



[De nouveaux échanges de tirs ont été entendus tôt mardi dans la capitale du Soudan du sud, au lendemain de l'annonce par le président qu'un coup d'Etat avait été déjoué dans la toute jeune nation, a constaté un journaliste de l'AFP. Des tirs sporadiques, notamment à l'arme lourde, ont repris dès les premières heures de la matinée et ont été entendus jusqu'à 9h00 (06H00 GMT) mardi, en provenance de bâtiments militaires, à quelques km du centre ville de Juba. Seuls quelques véhicules patrouillaient dans les rues désertes de la capitale dont les habitants étaient barricadés dans leurs foyers.]

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

Exclusive - Congo's army accused of abuse as rebels regroup in Rwanda - U.N. experts
By Louis Charbonneau and Michelle Nichols/Reuters/Tue Dec 17, 2013

UNITED NATIONS

(Reuters) - Recently defeated M23 rebels in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo have continued to recruit fighters in neighboring Rwanda while the Congolese army has been involved in human rights abuses and corruption, according to a confidential U.N. report.

"The Group has documented that M23 received continued support from Rwandan territory," the U.N. Group of Experts said in its final report to the Security Council's Congo sanctions committee, which was seen by Reuters on Monday.

"The Group has received credible information that sanctioned M23 leaders are moving freely in Uganda and that M23 has continued to recruit in Rwanda," it said.

The independent expert panel also accused armed groups and the Congolese army of human rights abuses - including use of child soldiers, summary executions and sexual violence - and profiting from illegal mining operations in resource-rich eastern Congo.

The allegations come at a sensitive time for Congo, which is struggling to defeat armed militia in its eastern provinces. Millions of people have died from violence, disease and hunger since the 1990s in eastern Congo where myriad rebel groups have fought over gold, diamonds, copper, cobalt and uranium deposits.

The U.N. experts have repeatedly accused neighboring Rwanda of backing the rebellion by M23 in eastern Congo, a claim the Rwandan government has fiercely rejected. The U.N. Security Council has blacklisted M23.

Rwanda's U.N. mission had no immediate reaction, though a Rwandan diplomat told Reuters he dismissed the charges: "We are tired by these same allegations."

Western officials say that Rwanda's denials are not credible, and U.S. and European governments imposed punitive measures on Kigali to pressure it to halt its support for M23.

Rwanda has repeatedly intervened in Congo, saying it had to hunt down the Hutu militia who fled after the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Rwanda and Congo have fought two wars over the past two decades in Congo's east.

A spokesman for the Ugandan mission said he could not comment on a report that has not been formally released yet. Congolese diplomats were not immediately available for comment.

The report estimated that 98 percent of the gold produced in Congo in 2013 was smuggled out of the country and nearly all of it traded in Uganda.

"The Group also estimates that the value of gold smuggled out of Congo during 2013 to be between \$383 (million) and \$409 million," the report said, adding that the resulting tax revenue losses amounted to as much as \$8.2 million.

"Armed groups and FARDC continue to control many mining sites and to profit from mining and the minerals trade," it said.

"Smuggling of minerals - particularly tin, tungsten and tantalum - from eastern DRC through neighboring countries continued in during 2013, and undermines the credibility and progress of international certification and traceability mechanisms."

SEXUAL VIOLENCE, RWANDAN TANKS

Congolese troops and the U.N. peacekeeping mission - which includes a unique Intervention Brigade mandated to eliminate armed groups - last month defeated M23, which signed a peace deal with the Congo government on Thursday.

The Tutsi-led M23 rebel group ended its 20-month rebellion, the most serious in Congo in the last decade, after Congolese soldiers and U.N. peacekeepers, known as MONUSCO, captured its last hilltop strongholds, near the Rwandan border.

"The most consistent forms of support were through recruitment and provision of arms and ammunition, particularly during periods of combat," said the 48-page report, dated December 12.

"M23 also received direct troop reinforcement by Rwandan soldiers in August," the group said. "During the October fighting, Rwandan tanks, fired into DRC in support of M23."

The report cited "serious violations of international humanitarian law, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, summary executions, sexual violence, and targeting of civilian populations."

"While armed groups carried out many of these crimes, the Group also identified the FARDC (Congolese army) as a party to numerous violations," the report said. "Government security forces, particularly FARDC, remain a significant source of sexual violence, notably against minors."

Rwanda has accused Congolese troops of collaborating with the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), a charge Kinshasa has denied. "During 2012, the group documented cases of local-level collaboration between FDLR and FARDC," the expert's report said.

