



(Onze anciens membres du régiment de sécurité présidentielle, l'unité auteur d'un putsch raté en septembre dernier au Burkina Faso, ont été interpellés après l'attaque vendredi d'un dépôt d'armes près de la capitale Ouagadougou, a déclaré ce dimanche l'armée.)

BURUNDI :

**Burundi: quels sont les mouvements rebelles qui combattent Nkurunziza?**

Par RFI/le 24-01-2016

Beaucoup, à commencer par le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU qui vient de séjourner au Burundi craignent que le pays ne bascule dans une nouvelle guerre civile suite à la décision du président Pierre Nkurunziza de briguer un troisième mandat à l'élection de juillet dernier. Ni la répression sanglante des manifestations, ni l'échec de la tentative de coup d'Etat de mai ou encore la prestation de serment de Nkurunziza ne semblent pouvoir empêcher le Burundi de retomber dans la guerre civile. Et face au pouvoir, des mouvements rebelles sont en train de s'organiser.

Il s'agit d'une nébuleuse aux contours encore imprécis. Les plus connues, les Forebu, Forces républicaines du Burundi, sont constituées presque exclusivement de soldats et policiers qui ont déserté de l'armée et de la police avec armes et bagages.

Ils viennent de se doter d'un leader, le général Godefroid Niyombare, ancien chef d'état-major de l'armée et du Service national de renseignement, à la tête du putsch manqué de mai 2015.

Mais, premier couac, le colonel Jules Ndiwokubwayo, présenté comme leur chef d'état-major, vient de réitérer publiquement sa loyauté au président Pierre Nkurunziza.

► Burundi: le Forebu n'inquiète pas la présidence

Le deuxième mouvement, très actif sur le terrain surtout dans la capitale Bujumbura, est la Résistance pour un état de droit, la RED-Tabara. Il compte dans ses rangs de nombreux jeunes issus de la contestation du troisième mandat de Pierre Nkurunziza et est associé au président du parti MSD, Alexis Sinduhije, qui s'en défend même s'il a été à ce titre sanctionné par les Etats-Unis.

Il y aurait un troisième mouvement armé qui serait dirigé par l'ancien homme fort du parti CNDD-FDD au pouvoir au Burundi, Hussein Rujaburwa, qui le nie également.

Et enfin, les FNL du général Aloys Nzabampema, qui ont repris les armes depuis 2011.

► Infiltrations de rebelles burundais en RDC: quels sont les groupes?

De combien d'hommes et de quel armement disposent tous ces mouvements qui combattent aujourd'hui le pouvoir du président Nkurunziza ? Difficile à dire d'autant qu'ils auront fort à faire face à des corps de défense burundais réputés aguerris, d'autant qu'ils semblent encore loin d'avoir réalisé leur unité.

RWANDA :

**Rwanda signs up Dubai Port**

Sunday, January 24, 2016 /busiweek.com

KIGALI, RWANDA - The government and Dubai Port World (DPW) last week signed a concession agreement that will see DPW develop and operate the Kigali Logistics Platform (KLP) destined to be a dry port.

“This agreement will help to reduce transport costs and increase profits for businesses,” Francois Kanimba, Minister for Trade and Industry said.

A dry port is an inland terminal directly connected by rail or road to a sea port, providing services for handling, temporary storage, inspection and customs clearance for international trade.

“Good leadership and the friendly business environment growing in Rwanda attracted our interest to this infrastructure investment,” Suhail Albanna, Senior Vice President and Managing Director of Dubai Port World for the Middle East and Africa region said.

DP World has a portfolio of more than 65 marine terminals across six continents employing some 36,000 people.

The trade ministry has been in the process of implementing the Rwanda Logistics and Distribution Services Strategy which will enable Rwanda to overcome logistical difficulties that have negative implications on Rwanda’s trade competitiveness.

“There are cases where offloading containers takes almost the whole week, forcing truckers to make only two trips per month. But with this new infrastructure, the trucks will do as many as five trips per month. This will surely reduce transport costs and increase profit for businesses,” Kanimba said.

At completion the KLP will mean the consolidation and distribution of goods. It will have functions similar to those of a seaport, and which includes customs clearance services. Francis Gatware , the Chief Executive Officer of the Rwanda Development Board was also in attendance.

“The KLP is not only expected to improve the existing logistics infrastructure in Rwanda, but leveraging its central position will also help to position platform as a transit hub for neighboring countries,” Kanimba said.

The move to establish the KLP will create a logistics hub in Rwanda and help to provide a consolidated volume of imports. With this infrastructure, the turnaround time of trucks and containers is set to reduce significantly, thereby reducing associated transport costs. Container handling is DPW's core business and generates more than three quarters of its revenue. In 2014, DP World handled 60 million TEU (twenty-foot equivalent container units). "We bring to Rwanda world-wide expertise and knowledge of the logistics arena; it is an encouragement to the business and export sector to be able to globally compete," Albanna said. According to Albanna, the preliminary study shows that at least \$30 million will be needed to set up KLP.

The logistics hub will be expected to consolidate common services for vehicle parking, container stacks and ancillary facilities. Additionally, it will bring together stakeholders in the logistics industry. It will also provide a warehousing complex creating synergies with the other infrastructure and allowing manufacturers to access value added services and solutions for inputs and finished products at one location.

