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BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

Looking back at the Rwanda genocide

December 12th, 2013/sunnewsnetwork.ca

OTTAWA – Almost 20 years after the genocide in Rwanda during which more than 500,000 people – overwhelmingly Tutsis – were butchered, 93 people have been indicted for their roles in the genocide and 72 were convicted.

The slaughter took place between April and July 1994 when Rwanda's minority Hutus organized the systematic extermination of the country's majority ethnic Tutsis. The death toll ranges between 500,000 and one million people.

Canadian Sen. Romeo Dallaire was United Nations Force Commander for Rwanda during the

genocide.

Dallaire and Hassan Jallow, the chief prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal on Rwanda (ICTR), were in Ottawa Thursday to talk about the anniversary, not just of the genocide but also of the court.

In November 1994, the United Nations Security Council called for an investigation into the genocide and established the ICTR to prosecute those responsible for the atrocities.

The ICTR is about to conclude its mandate; its work is slated to be phased out slowly this year. Jallow told reporters lessons have been learned since 1994 and said Africa is a very different place today.

“When Rwanda was happening, the attitude in Africa was one of non-interference,” he said. “The Rwandan experience has taught us to be our brother’s keeper.”

Among the 93 individuals indicted at the ICTR are the former Rwandan prime minister, former cabinet ministers, military personnel, public service workers.

Several people died before they had their day in court and Jallow said only nine people wanted for trial at the ICTR had not been arrested.

RDC CONGO :

RD Congo: les rebelles du M23 et le gouvernement trouvent un accord

Par L'EXPRESS.fr/le 12/12/2013

La RDC et le M23 ont signé ce jeudi des documents dans lesquels ils s'engagent à mettre fin au conflit et aux activités armées du groupe rebelle.

La République démocratique du Congo et les rebelles du M23 se sont engagés à mettre fin au conflit dans l'est du pays, dans des documents signés ce jeudi à Nairobi, a annoncé le président ougandais Yoweri Museveni dans un communiqué.

"Aujourd'hui, le gouvernement de RDC et le M23 ont respectivement signé des déclarations" en vue "de mettre fin aux activités armées du M23" et "sur les mesures nécessaires pour parvenir à une stabilité durable" et à "la réconciliation", dans ce communiqué.

Kinshasa et les rebelles du M23 enterrent la hache de guerre

FRANCE 24/13/12/2013

Le gouvernement de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) et les rebelles du M23 sont parvenus à un accord de paix, jeudi, à Nairobi selon les présidences ougandaise et kenyane. Les rebelles avaient déjà déposé les armes début novembre.

Fin des hostilités entre Kinshasa et le M23. Le gouvernement de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) et le mouvement rebelle ont signé un accord de paix à Nairobi, a annoncé jeudi 12 novembre la présidence kenyane via le compte Twitter de son porte-parole, Manoah Esipisu.

L'information a été confirmée par le président ougandais Yoweri Museveni. "Aujourd'hui, le gouvernement de RDC et le M23 ont respectivement signé des déclarations" en vue "de mettre fin aux activités armées du M23" et "sur les mesures nécessaires pour parvenir à une stabilité durable" et à "la réconciliation", a ainsi déclaré le chef d'État dans un communiqué.

Actifs dans l'est de la RD Congo, les rebelles du M23, ont déposé les armes début novembre face aux succès de l'armée gouvernementale congolaise, appuyée par une brigade d'intervention de l'Onu. Un accord devait ensuite être conclu, mais sa signature, prévue le 11 novembre, avait été reportée au dernier moment.

Pas d'amnistie générale

Le porte-parole du gouvernement de RDC, Lambert Mende, a précisé que trois documents avaient été signés jeudi à la State House, résidence officielle du président kenyan à Nairobi. Ils réaffirment la dissolution du M23 en tant que groupe armé et précisent les modalités de la démobilisation ainsi que la renonciation de ses membres à la violence pour faire valoir leurs droits.

"Le document est très clair : il n'y a pas d'amnistie générale. Ceux qui sont présumés s'être comportés de façon criminelle sur le plan du droit international, avoir commis des crimes de guerre ou des crimes contre l'humanité, ne seront pas réinsérés dans la société", a déclaré Lambert Mende.

Le M23 tient son nom de l'accord du 23 mars 2009 qui a mis fin à une insurrection au Nord-Kivu et prévoyait l'intégration des rebelles au sein des forces gouvernementales. Considérant que cet accord n'avait pas été respecté par le gouvernement de Kinshasa, certains militaires se sont mutinés en avril 2012.

Avec dépêches (AFP et Reuters)

UGANDA :

LRA Rebels Surrender to Ugandan Army

Peter Clotney/voanews.com/December 12, 2013

The spokesman for Uganda's People's Defense Force (UPDF), says 19 fighters from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have surrendered following intense international pressure on the rebel group.

