



(Kenya's military carried out air raids on al-Qaeda-linked militants in southwestern Somalia after an attack on an African Union military base Jan. 15 in which the Islamists said at least 100 Kenyan soldiers died.)

BURUNDI :

**Burundi: le viol, une arme au service de la répression?**

Par RFI/le 18-01-2016

La question de l'utilisation politique des violences sexuelles revient sur la table au Burundi. Des membres des forces de sécurité se seraient rendus coupables de viols et d'agressions sexuelles au cours d'opérations de recherche dans plusieurs quartiers contestataires, selon un rapport du haut-commissariat des Nations unies aux droits de l'homme. Un rapport qui va dans le sens de plusieurs témoignages déjà recueillis par RFI.

Dans un rapport, le Haut commissariat des Nations unies pour les droits de l'homme s'alarme notamment d'une recrudescence des violences sexuelles au Burundi. Perpétrées par les services de sécurité lors des opérations de recherche, ces exactions se sont multipliées à la suite des attaques contre les camps militaires de la mi-décembre.

Cécile Pouilly est porte-parole du Haut commissariat des Nations unies aux droits de l'homme, elle décrit un scénario à chaque fois similaire. « Les forces de sécurité entraient dans les maisons des victimes dans des quartiers bien ciblés et perçus comme soutenant l'opposition, rapporte-t-elle. Ils forçaient les femmes à sortir des maisons et les séparaient des autres membres de la famille, et ensuite ils retournaient à l'intérieur de la maison avec les femmes et les violaient ou leur faisaient subir parfois même des viols collectifs. »

Mais comment être certain qu'il s'agit des services de sécurité ? Au moment des faits, les quartiers étaient bouclés par l'armée, répond l'ONU.

« Casser une possible opposition »

Pour le ministre burundais des Droits de l'homme, ce phénomène n'a rien de politique. Mais l'ONU affirme que les victimes ne sont pas choisies au hasard. « Les indications que l'on reçoit semblent concordantes et indiquer en effet qu'on va au-delà de la violence sexuelle avec vraiment une volonté de casser une possible opposition dans ces quartiers », souligne Cécile Pouilly.

Le viol pourrait-il donc être utilisé comme une arme au service de la répression ? En tout cas, l'ampleur de ce phénomène est très probablement sous-estimée, car la plupart des femmes ont peur de s'exprimer. Un avis partagé par ceux qui travaillent à Bujumbura auprès des victimes.

« Pour l'instant, personne n'a été mis en cause pour ces exactions », regrette l'ONU, qui demande l'ouverture d'une enquête indépendante.

Disparitions forcées et charniers

Le Haut commissariat des Nations unies pour les droits de l'homme s'inquiète également d'une multiplication des cas de torture par les forces de sécurité, d'arrestations massives de jeunes hommes, de disparitions forcées et de l'existence possible d'au moins neuf charniers qui contiendraient au moins 100 corps. Des recoupements sont en cours, assure l'organisation.

Autre facteur d'inquiétude pour l'ONU, le risque d'une ethnicisation du conflit : plusieurs victimes disent avoir été prises pour cible parce qu'elles étaient tutsi.

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

**Lincoln Pharma plunges 19% due to product ban in Tanzania**

Jan 18, 2016/Source: Moneycontrol.com

Tanzania drug authority has announced to stop and banned importing of company's highest selling product Chloramphenicol Sodium Succinate Injection.

Shares of Lincoln Pharmaceuticals plunged 19 percent intraday Monday after its product has been banned by Tanzania drug authority. Tanzania drug authority has announced to stop and banned importing of the company's highest selling product Chloramphenicol Sodium Succinate Injection. They have also cancelled company's registration. The company is exporting medicines to many African countries and has got many orders from government institute. "Due to this ban a huge quantity dispatched by the company to Tanzania has kept on hold there and authority has issued a notice to destroy the product, which will create big impact on profit margin of the company," company said in BSE filing. "Also, due to rejection of registration, a large number of raw material and packaging material stock is piled up in the factory and this creates an addition to the loss amount," it added. At 11:11 hrs Lincoln Pharmaceuticals was quoting at Rs 186, down Rs 37.90, or 16.93 percent on the BSE.

