



(A survivor hidden in a tree says he watched Boko Haram extremists firebomb huts and heard the screams of children burning to death, among 86 people officials say died in the latest attack by Nigeria's homegrown Islamic extremists.)

BURUNDI :

Pas de force de l'UA au Burundi, mais Nkurunziza reste sous pression

Par RFI/le 01-02-2016

Les chefs d'Etat de l'Union africaine réunis en sommet à Addis-Abeba ont décidé qu'il n'y aura pas de force africaine au Burundi sans le consentement du gouvernement burundais. Mais les chefs d'Etat espèrent encore convaincre Pierre Nkurunziza d'accepter l'arrivée de soldats de la paix sur son territoire.

Le commissaire Paix et Sécurité de l'Union africaine, l'Algérien Smaïl Chergui, l'a rappelé lors de sa conférence de presse dimanche matin : par le passé, le gouvernement burundais a sollicité l'aide de l'UA pour désarmer les groupes rebelles et pour collecter toutes les armes qui circulent illégalement au Burundi.

Aujourd'hui, le numéro 2 de la Commission de l'UA saisit cette perche pour proposer au gouvernement burundais une force africaine qui pourrait lui apporter un soutien sur cinq points : le désarmement des milices ; la protection des civils en coopération avec la police burundaise ; la facilitation du travail des défenseurs des droits de l'homme ; la récupération de toutes les armes qui circulent sur le territoire burundais ; éventuellement, le déploiement de la force de l'UA aux frontières du Burundi en fonction des besoins. Une référence à ce que le Burundi appelle « des infiltrations de rebelles venus du Rwanda ».

Il est trop tôt pour dire comment Pierre Nkurunziza va réagir à cette offre. Mais selon une source

qui assistait ce week-end à un huis clos des chefs d'Etat africains, le représentant du gouvernement burundais à ce sommet, Joseph Butore, n'a pas fermé la porte à cette mission militaire de l'Union africaine, dès lors qu'elle contribuerait à la protection des civils.

Un président sous haute surveillance

A première vue, Pierre Nkurunziza sort donc gagnant de ce 26e sommet de l'Union africaine. Un sommet où il ne s'est d'ailleurs pas rendu personnellement, sans doute de peur d'essayer une nouvelle tentative de putsch. Ce week-end, plusieurs chefs d'Etat, comme l'Egyptien Abdel Fatah al-Sissi et l'Equato-Guinéen Theodoro Obiang-Nguema, ont brandi le principe sacro-saint de la souveraineté nationale pour s'opposer à tout déploiement de l'Union africaine au Burundi sans son accord. Grâce à eux, le président burundais a donc gagné du temps.

Mais Pierre Nkurunziza ne doit pas crier victoire trop vite. Il pourrait recevoir, dans quelques jours, la visite d'une délégation de chefs d'Etat africains mandatés par l'Union africaine. Ils lui demanderont avec insistance de dialoguer avec tous ses opposants et d'accepter enfin cette fameuse force de l'Union africaine.

Le président burundais est prévenu : avec le Nigérian Muhammadu Buhari et le nouveau président en exercice de l'Union africaine, le Tchadien Idriss Déby, le Burundi sera sous haute surveillance. « Si la situation au Burundi se dégrade un peu plus, le déploiement de cette force africaine deviendra une nécessité », avertit ainsi le ministre tchadien des Affaires étrangères Moussa Faki Mahamat sur notre antenne ce lundi 1er février.

■ Quid de l'Amisom, en Somalie ?

Plutôt que de mettre sur pied une nouvelle mission au Burundi, plusieurs dirigeants africains ont défendu, durant le sommet de ce week-end, un renforcement des missions existante de l'UA, notamment de l'Amisom, qui tente de débarrasser la Somalie des insurgés islamistes radicaux shebabs, responsables mi-janvier d'une attaque sanglante contre une base de l'armée kényane dans le sud somalien.

Une attaque pour laquelle il n'y a d'ailleurs toujours aucun bilan officiel. Les shebabs affirment avoir tué plus de 100 soldats kényans. Ci-dessous, le Mozambicain Francisco Madeira, chef de la Mission de l'UA en Somalie (AMISOM), évoque la situation au micro de notre envoyé spécial à Addis-Abeba.