The KLP, to be established in Masaka sector, Kicukiro district, is expected to not only help improve the existing logistics situation in Rwanda, but also help it in leveraging its central position as a transit hub its neighboring countries.

The platform has been conceived to serve the local and regional demand for quality logistics services and is aimed specifically to address the deficiencies of the regional logistics performance. It will therefore serve as a consolidation hub for international and domestic trade, value addition center for regional agriculture and industrial cargo, regional transit hub for neighboring countries – Burundi, Eastern DRC and Uganda among others.

The platform will provide different functions such as, inter alia, container and break-bulk/bulk handling and storage facilities, space for stakeholders dealing with freight transport (for example, freight forwarders, shippers and transport operators) and the provision of accompanying services such as customs inspections, tax payment, maintenance and repair, banking and ICT connections.

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

**Uganda halts maid hirings for Kingdom**

Monday 25 January 2016/arabnews.com

RIYADH: The government of Uganda said that it would stop sending housemaids to Saudi Arabia, violating a deal between the two nations because of complaints of poor conditions and mistreatment.

The ban will remain until working conditions are "deemed fitting," the Ugandan government said. As a means of addressing high unemployment rate among young people in Uganda, its government signed a deal with the Kingdom in July for some university graduates to work as housemaids in Saudi Arabia.

According to the Ugandan Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Welfare, there have been some complaints regarding poor work conditions.

The ban also came after an audio recording on social media which was widely circulated this week. The recording is by Ugandans in Saudi Arabia who alleged they were being ill-treated.

According to official Ugandan figures, some 500 housemaids have arrived in the Kingdom since the

deal took effect.

Ugandan Ambassador to the Kingdom Rashid Yahya Ssemuuddu told Al-Eqtessadiah, a sister publication of Arab News, that the decision to stop sending housemaids to Saudi Arabia is temporary. "It has been stopped for a short time until some outstanding problems are sorted out," the envoy said.

"We have to ensure the rights and privileges of both employer and employees for better operations," the ambassador said, pointing out that Uganda wants to set up a joint electronic system to streamline the recruiting system between the two countries.

## Poll battles erupt

Sunday, 24 January 2016/independent.co.ug

Two polls in two days

Which poll should be believed?

On Jan. 19, Uganda's leading daily newspaper; The New Vision ran an in-house poll on the 2016 presidential election which put President Yoweri Museveni's support at 71 %, Kizza Besigye 19 %, Amama Mbabazi 6 % and Abed Bwanika 1 %. A day later, renowned pollsters Research World International (RWI) released a poll showing 51 % support for Museveni, 32% Besigye, and 12% for Mbabazi.

The RWI poll indicated that presidential candidates Amama Mbabazi and Kizza Besigye now stand a higher chance of forcing a re-run against President Yoweri Museveni. This is because while Museveni is still the most popular of all the presidential candidates, he also continues to lose supporters. Although all polls show Museveni leading, they raise questions about how the general public should interpret the starkly different scales they present.

The RWI poll was carried out between December 19, 2015 and Jan.10, while the New Vision poll was done from December 14-31, 2015. They both asked an almost similar question about the one person the respondent would support for president if the election was held at the time. They all had +/-5 margin of error.

The RWI poll gave Museveni 51 % mentions, Besigye 32%, and Mbabazi 12%. Abed Bwanika came in fourth with 1% followed by Venansius Baryamureeba, Maj. Gen. Benon Biraaro, Joseph Mbirizi and lastly Maureen Kyalya. UP to 4 % of the respondents were undecided.

These polls come out two months into campaigns and just weeks to Feb.18 when voting is slated to take place. At stake for the opposition and their supporters is whether any of their candidates is able to end the reign of President Museveni who this month caps 30 years in power. President Museveni and his ruling party have also doubled their effort as they aim to extend their rule for another five years.

For observers, the polls are the latest window into how each side is fairing.

RWI's Executive Director, Patrick Wakida, says that like all opinion polls, the results are just a snapshot of opinion at a particular point in time. There are chances a lot could change between now and February 2016 when the polls will be carried out.

His pollsters interviewed 2,685 registered voters in 89 districts in a poll with an +/-5 error margin. What the poll shows is that given the +/-5 error margin, which is quite big, Museveni's 51% is

easily the same as 46 %.

At the region level, Museveni beats Besigye and Mbabazi in Central, Eastern, Northern and Western. Besigye beats Museveni in only Kampala and Mbabazi in all regions. Museveni beats Besigye and Mbabazi in the rural settings and Mbabazi in both rural and urban. Besigye beats both Mbabazi and Museveni in urban settings.

The rich love Museveni, but the poor do not dislike him either. Amongst low, medium and high income earners, Museveni beats all the candidates. He is most popular amongst high income earners 77 % followed by low 54%.

On the other hand, Besigye and Mbabazi are most popular amongst medium income earners with 39 % and 12 % respectively.

Re-run is likely

For the first time in Uganda's electoral history, the RWI poll shows that 2016 might turn out to be a race between three candidates and not the usual two. Where past polls often showed only Museveni and Besigye in the contest, this poll shows Mbabazi in the race. It shows that if the race is left to Museveni, Mbabazi and Besigye only, the candidates remain with the same percentage points, 51, 32 and 12 respectively.

However, between Mbabazi and Museveni, Museveni's support increases by 5 percentage points to 57% and Mbabazi's by 12 percentage points or 50 % to 24 %.