**Tigo Tanzania announces \$2.1m payment to mobile money subscribers**

Tom Jackson/developingtelecoms.com/17 January 2016

Mobile operator Tigo Tanzania has announced its seventh quarterly payment in a row of US\$ 2.1 million to its 4.6 million Tigo Pesa users.

Tigo claims it as evidence the company is distributing profit to its mobile financial services users. The payment is generated from profit accruing in the Tigo Pesa Trust accounts held with major commercial banks in Tanzania.

Tigo Tanzania head of finance and risk for Mobile Financial Services Obedi Laiser said the company has so far paid its mobile financial services users a total of US\$16.5 million since September 2014.

The revenue share model adopted by the operator is in line with the Tanzanian central bank's regulations allowing the country's mobile operators to increase e-money deposits and mobile money transactions through loyalty incentives.

"This profit share is payable to all Tigo Pesa users including individual customers, retail agents and our business partners each based on the e-value they have stored in their Tigo Pesa wallets," Laiser said.

“We are really excited to be announcing this profit share distribution for the seventh successive time. The payment underlines Tigo Tanzania’s commitment to provide financial access to our customers and to promote financial inclusion in the country through our Tigo Pesa services.”

KENYA :

### Kenya Jets Target Militants After Group Says 100 Soldiers Killed

January 18, 2016/bloomberg.com

Kenya’s military carried out air raids on al-Qaeda-linked militants in southwestern Somalia after an attack on an African Union military base Jan. 15 in which the Islamists said at least 100 Kenyan soldiers died.

The Kenya Defence Forces used both land and air forces in response to the attack on the El Adde base in Somalia’s Gedo region near the Kenyan border, Samson Mwathathe, the head of Kenya’s military, said in a statement published Sunday on the Ministry of Interior’s website. The operation is “delicate” because some Kenyan soldiers have been captured and are being used as human shields, he said.

“As we speak right now our troops are engaging the terrorists,” Mwathathe said. “We have information to the effect that some soldiers are being used as human shields and we will not allow any further casualties.”

Al-Shabaab, an Islamist militant group that has been fighting Somalia’s government for a decade, said it killed more than 100 Kenyan soldiers and captured 12 others in the Jan. 15 attack. If the death toll is confirmed, it would be the highest number of casualties Kenya’s military has suffered in a single incident since its troops invaded southern Somalia in October 2011.

The African Union is still verifying the number of casualties and Kenyan authorities haven’t specified how many of its soldiers died.

The El Adde attack was carried out by suicide bombers using improvised explosive devices on vehicles and “the soldiers affected by the attack are a company-size force,” Defence Secretary Raychelle Omamo said in a separate statement on the Ministry of Interior’s website. In the U.S. military, a company has 100 to 200 soldiers, according to the U.S. Army’s website.

### The state of Kenya’s domestic tourism

Written by MARGARET NJUGUNAH /capitalfm.co.ke/ January 18, 2016

NAIROBI, Kenya, Jan 18 – The last two years have seen the #TembeaKenya and #MagicalKenya hashtags rock social media frequently.

Initiated by the Kenya Tourism Board, the hashtags were started to encourage Kenyans to tour the country’s famous destinations. And they seem to work. Weekends especially have seen the hashtags trend meaning that Kenyans are touring Kenya.

But are they going to Kenya’s award winning destinations such as The Maasai Mara, Mount Kenya,

Amboseli and Tsavo?

“Kenya’s famous tour destinations are not for the locals. They are for foreigners,” Mohamed Ahmed, a Nairobi resident says when asked.

