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Onderwerp: The Power of Sign Language

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THE WEEK IN RIGHTS

October 17, 2013

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The Power of Sign Language



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Sign language is critical for deaf people to be able to communicate, express themselves, and learn. Deaf children who can communicate can get jobs, and participate in their communities and in their family life. But there is a lack of teachers well-trained in sign language, and in many cases parents do not know that their children have a right to attend school – or even that they can learn if only given the opportunity.

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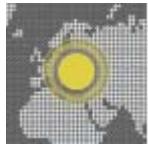
[Dispatches: Failure of Leadership at AU Summit](#)

by Daniel Bekele

When African Union heads of state gathered in Addis Ababa last weekend for an extraordinary summit, Africans might have expected that their leaders would have extraordinary issues to discuss. They might have asked: would the poverty that maintains a stranglehold on millions of people across the continent be on the agenda? Or maybe the conflicts in Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Somalia?

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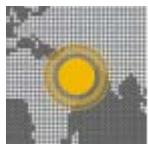
[Listening to Pope Francis](#)

by Graeme Reid
II Huffington Post

I am not Catholic. I am not a believer. And yet, as a South African, I am aware of the positive and negative roles the Catholic Church can play. It was outspoken against apartheid, and its liberation theology (controversial within the church) inspired a generation. In my personal experience, it was a Catholic school in Johannesburg that both defied apartheid's race quotas and welcomed gay families, including my own.

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[The Limits of Reform in Saudi Arabia](#)

by Adam Coogler
The Cairo Review of Global Affairs

The man who heads Saudi Arabia's infamous religious police made headlines recently when he publicly acknowledged that "Islamic sharia does not have a text forbidding women driving." For many Saudis, this statement signaled a possible sea change in attitudes among the country's hard-line religious establishment, at least on that issue.

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VIDEO



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