Between Museveni and Besigye, the incumbent only gets 2 percentage points to 53 percent and Besigye 7 percentage points to 39 percent.

This means that Museveni fortunes are best when facing only Mbabazi, fair when facing Besigye and worst when facing both Mbabazi and Besigye.

This is because when one considers the +/-5 error margin, in a contest with Mbabazi, Museveni's 57% falls to 52%, in which case he would return as president. Yet in a contest with Besigye, Museveni's 53 % easily falls to 48 %, in which case he would be forced into a re-run. But the situation is much worse when Museveni is up against Besigye and Mbabazi. Here the incumbent's vote at 51 %, falls to 46 percent.

This poll follows another poll by the same pollster, which was carried out between July 13—26, 2016. That showed that that 55 percent of the respondents would vote President Museveni, 27 percent would vote his three-time challenger Besigye and 13 percent, former Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi.

When compared to the current poll, it becomes clear that the gaining candidate is Besigye.

Besigye has been able to grow his support by 5 percentage points from 27 % to 32 %. Museveni has lost 4 percentage points from 55 % to 51% and Mbabazi has lost 1 percentage point from 13 % to 12 %.

The numbers seem to suggest that Besigye has eaten into both Museveni's and Mbabazi's base. From the numbers, it seems as if Besigye has grabbed the 4 % from Museveni and 1 % from Mbabazi to make his 5 % gain.

Also in last year's poll, in a contest of two, Museveni would get 57%, Besigye's 28 %, and 54 % against Mbabazi's 22 %.

In the current poll, in a contest of two, Museveni can only secure 57 % against Mbabazi's 24 % and 53 % against Besigye's 39 percent.

What this shows is that in a contest of two, Besigye is able to grow his support against Museveni by 11 percentage points from 28 % in last year's poll to 39 % in the current poll. Mbabazi on the other hand, is only able to grow his support by 2 percentage points, from 22 % to 24 %.

If this poll had come out at the time Besigye and Mbabazi were deep in negotiations of selecting the single candidate, clearly, the numbers would be stacked against Mbabazi.

RWI's previous polls have turned out to be proper assessments of the political environment.

Take the poll RWI did in the October 2012 Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) presidential poll. When asked which candidate they would vote for if elections were held then, 49 percent mention Mugisha Muntu, 25 percent Nandala Mafabi and 3 percent Godfrey Ekanya. When the actual elections were held that November, Muntu emerged the winner followed by Nandala and then Ekanya.

In another case, shortly before the 2011 presidential elections, a poll by RWI showed that 64 percent of the respondents would vote Museveni and 22 percent Besigye. That RWI's poll was slightly different from the November 18 and December 6, 2010 poll by Afrobarometer, which gave Museveni 66%, Kizza Besigye 12%, Mao 3%, Otunnu 3%, Uganda Federal Alliance's Beti Kanya 1% and independent candidate Samuel Lubega, PPP candidate Jaberu Bidandi-Ssali, and PDP candidate Abed Bwanika would all get 0 percent. The second poll by the same organisation, carried out between Jan. 20 and 30, gave Museveni 65% compared to 15% for his closest challenger, Besigye.

When the actual results were announced, President Museveni had 68 percent, Besigye 27 percent. Some observers point to these precedents to argue that polls need to be taken seriously.

For some, RWI's poll show how President Museveni could lose a significant block of his supporters to his erstwhile ally former Prime Minister, Amama Mbabazi in the 2016 elections.

For others, the poll offers a grim picture for Mbabazi. When he posted 13 percent in the previous poll, he had not even picked nomination forms. Yet this poll, which comes out after he was picked as the TDA-Go Forward presidential candidate and has campaigned with the backing of Uganda's oldest political party, the Democratic Party, for two months now shows that he has lost a percentage point to Besigye.

Repressed voices

However, Mbabazi's supporters quickly point at a targeted campaign of infiltration, torture and harassment of supporters to argue that some of their supporters have been intimidated.

Critics of the New Vision poll point to the fact that compared to the same newspaper's poll carried out between June 12 and June 20 last year, President Museveni's support has not changed yet Besigye's support has increased by 10 percentage points from 9.2 % to 19 %, and Mbabazi's by 2 percentage points from 4 % to 6 %. They wonder where Besigye got all that support if Museveni's who has the lion's share lost none at all.

But even those who understand research have tended to question opinion polls.

Scholar Julius Kiiza, in his paper titled “Opinion Polls in the Spotlight: An Exercise in Deception? Opinion Polling in a Semi-Authoritarian African Polity” which was published in the book, ‘Elections in a hybrid regime’, notes that in the context of semi-authoritarian rule in Uganda, opinion polls are unreliable.

Kiiza’s paper is based on two Afrobarometer polls, one of which was carried out between Nov. 18 and Dec. 6 2010 and another between Jan. 20—28. 2011.

Kiiza writes that while the methodology used to arrive at the poll result was scientifically reasonable with a margin of sampling error of  $\pm 2.5$  percent at a 95 percent confidence level, the research period was too short.

The limited time period becomes more serious in the light of the second problem, that is, decontextualised opinion polling, Kiiza writes.

“I argue that in Uganda, dissenting voices are repressed or discouraged, either through physical repression or internalised fear, due to the perceived ubiquitous presence of state intelligence networks at the national, institutional and community levels, or through socio-economic leverages that preferentially reward the allies’ regime,” Kiiza writes, “Without this context-specific knowledge, opinion polling becomes an exercise in deception.”