“The best I can do is to take my family to Uhuru Park or other free parks around Nairobi. I’d love to go tour the Maasai Mara, but I cannot afford to go there with my family as it is very expensive to go there,” Ahmed adds.

Logistically, one needs to fly there or drive there as there no public means into the Maasai Mara wilds. Alternatively, one would need to contact tour companies to get there.

Event companies such as Bonfire Adventures have listed how much it will cost to get someone like Ahmed to The Mara ahead of Valentine’s Day next month. To get accommodation at the Mara Simba Oryx Lodge, a three star hotel, Ahmed would need to part with Sh11,999 per day. Should he need to take his wife, he would need to double the price.

If he chooses to upgrade to a five star hotel like Maasai Serena Game Lodge, he would part with Sh14,999 for two days or Sh25,500 for three days per person.

“Basing on where I am in life, that is too much money which I would not be able to afford,” Ahmed says.

His sentiments are shared by Kevin Kamau who says that it being a January, with a family to feed and school fees to take care of, there would be no going to Maasai Mara or elsewhere.

“I’m lucky to have a wife who is happy with what I can afford. Sure, I’d love to go to places like Samburu Conservancy, Tsavo and Amboseli. While there I’d probably want to sleep in hotels like Sarova Shaba Game in Samburu or Amboseli Oltukai Lodge, but that is too far out of my reach,” he says.

“The trouble with destinations such as Lake Naivasha, Mount Kenya and the Maasai Mara is that the accommodation facilities built around these places are too far out of our reach. So you get that these places are within our borders but they are not affordable,” he continues.

Does that mean that hotels in key destinations in the country are out of reach for everyone?

No. In fact, some people are putting in a lot of effort to go there.

“I have toured several destinations in the country. It started when I first married and went for honeymoon in Vipingo Ridge in Kilifi. I even got to enjoy the beaches there. Afterwards, I’ve toured with her to celebrate anniversaries and birthdays in places such as Rusinga Island, Lake Victoria and Watamu,” James Wafula, who hails from Western Kenya but lives in Nairobi, says.

Honeymoon and weddings are therefore some of the biggest reasons why Kenyans choose to tour high end hotels and enjoy the destinations close by.

There’s somewhere for everyone in Kenya

All hope is however not lost for those hoping to tour The Mara, Samburu or Amboseli. One can team up with like-minded friends, hire a vehicle and track down camping sites in those destinations that are usually cheaper.

Naivasha, for instance, has in the past five years become Kenya's next best destination. Camps such as Fisherman Camp and Cray Fish Camp have become some of the area's biggest destinations.

Mary Munyao thinks so too and has nothing but praise for Naivasha's variety of activities and accommodation places; "Naivasha is my favourite destination in the country. It gives you truly beautiful destinations and plenty of activities to do – think hiking at Hell's Gate and Mount Longonot – and I can afford it without necessarily straining my pockets."

Naivasha however is not the only place that is opening up for domestic tourism. Counties such as Murang'a and Laikipia are enjoying the budding domestic tourism. Rapids Camp, Sagana in Murang'a County has for instance made a name for itself, while more Kenyans are heading to Nanyuki in Laikipia County to climb Mount Kenya.

Mombasa however still carries its flag high with the presence of award winning beaches, a rich culture and the history attached to it.

"I travelled to Wogect Hotel, a three star hotel, in December with daughter. Mombasa never gets old; there is always something to do there. The beaches are especially exciting," says Njeri Mwangi.

#### Government Efforts

The sentiments come at the back of the government's efforts to get more people to tour Kenya following mass departure from key destinations, especially the Coast, by foreigners after travel advisories were slapped on the country because of security issues.

Hence marketing initiatives such as Tembea Kenya were launched to get more Kenyans to tour the beaches after they were left almost empty with some resorts and hotels attempting to close shop.