Lt. Col. Paddy Ankunda said the rebels are in the custody of the Ugandan army in the Central African Republic (CAR) where they defected from the LRA.

"They came with nine rifles and these include nine children. Currently, we are with them at our detaching center in the [CAR], and we are providing them with psychosocial rehabilitation and medical assistance as we prepare to work together with other agencies to repatriate them back to Uganda," said Ankunda. "We would be working together with all those who are willing to help us in the effort of rescuing the children."

Uganda has 2,500 soldiers supported by some "few" troops from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), as part of an effort to end the LRA rebellion, according to Ankunda.

International support

In October 2011, President Barack Obama ordered the deployment of about 100 US soldiers to Uganda to help regional forces hunt down the leaders of the LRA.

The UPDF is cooperating with the regional task force of the African Union-led Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA).

The rebels are accused of widespread murder, rape, and pillage in several countries including Uganda and the Central African Republic.

Ankunda said the defection is a boost to international efforts to end the violence. He hailed US support in the quest to end the insurgency.

"[It's] very significant, particularly that the United States has been supporting our efforts to rescue children who are being held in captivity in the hands of the LRA, and those who are still vulnerable to attacks by the LRA," said Ankunda.

The group of 19 LRA fighters becomes the first to surrender to the UPDF since 2008, according to Ankunda.

"This is the first group as big as this. [It] is very critical. It tells you about the strength of the LRA, and it tells you that they are running out of steam," said Ankunda. "Obviously, we [will] be putting much pressure [by] working with the United Nations to ensure that the LRA [is defeated]."

Surrender talks

Recently, officials of the CAR said they held peace talks aimed at having the LRA surrender. But, representatives of the Ugandan government expressed skepticism. Previous negotiations between the LRA and the Uganda government failed to end rebel violence.

"What is important here is to continue to exert pressure on the Lord's Resistance Army," said Ankunda. "We encourage efforts by the Central African Republic to try and engage the LRA in peace talks. We've done that before and we know what it is, but we need to encourage whoever is willing to engage the LRA in peace, in dialogue. But we have to remember that these are killers."

Ankunda said that the UPDDF is hopeful that more African countries will contribute troops to help in the fight to end the LRA rebellion.

"We hope that other African countries will join in this effort, and make sure that we strengthen the African Union Regional Task Force to make sure that we bring that part of Africa to stability," said Ankunda.

Asked whether those who surrender will face prosecution for alleged atrocities committed during the rebellion, Ankunda said the plan is to ensure the rebels return safely to Uganda.

"We are planning that next week they should be back in Uganda, and we are working with other agencies [like] International Organization for Migration," said Ankunda. "The plan is that they should come back home because they are all Ugandans, and so that should be worked out as soon as possible."

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa after Mandela: A question of leadership
economist.com/13122013

Nelson Mandela set a standard that his successors have struggled to match

AS THE days passed and the news sunk in that Nelson Mandela, the country's first black president, had died peacefully at his home in Houghton, a pleasant suburb of Johannesburg, South Africa reacted at first with sadness but quickly shifted to celebrating an extraordinary life. People congregated through the night outside Mr Mandela's home, as well as at his former residence in Soweto, an urban sprawl a half-hour's drive away. Some came to sing songs; others to light hundreds of candles in remembrance.

A very different form of memorialising could be heard during one of the many Sunday prayer services held in honour of "Madiba", Mr Mandela's clan name. Thabo Mbeki, who served as president after him, said a proper celebration should also include a reflection on whether the country's current leadership was living up to the standards set by Mr Mandela and his contemporaries.

The theme of leadership was taken up by Barack Obama, the star turn at a rain-soaked memorial service held on December 10th in a football stadium in Soweto. Speaking in front of leaders from 91 countries Mr Obama said Mr Mandela set a high bar. "While I will always fall short of Madiba's example, he makes me want to be a better man."

The crowd greeted Mr Obama's arrival with cheers. By contrast Jacob Zuma, South Africa's president, was booed by sections of the stadium. It was the first discordant note since Mr Mandela's death on December 5th. It was also an audible gauge of how far the standing of the presidency has fallen since Mr Mandela held the office. The ruling African National Congress (ANC), with Mr Zuma at its head, will next year face its toughest election campaign since coming to power in 1994.

In every dream home a heartache

In the week before Mr Mandela's death the news in South Africa was dominated by a furore over an official report leaked to the Mail & Guardian, a weekly newspaper, concerning the 215m rand (\$22m) of public money spent on Mr Zuma's private home at Nkandla, in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. An investigation led by Thuli Madonsela, the public protector, found that Mr Zuma had derived "substantial" private benefits from publicly funded building works to make his home secure. A new swimming pool, amphitheatre and cattle enclosure were part of what was supposed to be a security upgrade.