Kiiza also writes that opinion polls, like the media that happily report them, are in the business of manufacturing consent to promote vested political, economic or even ideological interests. He adds that such results, in countries characterised by patronage and semi-authoritarian politics, have the effect of making voters vote for the candidate who is presented as the likely winner or causing supporters of a candidate shown to be losing, lose morale.

### South Sudan Rebel Leader, Uganda's Museveni to Meet

January 25, 2016/voanews.com

Former South Sudan Vice President and current rebel leader Riek Machar said he will ask Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni to tell President Salva Kiir to scrap his decision to create 28 states because it is hindering implementation of the peace agreement.

The Ugandan leader is an influential member of the East African regional bloc Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which played a key role in mediating last August's peace agreement.

Machar is scheduled to meet with Museveni Monday.

The meeting comes after both sides missed Saturday's deadline to form a national unity government as mandated in the agreement.

Amend constitution

Machar says the rebels first want to amend the current transitional constitution to incorporate last August's agreement, which recognizes only 10 states. But he said the South Sudan government wants to enshrine Kiir's 28 states in the new constitution.

"You know that even if you want to establish a company, you must have rules for establishing such a company. So the same for establishing a government, you need to have a constitution. In this case we need to amend the current transitional constitution so that it incorporates the agreement. The disagreement is that the government insists that the 28 states which they established 39 days after the agreement was signed, they insist that these 28 states be enshrined in the constitution. But the agreement says 10 states only," Machar said.

Ugandan troops are in South Sudan to prop up the South Sudanese government. President Museveni was influential in getting President Kiir to sign last August's peace agreement, after the South Sudanese leader had originally refused to sign the deal.

"I think it is time for President Yoweri Museveni to exercise his influence on President Kiir so that President Kiir drops the 28 states and we go forward and forge a constitution, and the transitional national assembly, then a government can be established," Machar said.

## Reaction

South Sudan's information minister said Kiir's creation of 28 states does not hinder implementation of last August's peace agreement. Instead, Michael Makuei said the 28 states creation is an improvement of the peace deal because it benefits the rebels.

"If you go to the agreement you will find that whatever we have done is not a violation; it is an improvement, and it is an improvement to their interest because they will have six governors instead of having two; they will have 40 percent in 10 states instead of 40 percent in three," he said.

In addition, Makuei said the 28 states idea is popular with South Sudanese, and if the rebels want, the government is willing to provide funding to put the idea to a national referendum.

## Uganda campaigners hope legal crackdown will stop acid attacks

By Reuters/25 January 2016

By Evelyn Lirri

KAMPALA, Jan 25 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - After Gloria Kankunda was left badly scarred from an acid attack in Kampala, she was determined others should not face the same fate, leading a campaign to clamp down on the sale of acid and tougher penalties for those convicted.

Kankunda, 33, was three months pregnant when she was attacked outside her home as she returned from a family party in the Ugandan capital.

"As we waited for the gate to be opened, the car door was pulled open and a man tried to pull me out," said Kankunda, now a mother-of-two, who is pushing for legal changes to clamp down on acid attacks to be implemented soon in Uganda.

"I thought it was a robbery. Suddenly I felt a burning sensation on my face and body. That's when it hit me that it might be acid," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The attack disfigured her face, blinded her in one eye and scarred over 70 percent of her body. She had more than 20 operations during two years in hospital in South Africa.



One of the other wives of her polygamous husband, Halima Nsimiire, was charged, along with two others, with attempted murder, but the case was dismissed because Kankunda was in hospital and could not testify in court.

But Kankunda's case won national attention as her husband is Mwesigwa Rukutana, Uganda's deputy attorney general.

Activists blame Uganda's weak legal system for the prevalence of acid attacks in the east African nation. Charges are often not brought because of insufficient evidence, corruption or lack of support for victims.

"If I haven't received justice despite the high profile nature of my case, what chance do the rest of the victims have?" Kankunda said. "These scars will stay with me forever. No amount of plastic surgery will remove them."

#### POPULAR SUPPORT FOR CRACKDOWN

Kankunda set up the Centre for Rehabilitation of Survivors of Acid and Burns Violence (CERESAV) in 2012 to support other victims who often need months of reconstructive surgery and psychological help.

Most acid victims are women, attacked over domestic or land disputes, a rejected marriage proposal or spurned sexual advances. Attackers often target the woman's head and face to maim, disfigure and blind her.

Pressure from campaigners helped nudge the Uganda parliament into passing in November the Toxic Chemicals Prohibition and Control Bill, which does not specifically mention acid attacks but was hailed by Gender Minister Muruli Mukasa as "a big step in the right direction".

Ugandan politicians are focused on upcoming elections, and the bill has yet to receive presidential assent to make it law. President Yoweri Museveni, who has led Uganda since 1986, is widely expected to win another four year term on Feb. 18.

An online petition Kankunda started in December to hasten the bill has attracted almost 300,000 signatures.

"It will be crucial to save the next person from falling victim," she said.

Mukasa says the president will soon sign the bill that will classify acid as a controlled substance and regulate its sale.

"We shall ensure that people who deal in the sale of acid and other restricted substances have special permits," he said.