Just recently, the Ministry of Tourism announced the launch of a Sh30million SMS campaign in a bid to woo domestic travellers. In the campaign, couples and individuals stand to win prizes which include two nights and three days to various attractions.

"There will be a grand prize for two people for five nights with a flying package either to Maasai Mara or Samburu," Tourism Cabinet Secretary Najib Balala said during the launch.

#### A billion Dollar industry

Amidst the discussion of cost per destination and accommodation, a billion dollar industry has been built around Kenya's beauty. It is so big that Billionaires like Sir Richard Branson have started their own establishments in the country – he owns Mahali Mzuri in Maasai Mara, a luxury safari camp.

Hotels such the Heritage Group of hotels have created big businesses that depend on tourism solely.

Would the government and businesses investing in tourism therefore consider then, investing in setting up affordable facilities to accommodate ordinary Kenyans? Or is that not a point in focus seeing that the industry is the country's second largest source of foreign exchange revenue following agriculture?

Also, would luxury hotels be willing to lower their prices, especially during low seasons, to encourage more Kenyans to visit the hotels?

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

### Attaques à Ouagadougou : Macky Sall exprime sa solidarité à son homologue burkinabè

Sunday, 17 January 2016/lesoleil.sn

Le chef de l'Etat sénégalais Macky Sall s'est dit profondément choqué par les attaques terroristes survenues vendredi soir à Ouagadougou, exprimant par la même occasion « sa solidarité » et « sa profonde compassion » à son homologue burkinabè Roch Marc Christian Kaboré.

Dans la nuit de vendredi à samedi, plusieurs terroristes ont attaqué un café et un hôtel du centre de Ouagadougou, faisant au moins 29 morts et de nombreux blessés.

Les autorités burkinabè ont décrété trois jours de deuil national à la suite de cette attaque.

« Je suis profondément choqué par les attaques terroristes qui viennent d'endeuiller votre pays ami et frère », a dit Macky Sall, dans un communiqué.

« En cette douloureuse circonstance, je voudrais vous exprimer, ainsi qu'à vos compatriotes, le témoignage de ma solidarité et de ma profonde compassion », a fait savoir le président Sall.

Au nom du Sénégal et de la Communauté Économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO), Il a condamné « très fermement ces actes barbares qu'aucune cause ne saurait justifier ».

Le président sénégalais, Macky Sall, avait déjà exprimé, samedi, dans un message publié sur son compte twitter le « soutien inconditionnel du peuple sénégalais au Burkina Faso ».

« Après les évènements tragiques survenus à Ouagadougou, je renouvelle mes condoléances aux familles et mon soutien au président burkinabè Roch Marc Christian Kaboré », a-t-il ajouté.

Macky Sall, le président en exercice de la CEDEAO a joué le rôle de médiateur pour le rétablissement de la transition lors du coup d'Etat avorté en septembre.

### Shifting network of jihadi alliances battles for ground across West Africa

Colin Freeze/The Globe and Mail/Sunday, Jan. 17, 2016

In Mali, Algeria and now Burkina Faso, Mokhtar Belmokhtar has made a habit of wreaking havoc upon the lives of Canadians and other Westerners. This has been a constant in the fugitive's life, despite his off-again, on-again relationship with al-Qaeda. And, as ever, he is abetted by a backdrop of weak or failing states, unpatrollable borders, as well as a dynamic where fanatics one-up each other with attacks that shock the conscience.

It was in 2009 when Mr. Belmokhtar's then-al-Qaeda-linked fighting faction first gained notoriety

in the North America, by ransoming off two Canadian diplomats who had been abducted in Niger, close to the border with Mali. In 2013, as head of a newly independent splinter group, he lured two Canadian jihadis from Ontario into his fold and used them as part of a team of 30 suicide commandos who killed 39 foreign hostages at an Algerian gas plant.