Mr Zuma told parliament in 2012 that his family had paid for all the building work on his Nkandla home, bar the security features. The report of Ms Madonsela's provisional findings suggests otherwise. Mr Zuma's allies had been trying to delay publication of the report, only for a version of it to be leaked. The damage was compounded by an earlier government edict, on November 20th, forbidding the publication of photographs of Mr Zuma's home. That was met with defiant front-page splashes of the Nkandla compound. As a consequence many more taxpayers are now aware of its grandeur.

This is one of a number of scandals that have dogged Mr Zuma. In April a private plane carrying

200 wedding guests of the Guptas, an Indian family with business interests in South Africa, was allowed to land at an air-force base near Pretoria. A link was soon made in many people's minds between this preferential treatment and the Guptas' close ties with Mr Zuma, though an inquiry found that he did not personally approve the landing. And Mr Zuma has never quite shaken off the taint of his close association with another businessman, Schabir Shaik, who was convicted of bribery in 2005.

The poor state of the economy has not helped his popularity. Unemployment, at nearly 25% of the workforce, is higher than it was when Mr Mandela took office in 1994. If the 2m or so adults who have given up looking for work are included, the jobless rate rises to 37%. The economy is growing too slowly to create many jobs, even as much of the rest of Africa is booming.

Angry protests about a lack of basic amenities are common, although there has been a steady increase in the reach of municipal services. The ranks of the black middle class have swollen in the years since Mr Mandela's presidency. But many others lower down the income scale feel they have been left behind.

One of Mr Mandela's strengths was his ability to get disparate groups to work together in a common interest. The ANC fought against apartheid in tandem with the South African Communist Party and, from the mid-1980s, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, known as COSATU. This tripartite alliance continued into government but has more recently shown signs of fracturing.

The pressing need to fix the economy puts the ANC at odds with the unions. The bulk of the unemployed are young adults, many of them unskilled. Even so it took more than three years for the government to bring to parliament a modest scheme to subsidise untried workers, because of union opposition. Education also needs urgent reform. Only 70% of pupils who stay on to take the school-leaving certificate are able to pass it. Yet teaching unions have stood firm against a no-strike rule and performance reviews.

Mr Zuma owes his position to support from the unions, and his party relies on them to get voters out on election day. Relations have been strained since Zwelinzima Vavi, a popular figure on the left and a vocal critic of ANC corruption, was suspended as general secretary of COSATU earlier this year. His allies suspect a plot to silence an awkward figure and to turn COSATU into a lapdog of the ruling party. Some unions, including the National Union of Metalworkers (NUMSA), one of the largest, want Mr Vavi reinstated. NUMSA will hold a conference later this month to decide whether to quit the federation and withdraw its support from the ruling party.

A split within COSATU could eventually lead to the formation of a breakaway labour party, an option said to be favoured by a majority of union officials. The ANC already faces a challenge to its left flank from the Economic Freedom Fighters, a new party launched in October. It is led by Julius Malema, a populist left-winger who was boss of the ANC's youth wing until he was expelled. Mr Malema faces fraud charges that could land him in prison. He nonetheless has support from sections of the poor who feel they lack a political voice.

The vote to come

The ANC won 65.9% of the vote at the most recent general election in 2009. The Democratic Alliance (DA), a liberal party that is its nearest rival, took just 17% but is gaining in popularity. In 2014 the ANC could also lose moderate voters to Agang, another new party, led by Mamphele Ramphele, a veteran of the fight against apartheid. Losing the election seems inconceivable but the ANC is unlikely to retain such a commanding lead.

Until this week many political pundits had believed that Mr Mandela's death would work in the ANC's favour by reminding voters of the party's central role in attaining racial equality and political stability. Yet it could also free its erstwhile supporters from a debt of loyalty to the party. Comparisons can be unflattering. Entreaties by the ANC at election time to "remember Madiba" might not prove a very reliable way to win votes.

South Africa "joined at the hip" to Cuba

By Cliff Kincaid/renewamerica.com/December 12, 2013

If President Obama's handshake with Cuban dictator Raul Castro is news, Castro's featured presence at the Nelson Mandela memorial service and what the South African government said about him are equally newsworthy. South Africa was described as "joined at the hip" to Cuba and in its debt for "liberation."

Yet, this part of the memorial service has been carefully edited out of most of the "mainstream media" coverage of the event.

The service was organized and orchestrated by officers of the African National Congress (ANC), the ruling party of South Africa which operates as a front for the South African Communist Party. Baleka Mbete, ANC chairperson, introduced Raul Castro's speech by saying, "Comrades, we will now get an address from a tiny island – an island of people who liberated us, who fought for our liberation in Cuito Cuanavale – the people of Cuba."

Cuito Cuanavale refers to the foreign intervention of thousands of Cuban military troops on behalf of communist Angolan government forces in Africa under the guidance of Soviet military officers during 1987 and 1988. This was a critical time when communist forces backed by the Soviet Union, Cuba and China were determined to crush the non-communist pro-freedom movement UNITA (The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola).