Only those needing acid for professional purposes, such as research, medicine, pharmaceuticals or agriculture, will be able to buy it, he said.

Concentrated sulphuric acid, intended for car batteries, is readily available from petrol stations and street sellers across Uganda for less than \$1.

Globally, some 1,500 acid attacks are recorded each year, mostly in South Asia, Acid Survivors Trust International says, but many are not reported as victims are scared to come forward.

The extent of attacks in Uganda is not known as the offence is often classed as aggravated assault. Some 400 cases have been reported since 1985, Kankunda said, with two deaths recorded at Kampala's Mulago hospital in 2015.

Kankunda wants to see attackers forced by law to pay their victims' medical costs and stiff sentences for those convicted.

Attackers are usually charged with offences ranging from assault to grievous bodily harm and murder and there are no provisions to support victims.

India ordered a curb on acid sales in 2013 and made acid attacks a specific criminal offence, but acid remains easily available there, the Acid Survivors Trust International says.

"Let's see how this (law) will work," said Mukasa. "If there are gaps, we can always amend them." Hanifa Nakiryowa, co-founder of CERESAV, says she was attacked by her husband after she walked out on him.

"One day he called me to pick up my children at his house and suddenly acid was thrown at my face and body," she said on CERESAV's website. "My face felt as if it were on fire. My skin was literally melting away." (Reporting by Evelyn Lirri, editing by Katy Migiro and Tim Pearce. Please credit the Thomson Reuters Foundation, the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters, that covers humanitarian news, women's rights, corruption and climate change.

## SOUTH AFRICA :

### Four workers killed in South African fire

Monday, 25 January 2016/skynews.com.au

Impala Platinum says four workers have been killed in an underground fire at its Rustenburg mine in South Africa.

The fire began on Friday at Impala's Rustenburg 14 shaft and all but the four employees were evacuated by rescue teams.

The company on Sunday said those who died had been overcome by fumes while trying to find their way to safety.

South Africa's mines are the deepest and among the most dangerous in the world, but safety records in the industry have improved in the past few years.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) said in a statement that Impala should improve health and safety conditions, and called on the mines ministry to investigate the cause of the accident.

'It is unacceptable that mine workers are denied their basic human right to work in an environment that guarantees their safety and that instead they are expected to go to work to die,' said NUM health and safety secretary Erick Gcilitshana.

'We are selling our labour for the survival of our families, not our limbs and lives.'

Mining Minister Mosebenzi Zwane was to visit Impala's Rustenburg shaft on Sunday.

Mining companies are required to halt operations after fatalities, according to South African law.

### South Africa Is Giving College Scholarships to Virgin Women

Jan 24, 2016 /teenvogue.com

Unsurprisingly, this has been met with much controversy.

A mayor in South Africa has made the questionable decision to award college scholarships to 16 recipients. The only requirements in order to compete for the grant is that the student is both a girl (promising!) and a virgin (very, very problematic).

It is fundamentally wrong to judge someone's brain on what they do with their body, and rewarding those who are chaste by encouraging students to remain "pure and focus on school," according to the mayor's spokesperson, is not the best way to empower or educate women.

"To us, it's just to say thank you for keeping yourself and you can still keep yourself for the next three years until you get your degree or certificate," Uthukela Mayor Dudu Mazibuko said in a statement. The scholarships will be renewed annually "as long as the child can produce a certificate that she is still a virgin."

According to Mazibuko, the scholarship is aimed at girls because they're especially vulnerable to teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The Associated Press reports that there were 20,000 pregnancies among female students in 2014, and that nearly 5.6% of South African women aged 14 to 19 were pregnant in 2013.

TANZANIA :

### Tanzania: 20 Million/- Sub-Standard Goods Destroyed

24 January 2016/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) on Friday destroyed goods worth more than 20m/- after being discovered unfit for human consumption. The imported goods were purportedly meant to support unspecified community within Tarime Municipal Council.

According TBS Information Officer, Ms Rhoida Andusamile who supervised incineration of the sub-standard and expired goods at Pugu Kinyamwezi dumpsite on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam, baby diapers known as Smart Baby were among other supplies destroyed.

She said the consignment destined for Tarime was donated by well-wishers in the United States in support of the community, while baby diapers were imported by a Chinese firm known as Chaoming & Xlambin Chen Company for commercial purpose.

Andusamile said they decided to destroy the products and withdraw them from the market after the sample taken proved that the goods posed risks to human life.

"We have a good workforce at the borders, ports and airports collecting samples of all the products that are to enter the local market. Substandard goods are quickly detected and impounded before being circulated to the market", she said. Products meant for Tarime Municipal Council included baby lotions, hand wash liquid soap, shower gel, mouthwash, shampoo and toothpaste.

She added that the products were imported towards end of last year and were destroyed at the expenses of the importers as TBS supervised the whole exercise.

She reminded importers to comply with the established standards and submit samples of the products for importation for certification by TBS to avoid such losses and subsequent penalties. Andusamile also urged the public to be keen in checking expiry date of any purchased item and find out if it bears TBS quality mark.

TBS Quality Control Officer, Salome Emmanuel declared war against importation of sub-standard products insisting that poor quality products from within or outside the country would not find a place in the local market.

### Former Isles' Attorney General Challenges Dr Shein's position

25th January 2016/By Felister Peter/SOURCE: THE GUARDIAN

The former Zanzibar Attorney General (AG), Othman Masoud Othman yesterday challenged the Isles' President Ali Mohamed Shein to step down and hand over power to Chief Justice to avoid plunging the country into further crisis.