Hutus who fled Rwanda after the genocide of 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutus make up about 30 percent of the FDLR fighters, according to the United Nations.

The experts said the defeat of M23 had sent a strong message to other armed groups in eastern Congo.

"While some have become more aggressive and others have moved into defensive postures as a result of fears of attack by FARDC and (the U.N. Intervention Brigade), several armed groups have started to surrender and expressed willingness to integrate into the Congolese army and police," the experts' report said.

The expert panel said that, through attacks on medical facilities, the Islamist extremist Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) was clearly stockpiling drugs and medical equipment to either prepare for an attack by the U.N. Intervention Brigade or to prepare for its own offensive military action.

The U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo has set up a task force to learn more about the ADF, which the U.N. experts described as "a large, highly organized, and dangerous force."

[ID:nL2N0J714G]

"The group has not found evidence that ADF has links with either al Shabaab or al Qaeda," the experts report said. (Reporting by Louis Charbonneau and Michelle Nichols; Editing by Cynthia Osterman)

Rwanda: Court Raises Jail Term for Ex-Mayor Found Guilty of Church Massacre

16 December 2013/Hirondelle News Agency (Lausanne)

Arusha — The Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) on Monday sentenced a former mayor to 25 years in jail for the massacre of Tutsis in a church during the 1994 genocide, whereas the lower court had given him only 15 years.

Grégoire Ndahimana, 60, was mayor of Kivumu, in the western prefecture of Kibuye, during the genocide. The five judges confirmed his conviction for genocide and extermination but with an increased form of responsibility.

The lower court had convicted Ndahimana for failing to sanction communal police who took part in the April 15, 1994 attack on Tutsis sheltering in Nyange Catholic church, which was situated in his

commune. He was also convicted for his "tacit approval" of the church's destruction the next day. The Nyange church was demolished with a bulldozer on April 16, burying alive some 2,000 Tutsis who were hiding there.

The Appeals Court found that Ndahimana indeed had a genocidal intention and acted in the context of a "joint criminal enterprise aimed at exterminating Tutsis from Kivumu commune". Its decision stresses that Ndahimana and other local dignitaries shared a beer, apparently celebrating, after the destruction of the church.

After the appeals judgment was read out, the ex-mayor, who had been standing in court, collapsed into his wheelchair. As for his wife, Esther, who was in the public gallery, she could not hold back her tears.

Ndahimana was arrested on August 10, 2009, in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, and transferred to the ICTR prison in Arusha, Tanzania, 11 days later. His trial opened on 6 September, 2010.

He is the third person to be convicted by the ICTR for the Nyange church massacre, after former parish priest Athanase Seromba and businessman Gaspard Kanyarukiga.

The ICTR has also indicted for the same events the ex-head of judicial police, Fulgence Kayishema, who is still on the run.

In Rwanda two Catholic priests, Edouard Nturiye and Jean-François Kayiranga were tried in connection with the Nyange church massacre and were acquitted. The driver of the bulldozer that destroyed the church, Anastase Nkinamubanzi, was sentenced in Rwanda to life imprisonment.

The role of the churches, especially the Catholic church, in the Rwandan genocide is still highly controversial. During the anti-Tutsi pogroms of 1959 and 1962 in Rwanda, the Tutsis who took refuge in churches were safe. So three decades later they fled in their tens of thousands to religious buildings, trying to escape their killers. This time, however, they mostly died there, blown apart by grenades, burned alive or crushed to death by bulldozers.

ER/ JC

Victoire Ingabire: the woman who challenged Rwanda's Paul Kagame

December 16, 2013/sfbayview.com

by Ann Garrison

KPFA Evening News, broadcast Dec. 14, 2013

KPFA Evening News Anchor: Yesterday, while Rwandan President Paul Kagame was in South Africa to pay his last respects to Nelson Mandela, the Rwandan Supreme Court upheld the conviction of imprisoned opposition leader Victoire Ingabire and extended her sentence from eight to fifteen years. As she left the courtroom, Ingabire gave her usual thumbs up salute and urged her supporters not to be afraid, because, she said, time and history are on their side. KPFA's Ann Garrison spoke to Rwanda Genocide survivor and African Great Lakes Action Network Executive Director Claude Gatebuke about the court's ruling.

KPFA/Ann Garrison: Claude, Victoire Ingabire was convicted of conspiring to form an armed group to undermine the government of Rwanda, for seeking to minimize the 1994 genocide by asking that

Hutu as well as Tutsi victims be remembered, and for “spreading false rumors” intended to incite the public to rise up against the state. Human Rights Watch said that the charges were politically motivated, and the European Parliament called for justice and said that the first trial did not meet international judicial standards. Is there anything you’d like to add?