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

Uganda Explains Arrest of Former Intelligence Chief

February 01, 2016/voanews.com

The government of Uganda says the country's former intelligence chief, General David Sejusa, who has called President Yoweri Museveni a dictator, was arrested Sunday in Kampala by the Uganda Peoples Defense Forces (UPDF) following a 2½-hour search of his home by the military.

This comes as the country prepares for presidential elections on February 18. President Museveni, who has been in power since 1986, is seeking re-election.

Government spokesman Ofwono Opondo said Sejusa was arrested because he has been actively involved in partisan political activities.

"First of all as you know, General Sejusa ran out of Uganda. Then he was given clemency on his return," Opondo said.

'Learned from his lesson'

"Nevertheless, it seems he has not learned from his lesson, and he has been actively engaged in supporting partisan politics contrary to established laws and the constitution of Uganda which specifically bars serving military officers and men from siding with candidates in elections," he said

Opondo says Sejusa has been making public statements threatening to mobilize citizens not to participate in the election because, in his view, the electoral process would be a sham.

"Clearly, that should not be encouraged. Anywhere in the world the military is supposed to be subordinate to civilian authorities. It is unacceptable for serving military officer to threaten the government, to threaten the democratic process and say we should not go for election and take over power by ourselves," Opondo said.

"The army leadership, the CDF, chief of defense forces called him and advised him; he did not heed. He wrote him a letter cautioning him, he did not desist from his activities," he said.

Sejusa's attorney, Ladislaus Rwakafuzi, told VOA General Sejusa's arrest was illegal since the army had no arrest warrant and refused to explain the circumstances that led to the arrest.

Link to election

The lawyer also said Sejusa's arrest could be strongly linked to the upcoming election since the general has been advising opposition leaders on ways to prevent rigging of the elections.

Opondo denies General Sejusa was arrested because he was advising main opposition leader Kizza Besigye on electoral strategies.

"That's absolutely not correct because what advice was he giving. But even assuming he was giving advice, is that advice lawful? The bottom line is the laws of Uganda do not permit a serving military officer or man to participate in supporting sides in a political contest. Military officers, police officers are specifically barred from being members of political parties, being officials in political parties, speaking publicly for candidates in an election," Opondo said.

Asked whether Uganda is a democracy or dictatorship, Opondo said Sejusa cannot say what he believes if he is a serving military officer, and that is embedded in the constitution.

"A democracy does not mean you should say anything. There are parameters within which freedom is enjoyed in a democracy. I am very, very sure that a serving military officer in the U.S. cannot threaten President [Barack] Obama, cannot threaten Congress, cannot threaten the due process of the law or of the election and gets away with it," he said.

Opondo said he rejected suggestions that President Museveni is becoming increasingly nervous that he could lose the February 18 election.

"The critics can say whatever they want to say; what is critical is that the law of Uganda must prevail," he said.

"It is unacceptable for a military officer, it is unacceptable for a civil servant to openly take sides in the electoral contest among political parties, among candidates. I don't think the president is fearful that he is going to lose this election," Opondo added.

Trafficked into sex work, Uganda women stunned to be duped by other women

Mon Feb 1, 2016/in.reuters.com

KAMPALA (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - At first, Sarah Nakintu was grateful to her friend for alerting her to job opportunities in marketing and retail in Dubai.

Nakintu, a 27-year-old woman from the Ugandan capital Kampala, trusted her friend, who had worked in the United Arab Emirates and seemed successful with plenty of money.

She followed her friend's instructions. Present a valid passport to the recruiter who would organise airline tickets and a visa. Once the documents were in order, Nakintu paid the recommended "token of thanks" to her friend - \$200 in cash.

Nakintu (who requested her real name not be used) was advised to only keep her boarding pass to Kigali, Rwanda, in sight and hide her connecting pass to Dubai as immigration officials stop migrants who bypassed government recruiting agencies to seek employment.

But when Nakintu was met at Dubai airport by a Ugandan woman going by the name Jane Saad, she was told to hand over her passport and then informed she would be working as a sex escort.

"From the start I was terrified and tried to protest but she threatened us and said there were no alternatives as she had invested a lot of money in our trip," Nakintu told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"Slowly we resigned and started following her instructions."

Nakintu is just one of thousands of women every year to be trafficked into sex slavery, with the Australia-based anti-slavery campaign group Walk Free estimating there are 36 million people trapped in modern-day slavery around the world.

DUPED BY OTHER WOMEN

Like many others, Nakintu said she had not suspected her friend or other women from her own country would trick her into sex work and this approach meant she had let her guard down.