He said that Zanzibar Second Vice President, Seif Ali Iddi, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives Pandu Ameir Kificho shouldn't deserve to continue with their positions since Zanzibar lacks a valid House of Representatives.

Othman was speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a forum to discuss legal challenges that emerged during the General Election in both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

He said the nullification of the Isles' presidential results is the conspiracy of highest order.

Othman who was among the key speakers said once the President is out, Chief Justice should form a committee to investigate whether the election results in Zanzibar were legally cancelled and if not authorities should continue with tallying and announcement of the winners.

"It is the committee responsibility to say if the decision was right or wrong...if proven legally right then Zanzibar should go for re-elections" he said insisting that Zanzibar political stand off will never end if the President continues to executive his duties.

The former AG noted that it is wrong for the government to maintain silence over the matter while knowing the situation might result into mayhem.

He said the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) was to consider what the law says before cancelling the results.

"Isles election results were cancelled by ZEC Chairman Jecha Salim Jecha without even involving his fellow members" he said noting even the sections of the Election Law that he used to justify nullification of results doesn't give him powers to do so.

Advocate of the High Courts of Tanzania and Zanzibar, Fatma Karume who was talking on the

position of ZEC and National Electoral Commission (NEC) in last year's elections insisted on the need for free and fair electoral body.

According to her the electoral bodies are not free. She said even the country's judiciary system is not free and fair since the Heads of the institutions are Presidential appointees.

Karume suggested that chairman of the electoral body and the Chief Judge should be appointed by the committee. She said: "The decision of voters will only be respected when ZEC and the judiciary will be independent".

The Civic United Front (CUF) party acting Public Communications Director, Ismail Jussa Ladhu said the issue in Zanzibar is likely to weaken the Union. He said the matter has been left to Isles residents as leaders from Tanzania mainland are not paying any attention to it.

"Our stand on the matter remains...we are in quandary as we don't understand whether ZEC cancelled announcement of the results or the election," he said.

Representatives from Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) couldn't show up as it was announced earlier but the event coordinator, James Jesse from the University of Dar es Salaam said they had an excuse and that they were attending a meeting in Dodoma.

Speaking on the legal challenges of the last legal year's General Election, Harold Sungusia said the whole process was characterized with challenges including poor preparations.

He said legally upgrading and verification of voter's registration book was to be done at least two times before the election but NEC did it only once.

He said violations of the law were fueled with poor supervision whereas hate speeches were used at 188 campaign rallies.

Sungusia noted that to do away with the challenges Tanzania must have a new constitution. He said Article 41 of the Constitution restrict people to challenge presidential results at the court.

"Article 14 of the constitution bars top officials of the electoral body from being members of any political party....it is very obvious that such personnel were affiliated to a certain political party", he said.

He said there is absence of checks and balances because the law restricts people to question decisions made by the NEC.

Last week, ZEC Chairman Jecha Salum Jecha announced Zanzibar's election re-run date to be March 20 this year. The announcement of the re-run by ZEC follows the nullification of the last year's General Election on October 25.

In his nullification statement, Jecha cited shortfalls which included differences among ZEC members, with some having turned representatives of their respective parties.

He also cited a number of irregularities, which he said occurred especially in Pemba, with the number of votes cast at some polling stations exceeding that of voters registered for the polls.

KENYA :

## Here's How To Stand With Our Soldiers

By NGUNJIRI WAMBUGU/the-star.co.ke/Jan. 25, 2016

#IStandWithKDF was the trending hashtag most of last week as Kenyans from all walks of life woke up to the reality that we are a country at war. It was one of those moments when Kenyans were able to look beyond their tribes, religions and political affiliations in honour of our fellow countrymen who had made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

In a country where politics dictates national discourse, the two leading national newspapers captured the moment perfectly. The Daily Nation and The Standard ran with the headlines 'United in Mourning' and 'Defiant in Grief' respectively, speaking for the millions of us who watched proudly as President Uhuru Kenyatta and opposition leader Raila Odinga walked together from the Forces Memorial Hospital after honouring the Kenyan Army unit that had been attacked at El Adde in Somalia. It was a moment that gave new meaning to the hashtag #IStandWithKDF.

So how does an ordinary Kenyan stand with KDF?

First, to genuinely stand with KDF one must appreciate what it means to be a soldier. Essentially, a soldier is a person who has sacrificed their individual interests so that the civilian population they come from can go about their business safely; a person who has literally offered to give up their right to life so that other people, most of whom are strangers, can live theirs.

Considering that human beings are genetically wired in such a way that self-preservation is instinctive, military life means that one must be re-socialised first. Re-socialisation is a two-step process that takes place in a carefully controlled environment. The first step is eroding an existing identity such that the value system one believed in before is completely removed. The second step is the systematic development of a new value system such that the person gets a new identity.

Most of us have seen this process (in movies) where this battle-hardened army sergeant takes young military recruits through gruelling training sessions that are so tough the poor recruits wish they never signed up! This is the re-socialisation process that turns a civilian into a soldier; converting the person from an individual who is driven by what is in his or her best interests (which is our default settings) to an individual who will strictly follow orders that derive from what is in the best interests of others, and are sometimes against their own. These are the men and women who make up KDF.