As part of his effort to turn the tide against communism in Africa and elsewhere, the "Reagan Doctrine," President Ronald Reagan strongly supported UNITA and its leader, Jonas Savimbi.

In the end, the communists solidified control of Angola, assassinated Savimbi (shot 15 times, twice to the head and once to the throat), and then took over Namibia and South Africa as the white population – fearing extinction in the face of the onslaught – made deals with the communists.

Mandela, in commemorating the 20th anniversary of the battle in 2008, referred to it as "a turning point for the liberation of our continent and my people." This helps explain why the Cuban regime is held in such high regard by the South African government. The ANC and SWAPO (the South West Africa People's Organization) communists in Namibia greatly benefitted from the Cuban imperialistic intervention. Of course, Mandela's communist movement also enjoyed the support of Libya and the PLO.

After Raul Castro's speech, during which he highlighted Mandela's visit to Cuba to meet with and thank Fidel Castro, ANC deputy president Cyril Ramaphosa said, "Thank you President Castro. We thank you for all the support and help that we continue to get from the people of Cuba during our years of struggle, and our countries continue to be joined at the hip in the areas of development..."

AIM noted in our column about current South African President Jacob Zuma that he traveled to Cuba in 2010 to receive the top Communist award from Raul Castro himself. Zuma also told a meeting of young communists in South Africa, "Work begins today in earnest to improve the quality

of life of all our people and to build Cuban-style patriotism and internationalism within our ranks."

Of the 6 "foreign dignitaries" listed on the official Mandela memorial service program as giving a tribute to Mandela, five are known Marxists: Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff (a former terrorist herself); Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao; Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba; Cuba's Raul Castro; and of course President Obama. The other speaker was President Pranab Mukherjee of India, described as a "close friend" of Marxists in India who has "remained a friend" of the Communist Party of India during his political career and leadership in the United Progressive Alliance. Indeed, he has been labeled a "communist agent." The Indian delegation to the memorial service included Sitaram Yechury of the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M).

Earlier in the memorial service, Andrew Mlangeni, identified as a Mandela "family friend," spoke on Mandela's behalf. Now considered an "elder statesman" in the ANC, he had studied "military science" and "guerrilla theory" in China. The Stephen Ellis book, *External Mission*, confirms that Umkhonto we Sizwe, which became the military arm of the ANC, was launched by the South African Communist Party after negotiations with Chinese Communist mass murderer and dictator Mao Tse-tung. The cover of the book, which also reveals that the East German secret police trained the ANC's security personnel, shows a photograph of Mao Tse-tung meeting with SACP leader Yusuf Dadoo, a Muslim Indian South African communist.

Mandela ran Umkhonto we Sizwe, which carried out violence and terrorism, and he went to prison as a result. He was never a "political prisoner." He refused to renounce violence in order to be released early. He could have been hanged for his conviction for terrorism.

Although Mandela is being widely praised for his spirit of "forgiveness" and "reconciliation," the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), led by Mangosuthu Buthelezi, was never fully accepted as a legitimate partner and actor in South African politics by Mandela's ANC. The IFP advocated the abolition of apartheid, or racial segregation, but refused to engage in violence and terrorism against innocent people. It also had an anti-communist orientation.

"The armed struggle, and Inkatha's refusal to engage it, had driven a wedge between our organizations," Buthelezi says. "Propaganda against me and Inkatha was rife and there were many attempts on my life."

But the U.S. government under Obama is in complete support of the South African government and provides an estimated \$500 million a year in foreign aid to the regime.

The United States ambassador to South Africa, former Democratic Party operative and radical organizer Patrick Gaspard, recently announced that American taxpayers would provide an additional \$100,000 in U.S. government funding for the purpose of the "preservation of documents" relating to Mandela. The money was given to the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory, the official home of the Nelson Mandela Foundation. This is the same group offering a poster featuring a quotation of Mandela under an image of communist murderer and Castro henchman Che Guevara.

In supporting South Africa, the U.S. is supporting Cuba. Obama's handshake with Castro only confirms this fact.

South Africans Have Last Chance for Nelson Mandela Farewell (1)

By Rene Vollgraaff, Nasreen Seria and Kevin Crowley/businessweek.com/December 13, 2013

South Africans lined up for their last chance to pay their respects to former President Nelson

Mandela's before his body is taken to Qunu, his hometown in the Eastern Cape, for a funeral on Dec. 15.

Lines stretched for miles early today outside the gardens to the entrance to the Union Buildings. Women dressed in traditional outfits and the green and black colors of the ruling African National Congress sang as the hearse carrying Mandela's casket draped in the South African flag passed by.

"I could not see him while he was still alive, I must come to see his face one last time," Fridah Shezi-Chabalala, 73, who woke up at 4 a.m., said as she waited with her granddaughter Tumi. "A man like him we will not see again, a man who went to jail for 27 years for white and black. He was good to everybody."