An annual report on human trafficking by the U.S. State Department in 2015 commented on the network of Ugandan women coordinating the sending of Ugandan women for sex exploitation.

It listed the top destination countries as Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Kenya.

On her first day in Dubai, Nakintu was told that she owed Saad around \$8,000 in recruitment fees that had to be paid back in instalments as well as costs for accommodation and meals.

The cost was high for a newly-arrived immigrant. A bed in a room housing up to three women typically costs Dh1500 (US\$400).

To meet the target income, Saad told her she had to entertain about 10 men in the first two days.

In addition to turning over her passport, Nakintu had to undergo a witchcraft ritual during which she swore to hand over her income to her pimps with the threat of death in 10 days if this order was defied.

The U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons 2014 report noted that sex traffickers had been using voodoo rituals and violence to coerce Ugandan women into trafficking schemes.

"The pimps were ruthless women who sold our passports and return tickets to old prostitutes who wanted to retire and return to Uganda," said Nakintu.

Nakintu was moved by Saad to Abu Dhabi where sex workers can earn more as she was deemed a good sale for higher-end clients.

There she met another Ugandan woman, identified as Maydina, who had worked her way up from being a night club prostitute in Abu Dhabi to a pimp married to a high-level business executive.

TRICKING THE CLIENTS

Maydina told Nakintu that the secret of wealth in Abu Dhabi's sex work was white male clients - and to ensure she got their phone numbers supposedly for repeat business.

A few days after the first encounter, the worker would call the client to say she was pregnant, demanding cash not to expose his identity or \$10,000 to return to Uganda for an abortion.

The sex workers could then continue the ruse, asking their clients for more money because of medical complications.

Nakintu said new workers were expected to target three men in their first month with these schemes and few women resisted because this was often the only way they could repay their debt.

"We were just desperate," said Nakintu.

Nakintu managed to leave Abu Dhabi in May last year having been there for just short of a year and having paid off most of her debts. She returned to Uganda, devastated by the way she had been tricked and mistreated.

Some of her roommates did not hesitate in becoming recruiters themselves once back home, targeting other young women in Uganda tired of limited wages and high unemployment.

"Pimping was easy as one would ask friends to look for victims and pay that friend \$100 for each victim they brought on board. I refused to do this," Nakintu said during an interview in a small shop she now runs in Kampala selling household goods.

The U.S. State Department lists Uganda as a Tier 2 nation in its annual trafficking report, meaning its government does not fully comply with the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards, but is making significant efforts to do so.

Moses Binoga, the police commissioner who heads the Uganda National Counter Human Trafficking Task Force, said the government has boosted vigilance on all exit ports to protect vulnerable young women such as Nakintu from sex trafficking.

Last year, the government stopped about 300 young women from exiting the country after ascertaining that they were being sent abroad specifically for the sex trade.

Binoga, whom the U.S. State Department has recognised for his efforts to combat human trafficking, said the government had also prosecuted and convicted several traffickers but it was complicated to combat the problem.

"The main challenge we have is that although we can prosecute traffickers on Ugandan soil we don't have jurisdiction to prosecute those in the receiving states," he said.

"Also when we're prosecuting traffickers we have to distinguish between victims coerced into sex trade and those who agreed to a deal to go to Arab states and work as prostitutes."

Ugandan forest where Zika hides

AFP/01 février, 2016

As we walk down the winding path through dense jungle Gerald Mukisa noisily kicks up dry leaves to give warning of our approach, noting that the hot late afternoon is "snake time".

The forest is calm. Only the sound of insects, birdsong and the rustle of monkeys in the canopy above disturb the air.

It was here in the thick woodland of Zika forest, 25km from Uganda's capital, Kampala, that the mosquito-borne Zika virus was discovered in 1947.

The virus, linked to a surge in birth defects, is "spreading explosively", World Health Organisation chief Margaret Chan said this week. An emergency meeting on the outbreak is due today.

Mukisa, a guard in the forest for seven years, found out about the virus that takes its name from the woodland only two weeks ago.

"A few people who live nearby the forest and have heard about the disease are getting worried," he said. "Many others don't know about it."

Only days ago, the Zika forest was a little-known reserve visited by few other than bird watchers and scientists.

"Students come every week from all over the world," said Mukisa proudly showing off a guest book with signatures and comments by visitors from the US, Canada, France and Germany. "There are so

many types of tree, and all sorts of birds."