Second, to stand with KDF one must also understand who KDF is up against. Uhuru stated that "we are at war with extremists; we are at war with terrorists; we are at war with fanatics ..." An extremist is a person who holds extreme political or religious views and is willing to use violence to enforce them. A terrorist is a person who uses terrorism – violence and intimidation – in pursuit of political aims. A fanatic is a person filled with excessive and single-minded zeal for an extreme religious or political cause. These are the people KDF is at war with in Somalia. The sole intention of these fellows is to make us like them.

Now that we have this understanding, how can you and I stand with KDF?

First, standing with KDF means we do not share pictures of dead or wounded KDF soldiers. Sharing such pictures, of the men and women who are sacrificing their lives so that we can be safe, is not only the greatest dishonour we can do to them, it also means we are fighting against KDF, and on the side of the extremists, terrorist fanatics. These fellows love it when we circulate such pictures, because they demoralise our troops.

Second, standing with KDF means remembering why KDF are in Somalia. KDF went to Somalia because we are facing an existential threat from the extremist, terrorist fanatics. These fellows have declared war on our way of life – the democracy, freedom of speech and freedom of religion we pride ourselves on. They want us to live under their corrupted religious laws. They want to decide for us how to worship, what to eat and how to live. They also do not want our women to be all that they can be.

Third, we must accept that if KDF does not go after them, they will come after us; that if KDF leaves them alone, they will still come after us; that if KDF tries to negotiate with them, they will overrun us. We have no choice. KDF has no choice. To quote Uhuru “this is a war we must win”.

Finally, standing with KDF means we do not play local politics with KDF’s war in Somalia. This message is specifically sent to our Kenyan brothers who live in Northeastern. Do not use KDF in Somalia to play local clan politics in Kenya.

Ngunjiri is a director of Change Associates.

ANGOLA :

#### **Angola: UN Assembly Adopts Angola-Drafted Diamond Resolution**

23 January 2016/Angola Press Agency (Luanda)

New York — The United Nations General Assembly Saturday in New York adopted a resolution on the role of diamonds in fuelling conflicts and their devastating impact on human lives, drafted by Angola in its capacity as chair of the Kimberly Process for the 2015 period.

The General Assembly also approved the report on the implementation of the Kimberly Process.

The resolution is based on an earlier one and the final communique adopted by consensus by all members during the Plenary Session of the Kimberly Process held in Luanda on November 20, 2015.

The report and the draft resolution were submitted to the General Assembly by the chairman of the Kimberly Process in 2015, Bernardo Francisco Campos.

Bernardo Campos was on the occasion accompanied by the CEO of the Angola Diamond Company (Endiama), António Carlos Sumbula, and high ranking officials of the firm and diplomats with Angola's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.

In his address before the adoption of the two papers, Bernardo Campos said the report and the draft resolution that were co-sponsored by 39 UN member states, reflect the work, the remarkable progress and dynamics reached by the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme during the year 2015.

He stated that the resolution reaffirms the need to interrupt the link between illegal raw diamond trade and the armed conflicts, as a contribution to the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

According to him, the Kimberly Process is therefore crucial and deserves the General Assembly's unrestricted support.

The Kimberly Process shows that when governments, the private sector and the organisations of the civil society cooperate, they ensure that the legitimate trade of diamond helps the countries reduce poverty, promote transparency and economic development, fight trafficking and capital bleaching and reach sustainable development goals, he said.

The resolution is the result of negotiations coordinated by Angola and the commitment reached during the informal consultations, and also recognises that the international scheme of certification proposed can help guarantee the effective implementation of the UN Security Council pertinent resolutions containing sanctions on conflict diamonds.

It also increases transparency and precision of statistics, and promotes inclusion, through the expansion of the level of involvement of governments, regional organisations, diamond industry, and the civil society in the Kimberly Process.

Bernardo Campos stressed that the Kimberly Process has over the last few years scored significant progresses in fulfilling its mandate.

He mentioned as an example the lifting of the UN Security Council's ban on Côte d'Ivoire and Central Africa Republic, which has enabled these countries to resume their export of raw diamond from approved zones.

The two above mentioned countries represent an enormous progress and show the essence of the Kimberly Process that consists in allowing trade of diamonds explored legally under the auspices of legitimate governments and avoid the introduction of diamonds mined by rebels into the international market, he said.

However, according to the official who invited more countries into the Kimberly Process, several challenges still lie ahead that need the continuous effort by Governments, diamond industry and the civil society to maintain and improve the mechanisms of internal control over all members, and strengthen the system to eliminate the illegal trade of raw diamonds in the world market.

Angola's term as Kimberly Process chair ended on December 31, 2015, and has since been substituted by United Arab Emirates and Australia as deputy.

AU/AFRICA :

**Report the good things Africa is doing, Mugabe tells reporters**

25 janvier, 2016/Source: News24

African journalists are "stuck in a rut" of writing negative stories and should concentrate on positive things like football, Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe is reported to have said.

The 91-year-old president, who has just disproved press rumours that he had collapsed while on holiday in the Far East, said reporters should concentrate on "good things", according to Zimbabwe state media.

The official Sunday Mail quoted Mugabe as saying: "Of course we feel that our journalists should report us better than they have been doing all along."



He was speaking after a meeting with close ally Teodoro Obiang Nguema of Equatorial Guinea in Harare on Saturday. Both leaders have been in power in their respective countries for more than 35 years.

