1758 – Seven Years' War: Austria defeated Prussia at the Battle of Domstadtl, forcing Frederick the Great to leave Moravia.

1894 – London's Tower Bridge, a combined bascule and suspension bridge over the River Thames, opened.

1905 – The Annalen der Physik scientific journal published Albert Einstein's article "On the Electrodynamics of Moving Bodies", the third of his Annus Mirabilis Papers, introducing the theory of special relativity.

1908 – A massive explosion occurred near the Podkamennaya Tunguska River in what is now Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia, knocking over 80 million trees over 2,150 square kilometres (830 sq mi).

1934 – Adolf Hitler violently purged members of the Sturmabteilung, its leader Ernst Röhm, and other political rivals on the Night of the Long Knives, executing at least eighty-five people.

June 30 is Independence Day in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1960)

Quote of the Day

Life is a jest, and all things show it,
I thought so once, and now I know it.

~ John Gay ~

Word of the Day

denizen n

1. An inhabitant of a place; one who dwells there.
2. One who frequents a place.

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