Most local cases of the virus were mild, resulting in a rash, fever, and red eyes. Global health authorities barely took notice until an outbreak on the Micronesian island of Yap in 2007.

An outbreak in Brazil last year has been blamed for a surge in birth defects, with thousands of babies born with small heads, an incurable and sometimes fatal condition known as microcephaly.

Uganda's health ministry is keen to point out that there have been no known cases of the disease in that country, and that the outbreak in the Americas did not originate in East Africa.

"We have not recorded a case in Uganda in several years," the ministry said. "Our disease and epidemic response systems are strong, as evidenced in the way we have handled past viral haemorrhagic fever outbreaks."

Uganda has suffered outbreaks of Ebola in the past, as well as of a mysterious illness known as "nodding disease".

Today, the forest, close to the main highway from Entebbe international airport, near Kampala, is a research site for the Uganda Virus Research Institute, an environmental health and protection agency founded in 1936.

"Warning! Uganda Virus Research Institute Land. Don't Trespass", reads a metal sign.

Ruth Mirembe, 24, who lives nearby, said she was not worried after learning about the virus on Facebook.

Also spelt Ziika, the 12ha site which has more than 60 types of mosquito, means "overgrown" in the local language, Luganda.

The details of the virus's discovery, written up in a 1952 paper by Britain's Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, described the "forested area called Zika", where scientists were researching yellow fever among small rhesus macaque monkeys.

"This area of forest consists of a narrow, dense belt of high but broken canopy with clumps of large trees," the paper read. "It lies along the edge of a long arm of Lake Victoria, from which it is separated by a papyrus swamp."

The institute's top scientist, Julius Lutwama, described how caged monkeys had been placed at different heights, with a 36m steel tower allowing researchers to carry out studies.

"Blood samples would be taken from these monkeys to try to diagnose yellow fever but that is how Zika was found," he said.

There is no vaccine against Zika, which has spread to over 24 countries in the Americas.

SOUTH AFRICA :

Followers of fugitive Rabbi Berland issue death threat against South Africa's chief rabbi

02/01/2016/jpost.com

The followers of an Israeli rabbi who has been on the run to avoid extradition back to Israel on sex abuse charges reportedly made a death threat against the chief rabbi of South Africa.

Followers of Rabbi Eliezer Berland believe the chief rabbi, Warren Goldstein, tipped off police to his Johannesburg location and have called for Goldstein's death under the "din rodef" provision in Jewish law that allows the killing of a person who is out to kill them, including by informing, the Johannesburg Sunday Times reported.

Ten days ago, the South African police raided the hotel outside Johannesburg where Berland has been living. The rabbi reportedly escaped the hotel immediately before the raid.

Berland, 78, has been hiding out in South Africa for the past five months with several of his followers. Since the accusations in 2012, he has been hiding in Morocco, the Netherlands and Zimbabwe.

Berland is the founder of the Shuvu Bonim religious seminary in Israel and a member of the Breslov Hasidic sect.

The South African Jewish community in a statement following the death threat against Goldstein called on Berland "to return to Israel immediately to face the serious criminal charges laid against him and for which there is an international warrant of arrest against him."

"We further condemn the baseless malicious lies and incitement to violence aimed at our Chief Rabbi, including the libelous accusation that the Chief Rabbi was responsible for the police raid on Berland's compound."

Berland, who has been accused of sexually assaulting several of his female followers, has denied the allegations against him. He fought his extradition from the Netherlands last summer on the grounds that the alleged assaults happened in the West Bank and Israel does not have jurisdiction there. He later fled the Netherlands to avoid extradition.

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

Uhuru back in Kenya after ICC win in Addis

By PSCU/capitalfm.co.ke/February 1, 2016

ADDIS ABABA, Feb 1 — President Uhuru Kenyatta has returned to Kenya after the close of the 26th African Union Summit during which Africa's engagement with the ICC and regional security concerns were given priority.

During the Summit, President Kenyatta succeeded in convincing the Heads of State and Government in adopting proposals concerning the International Criminal Court, which included the

planned development of a road map for a mass withdrawal from the Rome Statute.

The Kenya government also played a major role in pushing for the AU to refocus on strengthening the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) so that the forces can deal better with the terrorists threatening the entire region.