Last week, three years less a day after the Algerian hostage crisis started, Mr. Belmokhtar's latest fighting faction killed at least 28 people in Burkina Faso – including six Quebeckers. This time, the carnage was again perpetrated in the name of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

This is, at least, according to a claim of responsibility by the AQIM subgroup Al-Mourabitoun, which roughly translates as “the sentinels” and which is part of a shifting constellation of jihadi alliances in West Africa. It formed a few years ago in a merger between Mr. Belmokhtar's splinter group and another faction that had also broken away from AQIM. But in December the parent organization announced it had reabsorbed both.

What's in a name? In the world of jihadi terrorism, branding counts. Bloody attacks that are atrocious to outsiders may only serve to galvanize extremists and draw recruits, funds and followers.

And because there is no shortage of such bloodletting these days, jihadis have to figure out which one of two feuding global groups they want to join. On one side, is the now-borderless al-Qaeda brand that Osama bin Laden started in Afghanistan during the 1980s Soviet occupation. On the other, stands Islamic State that self-described caliph Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi claims to have carved out of Syria and Iraq.

In Syria, factions aligned with al-Qaeda and Islamic State are now shooting at each other about as often as they shoot at government forces, as the battle for turf becomes a free-for-all. But there are growing echos of this fight elsewhere, including across Africa.

For example, Somalia's al-Shabab group has lately seen infighting and purges related to the question of whether its members should stick with their long-standing al-Qaeda affiliation or join IS. In Nigeria, the powerful Boko Haram group recently announced it wants to be known as “Islamic State's West African province.”

Observers say this puts a pressure on al-Qaeda – whose core leaders are deep in hiding – and its more operational regional franchises.

By readmitting violent groups such as Al-Mourabitoun, AQIM may be serving notice to jihadis and Westerners alike it is out to regain lost ground. Back in 2012, AQIM had started to lay claim to swaths of northern Mali, imposing the kinds of harsh religious law that builds legitimacy in the eyes of extremists. Yet that only invited a French military response that routed the jihadis.

In recent months, however, AQIM and its affiliates have been making noise about striking back at lingering French troops, United Nations aid workers and whatever Westerners they can hit, wherever they can hit them.

In November, as an independent entity, Al-Mourabitoun made its name for itself last fall by killing 27 people at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Mali's capital, Bamako. Now back in the AQIM fold, it has made a claim of responsibility for perpetrating a nearly identical assault against a similar soft target in a directly neighbouring country – Burkina Faso's Splendid Hotel.

It remains unclear whether Mr. Belmokhtar planned or participated in this latest attack. He was



rumoured killed a few months ago, just as he has often been rumoured killed in the past. It may not matter much – jihadi turf wars have a habit of outliving even their most notorious proponents.

What's in a name?

**Al-Qaeda:** Literally, it means “the base.” This terror group was formed in Afghanistan in the 1980s and was routed from the region after its Sept. 11, 2001, attacks provoked a U.S. military response. A rump of “core” al-Qaeda figures remain in the region, but its operational capability resides in its far-flung franchises, including in Yemen (al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula); in West Africa (al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb); and in the Horn of Africa (al-Shabab). The Syrian fighting force is known as the Nusra Front.

**Al-Mourabitoun:** Formed during the 2013 French military response to a jihadi takeover of northern Mali, this group brought together two AQIM splinter groups – Mr. Belmokhtar’s “Those Who Sign in Blood Battalion” and also “the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa.” The merged group has recently claimed responsibility for recent hotel attacks in Mali and Burkina Faso, and, in December, AQIM claimed it had reabsorbed these splinters.

**AQIM:** Spun out of the jihadi insurgents who fought during the 1990s Algerian civil war, al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb has existed as an al-Qaeda franchise based in desert borderlands since 2007.

**Mokhtar Belmokhtar:** A veteran of the war in Afghanistan, the elusive one-eyed Algerian terrorist made a name for himself as a leader of desert bandits out to kidnap and kill Westerners, and as a man who routinely cheats death. A few years ago, he broke with AQIM after its leaders criticized him for not being violent enough. Groups he has founded since then have gone on to kill scores of people, mostly foreigners, in Algeria, Mali and, now, Burkina Faso.