Today is the last day for most citizens to view Mandela's body and pay tribute to the man credited with ending apartheid. Mandela's funeral in Qunu, which isn't open to the general public, will be attended by about 5,000 people including his family and foreign dignitaries including the U.K.'s Prince Charles.

'At Peace'

About 40,000 people viewed Mandela's open coffin outside the Union Buildings in Pretoria over the past two days, according to government estimates. Mourners lined up from about 6 a.m. local time yesterday and underwent security checks before spending a brief moment next to the casket.

"As long as I can say goodbye to Madiba, the last farewell," Caroline Baloyi, 78, said today, referring to Mandela's clain name, as she wiped away tears. "I'm not well, but I said today is the last day and I'll never see him again. We are sad, but it was his time. He is at peace."

Mourners sang songs and signed condolence books yesterday as they waited for hours to pay tribute to Mandela, who became South Africa's first black president in 1994 when his ANC won the country's first multiracial elections.

Outside the Union Buildings in Pretoria, Mandela's head and shoulders are visible behind a glass covering. Military personnel, heads bowed and dressed in white, guard the coffin as mourners walk by.

A nine-meter (30-foot) statue of Mandela was being prepared for its unveiling on Dec. 16. The statue, which has its arms outstretched, is located in the gardens leading up to the Union Buildings. The face and the arms of the bronze statue remained covered today.

Between 13,000 and 14,000 people filed past Mandela's coffin on the afternoon of Dec. 11 at a rate of about 3,100 viewings an hour, according to government spokesman Phumla Williams. At the same rate, a further 28,000 people would have viewed the body yesterday.

Mandela was 95 years old when he died at his home in Johannesburg on Dec. 5 after being ill for a year. He left the hospital in September after three months of treatment for a lung infection.

Mourning South Africans reclaim Mandela

December 13, 2013/news.com.au

NELSON Mandela has been reclaimed by ordinary South Africans who queued in huge numbers under the hot sun to file past his open casket on a day reserved for the public.

As Mandela lay in state for a second day, a row deepened over a sign language interpreter at his memorial service, who responded to charges he was a fraud by insisting that a schizophrenic episode had caused him to gesticulate nonsensically.

Thursday's viewing was devoid of the world leaders, VIPs and celebrity mourners who had monopolised much of the previous day.

Instead, tens of thousands of ordinary people from all walks of life queued from before daybreak for a last glimpse of the prisoner-turned-president renowned for his uncommon common touch.

The long lines were reminiscent of the snaking queues of voters who waited to cast their first ballots in a democratic South Africa in 1994.

They were often dressed in the vibrant yellow, green and black of the ruling African National Congress that Mandela once led, and many wore black armbands, singing and dancing as helicopters hovered overhead.

The large numbers meant many were inevitably turned away, leaving a last chance on Friday before Mandela's body is removed and taken to his boyhood home of Qunu for burial on Sunday.

The response to the public viewings has been enormous, reflecting a profound desire among many to say a personal farewell to the man who led them out of the apartheid era.

Up to 14,000 people had filed past the open-top casket on Wednesday afternoon alone.

"I can't even sleep, I'm thinking of Madiba," said Anita Bodiba, 35, using the clan name for the democracy icon, who died a week ago at the age of 95.

"He is the one who united us here in South Africa - white people, black people, Indian people."

The anti-apartheid icon's second wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, 77, described for the first time her final moments with Madiba.

"I knew we had reached the end. You get this numb feeling. You don't react to that. I can't describe that kind of sorrow," she told Britain's ITV television.

"I went close to him and I noticed he was breathing really slowly. I was holding him, trying to feel his temperature and he felt cold. Then he drew his last breath and just rested.... He was gone."

The sharp media focus on Mandela's week-long state funeral was fractured slightly by a sign interpreter for the deaf who worked at Tuesday's memorial service.

Thamsanqa Jantjie was branded a fraud by members of South Africa's deaf community, who said his signing for US President Barack Obama and other world leaders at the event in Soweto amounted to little more than "flapping his arms around".

Jantjie insisted he was a qualified signer, but said his behaviour was due to a sudden attack of schizophrenia, for which he takes medication.

"There was nothing I could do. I was alone in a very dangerous situation," he told Johannesburg daily The Star, adding that he was hearing voices and hallucinating at the time.

There was further public anger over an image circulating online that purported to be of Mandela's face after his death.

The photo was believed to be a hoax, given its strong resemblance to an AFP photo taken of Mandela in July 1991 when he was closing his eyes at an ANC party congress in Durban.

Mandela's lying in state was held in the amphitheatre of the Union Buildings where the Nobel laureate was inaugurated as South Africa's first black president in 1994, after emerging from 27 years' imprisonment.

"It was so sad," Alinah Lekalakala, 52, said after seeing the body.

"I needed to pay my last respects because I am so grateful for what he has done.

"This will help me to accept that he is gone."