During the Summit, Kenya was elected to become a member of the African Union Peace and Security Council. The other members of the Peace and Security Council will be Nigeria, Egypt, Zambia and Congo.

The AU has also tasked the African Union Group at the United Nations to engage the UN Secretary General on the new UNEP director. Three candidates from Africa are vying with Kenya lobbying for the Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Macharia Kamau, to become the new UNEP director.

Kenya is also lobbying, through the AU, for Senator Amos Wako to become a Member of the United Nations International Law Commission during elections scheduled to coincide with the 61st UN General Assembly.

President Kenyatta, who went to Addis Ababa on January 29th, also held many fruitful bilateral meetings with leaders including UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.

On Sunday, the President held bilateral talks with the President of Guinea Alpha Conde who requested Kenya's support in developing his country's tourism sector.

President Conde sought Kenya's support in skills and knowledge to develop and grow the economy of Guinea.

President Kenyatta assured President Conde of Kenya's readiness to support Guinea in transforming its economy and announced that a team of Government officials will be dispatched to the West African country soon to assess its needs.

President Conde thanked Kenya for the role it played in rallying Africans to come to the aid of West African countries to control the Ebola disease.

Earlier in the day, President Kenyatta attended a meeting hosted by President Paul Kagame of Rwanda to discuss the Smart Africa initiative, which is aimed at promote ICT as a driver for socio-economic growth. President Kenyatta announced that Kenya is committed to support the initiative and will soon post an official to the headquarters of SMART Africa in Kigali, Rwanda.

President Kenyatta held another meeting with the President of the African Development Bank, Akinwumi Adesina, with whom he reviewed the bank's work in Kenya.

President Kenyatta and Mr Adesina discussed the bank's support for infrastructure development, which is the backbone of Kenya's development.

The President also held a bilateral meeting with the President of Djibouti, Mr Ismail Omar Guelleh, with whom he discussed issues of mutual interest for the two countries including security.

On Saturday, President Kenyatta held a meeting with Ban Ki-Moon, with whom he discussed the role of AMISOM in Somalia and the need for a review of the mandate of the forces.

He also held a bilateral meeting with Namibian President Hage Geingob to discuss trade relations between Kenya and Namibia.

On Friday, the President chaired a special summit of the African Peer Review Mechanism during which he got commitments from Heads of State and Government that Africa will revive the peer review process for better governance.

ANGOLA :

Angola: Luanda Governor Fires, Appoints New Officials

29 January 2016/Angola Press Agency (Luanda)

Luanda — Eight officials from the Luanda Provincial Government were dismissed from their position and seven other appointed for different areas.

This is contained in a note released by Provincial Marketing Office reached Angop.

According to the sources, the governor Francisco Higino Lopes Carneiro fired Miguel Adão da Silva as Director of Provincial Governor Office, João Catumbela Chawaco Deputy Director of Provincial Governor Office.

Jorge Bengue Calumbo was dismissed from the post of Director of the Provincial Office of Technical Services and Infrastructures, and Manuel Antonio from the post of head of the Administration and Protocol Department of the Secretary General of the Provincial Government of Luanda.

Dismissed were also Mário Augusto Félix Paulo as chief of Administration and Protocol Department of Secretary General of Luanda Provincial Government, Maria Manuel Simões Benjamim as chief of Logistic and Property Department of General Secretary.

The governor also fired Adilson Janota Agostinho Pedro chief of Financial Department of Secretary General and Zinha Tomás da Silva Salvador Secretary of Office of provincial governor.

In other dispatches, Higino Carneiro appointed Maribel Silva Leitão Ribeiro Rodrigues as Director of the Office of Provincial Governor, Osvaldo do Rosario Amaral director of the Office of Technical Services and Infrastructures of the same sector and Ruth Arminda Isaura Mateus

Deputy Director of the Office of the provincial governor of Luanda.

Decio Leonardo de Carvalho Gaspar went to the post of head of the Finance Department of the Secretary General, Adolfo Carlos Lima to Administration and Protocol Department of Secretary General.

Appointed were also Hima Sabina da Conceição Uukunde for Human Resources Department, and Aginaldo Patricio Mateus Laureano to head of Logistics and Property Department of Secretary General.

AU/AFRICA :

Investment opportunities exist in Africa despite challenging economic times

newvision.co.ug/1st February 2016

Infrastructure investors with an appetite for risk should note that large scale investment opportunities exist and there is huge potential for growth in African markets

At the World Economic Forum which closed last week one of the key sessions I participated in focused on barriers to investment and the measures needed to get capital flowing amid geo-political uncertainty in Africa and the Middle East.