**Boko Haram/ ISWAP:** This northern Nigerian militant group first made a name for itself by opposing Western education and for abducting hundreds of schoolgirls in a notorious 2014 raid. Lately it has been behind increasingly bloody attacks in Nigeria and neighbouring countries, such as Cameroon. In the spring of 2015, some Boko Haram leaders announced they are now calling themselves the Islamic State’s West African Province (ISWAP).

**Islamic State:** Based in a self-described caliphate carved out of Syria and Iraq in 2014, IS has bigger aspirations. It is setting up affiliates across Africa and the Middle East in hopes of gaining more ground. The roots of IS trace back a decade ago, when it was the al-Qaeda in Iraq franchise. It splintered off after the U.S. military nearly destroyed it and after al-Qaeda leaders rebuked its leadership for being too wantonly bloody.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

**Burkina Faso attack not first time Canadians have faced African al Qaeda terror**  
Monday, January 18, 2016/ctvnews.ca

OTTAWA - Even though they are responsible for a string of atrocities and affiliated with the grand daddy of terrorist groups, al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb has flown largely under the radar in terms of public perception of extremists.

But that could change in the aftermath of the slaughter of at least 28 people that ended early Saturday at a luxury hotel in the west African nation of Burkina Faso, an outrage that left six Canadians among the dead.

All six were from Quebec and were in Burkina Faso doing humanitarian work.

It's not the first time Canadians have been targeted by AQIM, which has claimed responsibility for the attack. The same faction of the group was responsible for the kidnapping of Canadian diplomats Bob Fowler and Louis Guay in 2009, and its commander - Belmokhtar Mokhtar - is wanted by the RCMP.

Speaking in Peterborough, Ont. on Sunday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau led a moment of silence for the victims and condemned the attacks on the Splendid Hotel and nearby Cappuccino Cafe, which left a estimated total of 28 dead, as a "brutal act of violent terrorism."

He spoke at a restored mosque, which was firebombed in the aftermath of deadly attacks in Paris last November.

His government is facing increased political pressure as the Conservative opposition attempted to link the events in the impoverished nation with the Liberal plan to withdraw CF-18s from the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and refocus Canada's military contribution.

Opposition leader Rona Ambrose, in a statement, demanded Trudeau "end the ambiguity" about the country's role in fighting ISIL and that the latest attack is "proof that decisive action is required to confront this threat."

Defence experts say, other than sharing an overall extremist ideology and a loathing of the west, there is little that al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and the Islamic State have in common. In fact, they can be considered rivals with some important differences.

ISIL controls territory and wants to take the fight directly to western countries around the globe. AQIM - other than a brief occupation of northern Mali - is fractured and generally does not appear interested in governing.

It is considered more a regional player interested in ousting - or influencing - Islamic governments in west Africa, according to experts at the U.S.-based Rand Corporation.

"They'll attack western interested when it suits them," said retired colonel George Petrolekas, of the Conference of Defence Associations Institute.

France, which considers AQIM a more immediate threat, has been carrying on a quiet, mostly effective campaign to identify and disrupt the group ever since beating back their advance by in northern Mali two years ago.

In doing a round of interviews late last year, Harjit Sajjan, the new defence minister, said part of the new government's consideration in its reshaping of the Iraq mission is overall picture of where extremist tentacles have spread in the region.

The example he cited, at the time, was the Islamic State's foothold in eastern Libya.

"We need to look wider than the current threats we face in Iraq and Syria, and it's very important we get this right," Sajjan said, referencing the government's ongoing review.

Although Sajjan didn't mention west Africa by name, Petrolekas said he wouldn't be surprised if the Liberals - in offsetting criticism for pulling jets out of Iraq - considered some form of contribution to the ongoing French mission against AQIM.