In the amphitheatre soon to be renamed after him, Mandela's body lay underneath a perspex drum screen, dressed in the type of printed shirt that became his trademark.

Four navy officers guarded the coffin, their eyes downcast, as Mandela's grandson Mandla sat nearby.

Some grief-stricken visitors collapsed as they passed the casket, and were helped away by medical personnel and fellow mourners.

But for Tryphina Kau, 78, the event was a joyful one.

"I am very, very happy because his spirit is still with us, only the body is going," she said, recounting the day Mandela shook her hand while she queued to vote in South Africa's first democratic elections two decades ago.

"I saw him at the beginning, and I came to see him at the end."

A world away, in Hollywood's Beverly Hills, there was special applause as the biopic *Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom*, received a best actor nomination for next year's Golden Globes awards.

TANZANIA :

Tanzania: 'Resources Lead to Fortune'

By Orton Kiishweko/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/13 December 2013

A HOW-to guide for the government and local 'wananchi' on managing natural resources was launched in Dar es Salaam aimed at ending or preventing the so called 'resource curse' plaguing the economic development of many countries with such resources.

Dubbed the Tanzania natural resource charter, the Chief Secretary Ambassador Ombeni Sefue launched its pane of experts yesterday asking them to take the responsibility very seriously for it has huge implications for the country.

He asked them to accommodate all views of skeptics and enthusiasts and to consider national interests and not of interests of their constituencies.

He also asked them to be open minded and not to feel constrained by their positions or where they come from. "Put Tanzania first. Let resources lead us to fortunes," he said.

Ambassador Sefue said the government is determined that resources generate most possible revenues. "Management of resources will be a big economic driver to bring gains of resources to the people," he said.

He added that the Charter would help citizens develop this for the good of the country. He said all this is aimed at fair and sustainable development The Charter has also been adopted by NEPAD.

He said the process is not externally driven, but moved by the government to ensure local resources benefit. The panel would support the government to see opportunities along the value chain in the extractive sector. The Panel members cover a cross section of disciplines.

"The entire team is local. This is our process," he said. Presenting a paper at the launch, Prof Paul Collier from Oxford University, said the Charter gives both the government and ordinary citizens the knowledge they need in order to make the right decisions.

He said the Charter gives knowledge and understanding to both parties to make the right decisions. He said the experts, who are Tanzania, would help the government to get knowledge and see what the country's needs are and harness the existing opportunities. He said the knowledge would help in building of institutions and set rules.

"It is a good start. You will be building and thinking for years to build capacity and critical understanding. It is being hosted by Uongozi Institute in the country.

Globally, the Resource Charter is an 11-point plan prepared by a group of highprofile economists, lawyers and political scientists, including Michael Spence, 2001 laureate of the Nobel prize in economics; Robert Conrad, an expert on natural resources economics at Duke University, and Tony Venables and Paul Collier, professors of economics at Oxford University. One of the key steps recommended by the Resource Charter is to use the revenues of natural assets to boost domestic investment.

"Saving the money into a sovereign wealth fund is wrong for these countries, as their big problem is lack of domestic capital," said Collier. " Neither should the revenues be used in the ordinary state budget because they come from a depleting natural resource.

Instead, nations should invest in investing, by increasing the mass of domestic capital available." When it comes to fighting corruption, countries should auction extraction rights, rather than engage in one-on-one negotiations. "Auctions force companies to inadvertently reveal the real value of extraction rights, something that the government may not know," explains Collier.

"In a straight negotiation, there is also a strong incentive on the side of the company to bribe the government officials taking the decisions," he says.

"In an auction, the bid's winner is usually the closest to the true value of the natural assets." Recent natural gas finds and ongoing mining activities in Tanzania present an extraordinary opportunity for development.

Government revenues could be as much as \$2.5 billion per year, large enough to dwarf aid flows and finance sustained human development gains.

At this size, revenues will also be large enough to pose well known political and economic 'resource curse' risks.

These, among other challenges relating to the governance and economic management of natural resources will be addressed by the Natural Resource Charter, which is a government led initiative supported by the Natural Resource Charter-Revenue Watch Institute (NRC-RWI), and housed at UONGOZI Institute.

KENYA :

DR Congo government 'signs deal with M23 in Kenya'

12 December 2013/bbc.co.uk

The Democratic Republic of Congo's government has signed a peace deal with the M23 rebel movement its forces defeated last month, Kenya's presidential spokesman says.

The accord was signed in the presence of regional leaders in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, Manohar Esipisu said.

Last month, the government refused to sign a deal brokered by Uganda.

At least 800,000 people fled their homes during the conflict.

The M23 took up arms in eastern DR Congo in April 2012, accusing the government of marginalising the ethnic Tutsi minority and failing to honour previous peace accords.

'No blanket amnesty'

It was defeated early last month following a major offensive by government and United Nations (UN) forces.

The UN has more than 19,000 troops in DR Congo, with an attack force given the mandate of neutralising armed groups.

