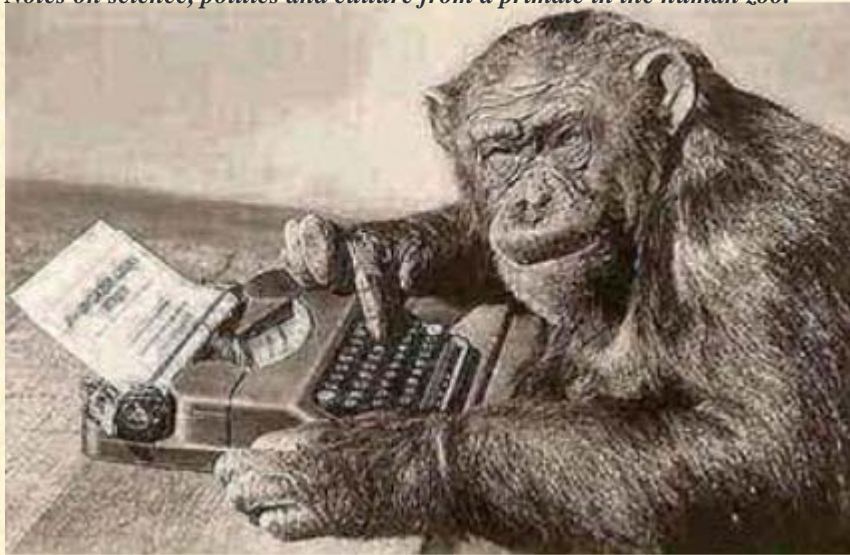


# The Primate Diaries

*Notes on science, politics and culture from a primate in the human zoo.*



## Latest Entry

MONDAY, JULY 30, 2007

### Gorilla Massacre in Perspective Deaths Are Equivalent to the Entire Population of England

#### About Me



ERIC  
MICHAEL  
JOHNSON  
(on the left) is  
a featherless  
biped

currently generating copious amounts of adenosine triphosphate. Eventually he'll stop doing that and begin his journey of decomposition. He is also a primatologist and neuroendocrinologist completing a PhD at Duke University.

[View my complete profile](#)

Please read the following [disclaimer](#).



The shocking news that four more critically endangered mountain gorillas were killed last week should make all primates of good conscience wince. Furthermore, one of the females was pregnant and another was nursing a five month old infant who is not expected to live.

According to the World Wildlife Foundation, there are an estimated 700 mountain gorillas alive in the wild. The loss of these six gorillas in the Democratic Republic of Congo represents 0.86% of the total population. This would be the equivalent of slaughtering 5,910 endangered African elephants or 60 million human beings in a single week. In human terms this is the death of every man, woman and child in England (and nearly as many as the population of Congo).

# A

Subscribe Now



Subscribe in a reader

While it's unknown who is responsible for the killings one of two

## Subscribe via email

Enter your email address:

Subscribe

Delivered by [FeedBurner](#)

facebook

myspace.com  
a place for friends

## Recent Entries

- \* [Armageddon is a Great Day in Idaho](#)
- \* [On Deception: Cheney, Chomsky & Trivers](#)
- \* [Eye of the Beholder](#)
- \* [Apparently Not Very Long](#)
- \* [Bonobos and the Politics of Human Nature](#)
- \* [A Family Reunited](#)
- \* [Homage to Catalonia](#)
- \* [Update - Van Roosmalen Freed](#)
- \* [Family of Faith](#)
- \* [Trapped Between People and Property](#)
- \* [Why Chimpanzees Make Bad Suicide Bombers](#)
- \* [Behe admits 'Intelligent Designer' is God on The Colbert Report](#)
- \* [Brooding Angelmakers](#)
- \* [Dentists Against Darwin](#)
- \* [Gorilla Massacre in Perspective](#)

## Publications

### Professional

#### Discover

The Biology of . . . Humor  
Vol. 23 No. 5 (May 2002)

#### Wildlife Conservation

Behind Enemy Lines  
(November/December 2005)