With a collapse in energy prices, low commodity prices, high debt levels in emerging markets, higher interest rates in the US and slower Chinese growth, one could be forgiven for thinking that this is not the time to invest in Africa or the Middle East. However it's a fallacy that there are no growth opportunities in these regions and an even bigger one to imagine there is no capital available for partnerships.

Infrastructure investors with an appetite for risk should note that large scale investment opportunities exist and there is huge potential for growth in African markets. Given that Governments across the continent are now entering a new paradigm. They have come to the realization that they can no longer do everything by themselves, they must partner with or enable the private sector to take on the large scale megaprojects that were previously the sole preserve of the public sector.

This is the reason for example why companies such as Qalaa Holdings, a leading African investor in energy and infrastructure, has been able to successfully tap into a wide pool of funding resources under highly challenging conditions to invest in large-scale infrastructure projects that are critical to Africa's development such as the Egyptian Refining Company (ERC), a US\$3.7 billion greenfield refinery and Egypt's largest to date.

In addition to spreading its wings into East Africa and becoming the lead partner in the 287 million dollar railway investment in Rift Valley Railways the concessionaire for the Kenya Uganda railway, a project which recently completed its investment phase and is now successfully moving towards full commercial operations.

While Qalaa's view of private sector becoming the primary driver for large scale infrastructural development was initially questioned the strategy is slowly being validated, as governments across the continent increasingly focus their energies towards solving more relevant challenges such as, dismantling archaic bureaucracy, performing their regulatory function thus freeing up the private sector to do its job.

Transparency however remains a major challenge, even though significant strides have been made in that regard. For example the Development Finance Institutions (DFI's), Export Credit Agencies (ECA's) and Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWF's) that are now funding projects across the continent require companies to sign onto and abide by stricter codes of conduct.

These initiatives coupled with individual actions such as the recent cases in Kenya where the CEOs of a number of the country's leading companies including Safaricom and KCB voluntarily decided to match public sector wealth and assets disclosures with their own, suggests that transparency is finally being seen as important and fast becoming an indispensable requirement for doing business.

This last point is very important because it confirms that Africa is indeed becoming a more viable and credible investment destination which offers potential returns, far above those available in the developed economies of the East and West. Governments across the continent however need to be careful and guard our interests by jointly setting very high training and human development quotas on the potential investment partners so as to ensure that whilst they are able to make a reasonable return, they have a longer and more permanent impact on our people.

The writer is Founder & Chairman, Qalaa Holdings

Africa: AU Pledges Action On Migration, Child Marriages

1 February 2016/The New Times (Kigali)

By Times Reporter & Agencies

The African Union (AU) reiterated its commitment to stop illegal migration of African youth to developed nations alongside child marriages noting that they are a blot to the continent's image.

Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, said at a press briefing on Friday that the continental body has focused on innovative measures to contain illegal migration and eradicate child marriages.

"The migration crisis in Africa has reached alarming proportions. Our youth are risking lives to enter Europe in the belief that there are more opportunities there," Kaloko told reporters on the sidelines of the AU summit in Addis Ababa.

He regretted that an exodus of African youth will undermine the continent's quest for sustainable development.

The African Union has prioritised speedy implementation of social and economic empowerment programmes targeting the youth in order to halt illegal migration.

Kaloko said that creation of new industries, reforms in the education sector and regional integration are key to minimise exodus of young people to foreign lands.

"We have embarked on the implementation of programmes that lift the living standards of our population to discourage migration. Industrialisation in the continent will create jobs for the youth," Kaloko remarked.

He emphasised that intra-African movement of labour will offer durable solution to the migration crisis facing the continent.

African Countries should ease movement of skilled personnel through policy and regulatory reforms," said the commissioner, adding that regional integration and political stability are crucial to stem the exodus of young Africans.

AU has also lobbied member states to enact legislation that ban child marriages. Kaloko stressed that Africa's socio-economic progress hinges on commitment to abolish practices that violate the rights of children, women and youth.

Meanwhile, AU has fast-tracked the establishment of an African Centre for Disease Control

(ACDC) with support from bilateral allies like China.

Kaloko disclosed that technical experts have been holding meetings to discuss modalities of setting up the continental disease control centre.