DR Congo government spokesman Lambert Mende told the BBC's Focus on Africa radio programme that the M23 had signed one document and the government another.

There was no single document that both sides had signed, he said.

The M23 document, signed by its political head Bertrand Bisimwa, confirmed the dissolution of the M23 as an armed group, Mr Mende added.

In the government document, Foreign Minister Raymond Chibanda signalled the government's determination to work towards the disarmament and demobilisation of M23 combatants and their reintegration into society, he said.

There would be no amnesty for those wanted for war crimes, Mr Mende added.

Earlier, Mr Esipisu said on his Twitter account that DR Congo's President Joseph Kabila was hailed by regional leaders for signing the deal at a ceremony in the capital, Nairobi.

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta hosted the ceremony.

Other leaders present included Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni and Malawi's President Joyce Banda, he said.

The leaders were in Nairobi to attend celebrations to mark Kenya's 50 years of independence.

On 12 November the DR Congo government refused to sign a deal with the M23 in Uganda's capital, Kampala.

It said it had a problem with the title of the Ugandan-mediated document, not its contents.

The document should be called a declaration and not an accord as that gave too much credibility to the rebels, the government said at the time.

Eastern DR Congo has been wracked by conflict since 1994, when Hutu militias fled across the border from Rwanda after carrying out a genocide against Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

According to the charity Oxfam, there are currently more than 30 other groups are operating in the east.

Kenya says all terrorists died in mall attack

Associated Press/December 13, 2013

Nairobi: All the terrorists died in a recent attack on a Kenyan mall, contrary to suggestions in a New York Police Department report that some of the attackers could have escaped, a Kenyan official said on Thursday.

Somalia's al-Shabab militant group claimed responsibility for the Sept. 21 attack on Westgate Mall in Nairobi in which at least 67 people were killed.

Maj. Emmanuel Chirchir, a military spokesman, said that the bodies of the four attackers were discovered and dismissed suggestions, attributed to a New York Police Department report released this week, that some of the attackers could have escaped.

Chirchir dismissed the NYPD report, saying it used secondary information and that NYPD did not have representatives among the group of western investigators assisting Kenya with the probe.

At an NYPD briefing on Tuesday for corporate security officials, Lt. Kevin Yorke of the Intelligence Division presented an analysis of the Kenyan attack and the response by authorities there that he said was "based solely on open-source information we gathered and is unclassified."

Much of the presentation focused on closed-circuit footage of the four shooters during the first 12 hours of the siege. One segment showed the men hiding out in a storage area until one disabled a camera.

Yorke said it was the last known images of the terrorists, and questioned why they weren't seen again even though other closed-circuit cameras around the mall were running for another 34 hours.

"That's the million-dollar question: Were the terrorists killed or did they escape? As cop, I'm very skeptical of any claims unless I see some proof," he said. "To put it politely, the Kenyan government has been vague and contradictory in their explanations. ... So while the Kenyan government says the terrorists are dead, killed in the rooftop collapse, there's a lot of doubt in my mind that it's true."

Western investigators, led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), have said it appears likely all four attackers died inside the mall. Kenyan investigators say they have identified three of the four attackers from pictures and DNA tests of the remains that were found.

Three of the four attackers died of fire or smoke inhalation, said the Kenyan official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to share the information.

In court documents Kenya's Anti-terrorism Police Unit identifies two of the attackers as Hassan Abdi Dhuhulow, a 23-year-old Somalia native whose family moved to Norway in 1999, and Mohammed Abdinur Said, who a Kenyan official told the Associated Press was a refugee in Kakuma refugee camp in northwestern Kenya.

Kenyan officials have not released the name of the third attacker that they say they have identified.

The four Westgate Mall attackers - all ethnic Somalis - crossed into Kenya in June and settled in Nairobi's ethnic Somali neighborhood, where they worked out at the Andalus Gym, a Western official said last month.

None of the four had ever been to the U.S. or Britain, the official said.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

US: South Africa oversaw Mandela event security
(AFP)/12122013

Washington — The US Secret Service said Thursday that it had been solely up to South Africa to vet participants in Nelson Mandela's memorial service, as a storm swirled over security at the event.

A fake sign language interpreter, who has admitted he has a mental illness, stood yards from President Barack Obama and other dignitaries at Tuesday's ceremony in Soweto.

Claims that the man, Thamsanqa Jantjie, suffered a schizophrenic episode and hallucinations at the event, raised questions in the United States as to whether Obama had been in any danger.

Brian Leary, a Secret Service spokesman, said that it was the South African organizing committee's responsibility to deal with participants and sign language interpreters.

"For the purposes of this memorial service, this would include vetting them for criminal history and other appropriate records checks," Leary said, but did not confirm whether such precautions were taken by the South Africans.

He declined to give further details on the discussions the Secret Service had with South African authorities.

He did however say that wherever Obama travels, Secret Service agents are in close proximity to the president to deal with any security incidents.