### Scholarly

#### American Journal of Physical Anthropology

[E.M. Johnson](#)

Lack of inbreeding avoidance and reduction of alliance formation in matrilineally- housed bonobos (*Pan paniscus*).  
[AJPA 132\(S44\):137](#)

possibilities is the most likely: they were killed by supporters of rebel leader Gen. Laurent Nkunda who were also responsible for killing two gorillas earlier this year, or they were killed by traders who cut down trees to be sold as charcoal in Rwanda. According to the UK Telegraph:

*"Virunga has been under enormous pressure from the exploitation of timber for the charcoal trade," said Mr de Merode.*

*"There's a very real possibility that this is an act of sabotage against the national park because it represents an opposition to the charcoal trade."*

This latter cause is the result of extreme poverty in the region that will push desperate people to enter the National Reserves to earn a living. The Global Policy Forum has an excellent article illustrating the critical conditions in the region.



Pictured above are Safari, who was killed in the shooting, and her daughter Ndeze, who is thought unlikely to live. The other victims were named Neeza and Mburanumwe, and the male, Rugendo.

To help, visit the WWF website [here](#).

0  
diggs


digg it

Posted by Eric Michael Johnson at [11:05 AM](#)



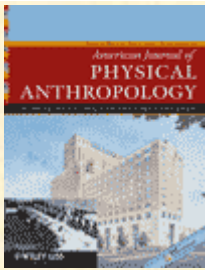
Labels: [conservation](#) , [primates](#) , [war](#)

## 2 comments:

 [tofu lou](#) said...

I also read about this tragedy, on Amnesty's website or something. It's terrible that people would do such a thing to an animal :(

[July 30, 2007 10:30 PM](#)



### **Tiffany said...**

I feel like Ndeze could survive if I was her mama. I hold my own baby just like that. It's heartbreaking.

August 3, 2007 10:53 PM

[Post a Comment](#)

## Blog Roll

[A Blog Around the Clock](#)

[Afarensis](#)

[Atheist Revolution](#)

[Barbara's Blog](#)

[Common Dreams](#)

[Democracy Now!](#)

[Dispatches from the Culture](#)

[Wars](#)

[Dr. Joan Bushwell's](#)

[Chimpanzee Refuge](#)

[EvolutionBlog](#)

[Greg Palast](#)

[Pharyngula](#)

[Robert Fisk](#)

[Science Daily](#)

[Ted Rall's Blog](#)

[The Frontal Cortex](#)

[The Intersection](#)

[The Island of Doubt](#)

[The Loom](#)

[The Panda's Thumb](#)

[The Scientific Activist](#)

[This Modern World](#)

[Thus Spake Zuska](#)

## Links to this post

▶ [A story that has bothered me even more than I thought it would](#)

[Create a Link](#)

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)



## Primate TV (opens above)

### Systems Theory

Lecture by [Fritjof Capra](#)





**AAI 2007 CONVENTION**  
 ATHEIST ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL  
 SEPT 27-30: WASHINGTON DC  
**RICHARD DAWKINS • SAM HARRIS**  
**DAN DENNETT • CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS**  
 JULIA SWEENEY • EUGENE SCOTT • MATTHEW CHAPMAN • MARGARET DOWNEY  
 EDWARD TUBASH • PASTOR DECON FRED • SHAWNIN CHERRY • LOUI LIPMAN BROWN  
 RICK WINGROVE • MIKE ESTES • DALE MCCORMAN • AUGUST BRUNSMA  
 NEIL POLZIN • JANICE RAEL • DAVE SILVERMAN • AND MORE  
**REGISTER NOW**  
 BE SURE TO VISIT THE RICHARD DAWKINS TABLE!

IER \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* INDEPENDENT, UNEM



**DEMOCRACY NOW!**



2008  
**NORTH CAROLINA SCIENCE BLOGGING**  
 Conference

Nominate Posts For:



**OPENLAB 2007**

[Vote for me](#)

[59 Blogtoplist](#)



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 United States License](#).



are you the missing link?

006863