It would, he said, be politically saleable in light of the weekend attack and a mission in northern Mali carries with it the added blessing of the United Nations - something that speaks to the Liberal desire to work with multi-lateral institutions.

"This whole terrorism fight is not limited to just one patch of ground," Petrolekas said, noting that the Dutch are already part of a western African mission and that French special forces were brought in to help end the seige in neighbouring Burkina Faso.

"There's ample room for special and conventional forces, let alone we helped the French with the C-17," he said, referring to the Conservative government's use of Canadian heavy-lift transports to move French troops to Mali in the early winter of 2013.

The Rand Corporation, which studies conflicts around the world, has said the successful French intervention in Mali should serve as model for future U.S. expeditionary missions.

At the moment, France has over 3,000 troops spread across five countries in Africa - Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad. They conduct operations to disrupt potential militants threat across the Sahel region.

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

**Australian couple kidnapped in West Africa**

By: with AP/18 January 2016

Al-Qaida linked militant claims Ken and Jocelyn Elliot are still alive

An Australian doctor and his wife have been kidnapped by alleged al-Qaida-linked militants in Burkina Faso, the country's government has said.

Ken and Jocelyn Elliot, originally from Perth and both in their 80s, were running a 120-bed medical clinic in Djibo, a northern region near the border of Mali.

The couple disappeared Friday in Baraboule, and a spokesman for a Mali-based militant group has claimed the Elliots are being held by jihadists from the al-Qaida linked "Emirate of the Sahara."

He claimed the couple was still alive and more information would be forthcoming.

Authorities do not yet know if the abductions are linked to Friday's attacks by al-Qaida fighters on an upscale hotel in the country's capital, Ouagadougou, which left 29 people dead.

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said on Sunday its diplomatic post in Ghana was working with local authorities on the investigation.

Mr Elliot was the only surgeon at the Friends of Burkina Faso Medical Clinic, which he reportedly designed and built himself.

He performed up to 150 procedures a month, according to a 2013 report.

The couple moved to the region in 1972, and have been operating the clinic for more than 40 years.

A Facebook page has been set up by the Djibo community, which has seen an outpouring of support for the couple.

"Elliot, hurry back to the house. Your patients are waiting for you..," user Rachel Johnston Nacoulma wrote.

"My heart goes to those people who do good for the community," user Isabelle Page Brinkhuis said.

A statement from the Elliot family was also released.

"They have dedicated their lives to providing medical relief to people in the remote northern area of Burkina Faso," it said.

It added that their commitment to the local people is reflected in the fact that they have continued there with only a few holidays since 1972.

"They are held in high esteem by the local people."

Richard Lugg, who studied medicine with Mr Elliott at the University of Western Australia, described him as a friendly and dedicated man who had given a lifetime of service to the people of Burkina Faso.

"It is tragic that at the end of his career, this should happen to him," Lugg told the ABC.

In an undated Global Business Solutions Inc. video recorded in Djibo, Mr Elliott said the couple were motivated to build their medical centre at Djibo because of the local need.

"Our great thrust is surgery because that is in our opinion lacking throughout the country and throughout the region of West Africa," Mr Elliott said.

"The commonest things we would do I suppose are hernias, bladder stones, we do all sorts of tumours - you name it, we do it because there's nowhere else to do it," he said.

The couple has two sons, a daughter and three grandchildren, Mr Lugg said.

EU/AFRICA :

**Syrian refugees heading to Europe via the Spanish enclave in Morocco**

18/01/2016/bbc.com

As Europe struggles to deal with the arrival of more than a million migrants last year, thousands of refugees from the war in Syria have travelled to the other end of the Mediterranean in search of a safe route into Europe.

Some have reached Melilla, an autonomous Spanish enclave on the North African coast.

Each week about 200 are given safe passage across the Mediterranean to the European mainland, as Chris Morris reports.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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