"A specialised technical committee met in November last year and it was agreed a coordination centre will be set up at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa. We are now in the process of equipping the center,"he said, revealing that four regional collaboration centers are already in place while a governing board composed of African health ministers will be inaugurated soon.

With agencies

Boko Haram burns kids alive in Nigeria, 86 dead

January 31, 2016/usatoday.com

DALORI, Nigeria — A survivor hidden in a tree says he watched Boko Haram extremists firebomb huts and heard the screams of children burning to death, among 86 people officials say died in the latest attack by Nigeria's homegrown Islamic extremists.

Scores of charred corpses and bodies with bullet wounds littered the streets from Saturday night's attack on Dalori village and two nearby camps housing 25,000 refugees, according to survivors and soldiers at the scene just 3 miles from Maiduguri, the birthplace of Boko Haram and the biggest city in Nigeria's northeast.

The shooting, burning and explosions from three suicide bombers continued for nearly four hours in the unprotected area, survivor Alamin Bakura said, weeping on a telephone call to The Associated Press. He said several of his family members were killed or wounded.

The violence continued as three female suicide bombers blew up among people who managed to flee to neighboring Gamori village, killing many people, according to a soldier at the scene who insisted on anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to journalists.

Troops arrived at Dalori around 8:40 p.m. Saturday but were unable to overcome the attackers, who were better armed, said soldiers who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press. The Boko Haram fighters only retreated after reinforcements arrived with heavier weapons, they said.

Journalists visited the carnage Sunday and spoke to survivors who complained it had taken too long for help to arrive from nearby Maiduguri, the military headquarters of the fight to curb Boko Haram. They said they fear another attack.

Eighty-six bodies were collected by Sunday afternoon, according to Mohammed Kanar, area coordinator of the National Emergency Management Agency. Another 62 people are being treated for burns, said Abba Musa of the State Specialist Hospital in Maiduguri.

Boko Haram has been attacking soft targets, increasingly with suicide bombers, since the military last year drove them out of towns and villages in northeastern Nigeria.

The 6-year Islamic uprising has killed about 20,000 people and driven 2.5 million from their homes.

UN/AFRICA :

Africa must fight to reform the UN Security Council

February 01, 2016/daily-mail.co.zm

EFFORTS to reform the United Nations Security Council have raged since 1993.

Africa has been lobbying extensively within the UN General Assembly and other fora on the need to reform the Security Council to make it more representative.

Five countries – Russia, China, France, the UK and the USA – out of 15 UN Security Council members are permanent and hold veto powers despite the world having changed geopolitically since 1945 when it was formed after the Second World War to maintain global peace.

At the time of the formation of the Security Council, most of the African countries were still fighting for their freedom from some countries which are permanent members and hold veto powers.

Despite almost all the African countries being independent, democratic and their governance being above board, it is surprising that there is still stiff resistance from the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to open up.

Despite the resistance, Africa is not giving up its right to securing a seat on one of the UN's most powerful organs.

We are glad that heads of State and government of an African Union Committee of 10 where Zambia is a member, have resolved that member states re-visit the issue yet again.

Other members are Algeria, Libya, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Namibia, Uganda, Equatorial Guinea and Congo.

During the 26th ordinary session of the AU general assembly for heads of State and government which opened on Saturday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Africa renewed its push to reform one of the most influential organs of the UN.

Opening the Ordinary Session of the Assembly of heads of State and Government on Saturday, outgoing chairperson of the AU Robert Mugabe took a swipe at the Western world for refusing to reform the Security Council.

Mr Mugabe, who is Zimbabwean President, has pledged that Africa will fight to get a permanent membership on the council.

Speaking at the occasion where UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon was in attendance, Mr Mugabe said African cannot continue attending the UN General Assembly and making “empty” speeches, when nothing happens in terms of Security Council reforms.

We agree with Mr Mugabe that Africans cannot continue to be artificial members of the UN and spending large sums of money every year to attend the UN General Assembly in New York.

It is only fair that Africa, the second largest continent after Asia, is given a seat in the Security Council for it to have influence in global issues.

Africa is the recipient of most declarations on peace and security but has been marginalised to non-permanent membership, thus does not have influence on major decisions.

That is why Africa wants at least two African countries to have permanent slots in the Security Council.

Africa, through the Committee of 10, a grouping of countries where Zambia is a member, must continue to lobby for UN reforms.

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 01 Février 2016... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 01/02/2016