A federal official meanwhile told AFP that US authorities had no legal standing to carry out any investigations into the events in Soweto.

Jantjie has been branded a fraud by members of South Africa's deaf community, who said his signing amounted to little more than "flapping his arms around."

On Thursday, he insisted he was a qualified signer, but said his behavior was down to a sudden attack of schizophrenia, for which he takes medication.

"There was nothing I could do. I was alone in a very dangerous situation," he told Johannesburg daily The Star, adding that he was hearing voices and hallucinating.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

China's Mandela problem

By Phelim Kine, Special to CNN/December 12th, 2013

It's the Chinese government's Nelson Mandela problem.

When news broke of Mandela's death on December 5, China's state media joined in the global torrent of tributes for the former political prisoner turned beloved president of South Africa. President Xi Jinping praised Mandela as "an accomplished politician of global standing," while state-owned China Central Television described him as "an old friend of China." Glaring omissions in those early tributes were references to "freedom," "democracy" and any mention of Mandela as a Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

That was no accident. For the ruling Chinese Communist Party, observing Nelson Mandela's death is a fraught exercise in verbal contortions to distance him from China's own imprisoned Nobel laureate and advocate for peaceful social change: the writer Liu Xiaobo.

On December 11, China's state-owned Global Times went on the offensive with an accusation that "Western media" had "deliberately cast a light on the imprisonment of Liu and praised him as 'China's Mandela.'" The objective? To deflect from the striking parallels between the globally revered former South African president and the quiet, self-effacing Chinese writer in Jinzhou Prison in northeastern Liaoning province.

But this is easier said than done.

Both Mandela and Liu symbolize the courage of individuals who challenge abusive status quos against overwhelming odds. Mandela faced down the "apartheid" system of discriminatory, forced racial segregation implemented by South Africa's National Party in 1948. Liu challenged the Chinese Communist Party's refusal to respect the rights and freedoms embodied both in international law and China's own constitution. Both men's stances were catalyzed by brutal state violence and impunity. In Mandela's case, it was the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre, in which police gunned down 69 unarmed anti-apartheid protesters in Sharpeville township. Liu's public disaffection with the Chinese government crystalized with the June 1989 massacre, in which People's Liberation Army troops shot dead untold numbers of unarmed civilians in Beijing and other cities around June 3-4, 1989.

Both Mandela and Liu are associated with documents that exposed the lack of popular legitimacy of abusive governments by outlining political alternatives that made human rights and democracy the priority. Mandela was one of the organizers of the 1955 opposition African National Congress conference that produced South Africa's Freedom Charter, which defied apartheid with the assertion that "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white." Liu Xiaobo is one of the drafters of Charter '08, a manifesto that explicitly advocated putting human rights, democracy, and the rule of law at the core of the Chinese political system.

Those challenges had a price. Nelson Mandela spent 27 years behind bars on charges of treason, sabotage and conspiracy to overthrow the state, while a Chinese court in 2009 sentenced Liu to an 11-year prison term on spurious "subversion" charges. After Mandela's imprisonment, his captors banned the publication and circulation of any of his photos in an effort to purge him from the collective public memory. China's state media has similarly censored references to Liu, his published works and his 2010 Nobel Peace Prize victory – both online and in the print media.

The families of both men have suffered for their activism. Mandela's wife and daughters lived under decades of tight police surveillance and eventual internal exile to the remote Afrikaner town of Brandfort. Chinese police, meanwhile, have reportedly tormented Liu's wife, Liu Xia, since his Nobel victory by placing her under a punitive and unlawful form of near-solitary confinement to her Beijing home. In August, a Beijing court sentenced his brother-law-law, Liu Hui, to an 11-year prison term on fraud charges that his family says are baseless and politically motivated.

You'll find no such comparisons in China's state media, though. The Chinese government has instead spun Mandela's legacy in line with propaganda goals: Mandela as an admirer of China's Communist revolution and Sun Tzu's classic Art of War military tactics treatise. As the media coverage of Mandela recedes following his December 15 burial, the Chinese government will breathe easier and hope that the awkward comparisons to Liu will be buried with him.

But Mandela's lesson – and warning – to the Chinese government is that brave individuals who speak truth to abusive regimes are more powerful than the walls and poisonous invective of their captors. That warning applies equally to foreign governments too often tempted to soft-pedal concerns about the Chinese government's human rights abuses – including Liu's imprisonment – in pursuit of perceived economic benefits.

Liu Xiaobo gave an implicit nod to Mandela at his trial on December 29, 2009 by confidently asserting, in the face of the Chinese state about to imprison him, that he too would eventually prevail.

"I have long been aware that when an independent intellectual stands up to an autocratic state, step one toward freedom is often a step into prison," he said. "Now I am taking that step; and true freedom is that much nearer."

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 13 Décembre 2013... AGNEWS/DAM,NY, 13/12/2013