"Report the good things that Africa is doing. There are many positives, including football," the Zimbabwe leader was quoted as saying.

Zimbabwe's soccer prowess did not appear to be such a good story this weekend, with the Sunday Mail reporting that the national team - the Warriors - had crashed out of the African Nations Championships after a string of "miss[ed] chances" .

State media and Mugabe's supporters are unhappy with critical reporting from the local private press and foreign media on the Zimbabwe president and his more controversial policies, including the land reform programme and the drive towards company indigenisation.

The Sunday Mail appeared to be taking Mugabe's call for positive press coverage to heart by publishing a glowing appraisal admittedly not of the national soccer team but of the Zimbabwe president himself.

Mugabe "is the epitome of principle, boldness, gallantry, endurance and most importantly African pride", the newspaper said in its lead editorial.

"We need not tell you how this honourable son of Africa has steered the ship towards industrialisation," the editorial continued.

The piece provoked a storm of sarcasm on Twitter, with one Zimbabwean tweeting: "Shouldn't it read has steered ship towards deindustrialisation?"

Opposition Movement for Democratic Change lawmaker Jessie Majome retorted: "If that's what African pride is then give me humility!"

Local media watchdog @ZimMediaReview said that the latest edition of the Sunday Mail was "a collector's item for all those who collect samples of the world's best boot-licking journalism."

The state ZBC broadcaster reported meanwhile that Mugabe had seen off his Equatorial Guinean counterpart at the airport on Sunday afternoon.

### Les auteurs du putsch raté du Burkina arrêtés

Le Matin Online/24 janvier 2016

Onze soldats de la garde prétorienne du président Blaise Compaoré, chassé du pouvoir en 2014, ont été interpellés.

Onze anciens membres du régiment de sécurité présidentielle, l'unité auteur d'un putsch raté en septembre dernier au Burkina Faso, ont été interpellés après l'attaque vendredi d'un dépôt d'armes près de la capitale Ouagadougou, a déclaré ce dimanche l'armée.

Cette attaque a été perpétrée dans la nuit de jeudi à vendredi, occasionnant un blessé du côté des hommes de garde, a précisé le commandant Mahamadi Bonkoungou, de l'Etat-major général des armées. Selon cette source, les auteurs du raid n'ont pas réussi à s'emparer de munitions comme on l'a cru dans un premier temps et sont partis avec «des kalachnikov et des RPG7», des lance-

grenades anti-char.

### Appel à collaborer

Une quinzaine de soldats sont toujours recherchés dans le cadre de l'enquête, selon le commandant Bonkougou. Il a appelé «la population à une collaboration», ajoutant «qu'après l'attaque un dispositif a été mis en place pour renforcer la sécurité du site et mener des recherches contre ses auteurs».

Un avis de recherche a d'ailleurs été émis concernant sept membres de la garde présidentielle. L'armée a précisé qu'ils se déplaçaient «par petits groupes de deux ou trois» et qu'ils circulaient à moto.

Eddie Constance Komboïgo, le chef du parti de l'ancien président Compaoré, le Congrès pour la démocratie et le progrès (CDP), a lui été interpellé samedi à Ouagadougou pour son implication présumée dans le putsch manqué de septembre, a indiqué une source de sécurité. Il est actuellement interrogé par la gendarmerie et sera ensuite présenté au juge militaire, a encore précisé cette source.

### Marche silencieuse

Samedi soir, des centaines de personnes, toutes en blanc, ont marché silencieusement lors d'un dernier hommage aux victimes de l'attaque djihadiste qui a fait une trentaine de morts le 15 janvier dernier à Ouagadougou, dont les Valaisans Jean-Noël Rey et Georgie Lamon.

Baptisée «chaîne de la lumière», cette manifestation qui s'est achevée à l'heure exacte du début de l'attaque, à 20h40, a été organisée à la suite d'un appel lancé sur les réseaux sociaux par un manager de musique, Walib Bara, et une journaliste, Raïssa Compaoré.

«Nous sommes venus sur le site des attaques pour dire que nous continuerons à boire du café du Cappuccino dans un Burkina splendide», a commenté Walib Bara. Le restaurant Cappuccino et l'hôtel Splendid, en plus de l'hôtel Yibi et du bar Taxi-Brousse, ont été les cibles de la première attaque de ce type jamais perpétrée au Burkina Faso.

Les manifestants portant des écriteaux «je suis Splendid» ou «je suis Cappuccino» ont effectué leur marche sur 500 mètres environ jusqu'aux lieux des attaques où des bougies dessinant la carte du Burkina ont été allumées. Ils ont ensuite chanté l'hymne national.

### Hommage officiel lundi

«Je n'ai pas peur de venir sur l'avenue Kwame N'Krumah parce que je vois que l'Etat a pris des dispositions sécuritaires pour nous protéger. La vie continue malgré ces attaques», a indiqué Issouf Cissé, un agent commercial.

Le gouvernement a prévu de rendre lundi un hommage national aux victimes lors d'une cérémonie à laquelle devrait assister le chef de l'Etat, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré. L'attaque a été revendiquée par Al-Qaïda au Maghreb islamique (Aqmi), qui l'a attribuée au groupe Al-Mourabitoune du chef djihadiste algérien Mokhtar Belmokhtar.

UN/AFRICA :

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