

2003-09-09

Radio Rhino International-Africa

Dear Friends,

I am a 60 years old special education teacher, nowadays teaching adults in the municipality school here on Gotland. There are some African students at the school, but just now I don't think there are any Ugandan there. If I meet some I will let them know about your transmissions.

Since 1957 I have been fascinated by the possibilities of the radio-waves and how long they can travel in the air - without political borders!

I read about your transmissions in a DX/radio magazine and decided to try to listen and today I heard your broadcasting on shortwave. Maybe you are interested in knowing that your station was heard here on my island of Gotland? Therefore I am sending you a report of reception, hoping that you will confirm that I really heard your broadcast.

I am very interested in African broadcasting and also about clandestine broadcasting. That is why I am editing two different columns in the monthly radio magazine of the Swedish DX Federation, "Eter-Aktuellt". So, of course in the next edition I will write about your appearance on the shortwave band, especially now, when I have heard you "live"! I also watched your Internet home page, where I could get some information about your radio. If you have some additional things to tell, please let me know, and I will add them to my article. Stop date is on Saturday! I promise to send you a copy of my article as soon as it has been printed! Question: Do you consider your station as a clandestine or just an African station? My columns have the names "African Horizon" respective "Clandestine Stations", so where shall I put you?

I used my new investment, an AOR 7030 communications receiver, connected to a long-wire antenna, 250 metres long.

So this is a Report of reception on what I heard:

Station: Radio Rhino International Africa via Juelich, Germany

Frequency: 17555 kHz

Date: 9th of September, 2003

Time: 15.00-15.30 Universal Co-ordinated Time (UTC)

Your station was very weak at first and there was some "splash" from surrounding stations near your frequency, making interference and noise at first. Later it was better and better, reaching SINPO 3-4 at 15.30. Your station also faded in and out the first half hour. The reception was surprisingly bad, considering the Juelich transmitter and its strong power.

I have tried to describe the programme I heard:

At 15.00: The station started half a minute after 15.00 with music and a lot of identifications in English. There was a kind of interval/signature melody

(= the same as on the website!)

At 15.02: Music: "If I had a hammer"

At 15.04: Lots of talk about the trial broadcasts until the middle of September, when regular programming will start.

At 15.05: A male voice (Doctor ... Ayoo), radio director, thanked for all letters and comments and SMS messages coming from all over the world. He gave mobile telephone number and web site to the station.

At 15.07: Talk about the radio station and the organisation behind and also about the mission of the station. A kind of declaration was made. He talked about The Voice of Freedom and Democracy as well.

At 15.27: The same as at 15.05 with talk about how to contact the station.

At 15.29: Lots of station identifications and announcements, followed by short music and close down of the station at 15.30.

As a radio-enthusiast and DX-er I am also collecting the answers I get from radio stations from all over the world. Therefore I should be very happy if you were able to confirm my reception in a letter from you.

About myself I can tell you that I am married, and have three boys, in the ages 33, 30 and 22 years old. I am very interested in the radio world, but I also work politically for the green party here on the island of Gotland.

Gotland is the biggest island in Sweden and has about 57000 inhabitants. There is only one town on the island, Visby, with about 23000 inhabitants. Gotland is famous because of its beauty, and thousands of tourists come here every summer to sun- and sea bath and enjoy their living. Visby is surrounded by a medieval town-wall and it has also got many beautiful medieval church ruins.

Hoping to hear from you in a near future, I am sending best wishes from Sweden and,

Yours sincerely,

Björn Fransson
Lunds V.5,
SE-621 48 VISBY, Sweden
Tel/: +46-498-264568

E-mail: bjornfransson@hotmail.com