Claude Gatebuke: The extension of Ingabire’s sentence is not surprising to those of us who are familiar with how the ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front has always operated. It’s a criminal organization from the very beginning, and they do not like anyone who exposes the inconvenient truth of the crimes they committed. The point of Victoire Ingabire’s speech was not to incite people. It was to spur true reconciliation based in truth telling.

It is true that Tutsis were massacred during the genocide in Rwanda, and it was the most horrifying event to live through and to survive. It’s also true that Hutus were killed and that they all must be remembered, and all victims must be recognized and that they all must be honored, and that will lead to true reconciliation.

So all of the charges against Ingabire were politically motivated. There are many other Rwandans who are in jail today for simply disagreeing with the Rwandan government led by Gen. Kagame. And those include genocide survivors such as Deo Mushayidi.

The other thing is that 60% or nearly 60% of the Parliament in Rwanda is women. However, all those women are the puppets of the RPF. And today, the only woman who was brave enough to stand up and speak up against the atrocities committed by the RPF, by the ruling party, is in jail. She’s serving 15 years for simply exercising a right that is guaranteed under international law. It is a universal human right to have your freedom of speech.

And, nothing she said was new. President Kagame himself has admitted, on April 13th of 2010, Paul Kagame made a speech and admitted to massacring Hutu refugees in the Congo. Many other times he’s made the same admission. So she’s not saying anything new. She’s just being punished for stating an inconvenient truth that the RPF, the ruling party in Rwanda, has committed crimes against Rwandan citizens.

KPFA/Ann Garrison: OK, now wait a minute. I think you must mean that he made this 2010 speech or any of these other admissions in the Kinyarwanda language to a Kinyarwanda speaking audience, right?

Claude Gatebuke: Yes, all of the admissions that I have heard are in Kinyarwanda, and the specific speech in 2010, April 13, 2010, was in Parliament, in Kinyarwanda, during the swearing in ceremony of the military leaders, and these included Gen. James Kabarebe, who was made minister of defense at that time, and Gen. Charles Kayonga, who was made military chief of staff of Rwanda and, as you know, both of them – Kayonga and Kabarebe – are implicated in the recent rebellion, or the militia, M23, as the commanders of that militia, who were providing support, command and ammunition. And that militia has ravaged the eastern Congo and displaced over a million people. Paul Kagame made a speech and admitted to massacring Hutu refugees in the Congo. Many other times he’s made the same admission.

KPFA: You’re a Rwanda Genocide survivor, but you’re also very active with Friends of the Congo. Could you say something about the significance of Victoire’s case in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and particularly its eastern Kivu Provinces bordering Rwanda?

Claude Gatebuke: Victoire Ingabire does not believe in invading the neighbors. She believes in living peacefully with your neighbors, and if there is a conflict, resolving it peacefully. So it is very

significant. If Victoire Ingabire was allowed to run for president in Rwanda, and she won, there would be a major change in how Rwandans and Congolese live as neighbors, because that would be the end of Rwanda invading Congo.

KPFA: Is there anything you'd like to say about President Kagame being in South Africa to pay his last respects to Nelson Mandela while the court ruled?

Claude Gatebuke: As for Kagame being in South Africa during the ruling of the court, I think it's an insult to freedom and peace loving humans that a war criminal such as Kagame came to pay respects to peace loving Mandela. He should instead be in court being tried for the crimes he's committed against Rwandan people – Hutus, Tutsis, Twas – and for the crimes he's committed against Congolese.

If Victoire Ingabire was allowed to run for president in Rwanda, and she won, there would be a major change in how Rwandans and Congolese live as neighbors, because that would be the end of Rwanda invading Congo.

KPFA: In Berkeley, for Pacifica, KPFA and Afrobeat Radio, I'm Ann Garrison.

Oakland writer Ann Garrison writes for the San Francisco Bay View, Global Research, Colored Opinions, Black Star News and her own website, Ann Garrison, and produces for AfrobeatRadio on WBAI-NYC, KPFA Evening News and her own YouTube Channel, AnnieGetYourGang. She can be reached at ann@afrobeatradio.com. If you want to see Ann Garrison's independent reporting continue, please contribute on her website at anngarrison.com.

Rwanda Hopes to Get U.S. \$157 Million From Coffee

16 December 2013/East African Business Week (Kampala)

Kigali — The government is gearing up towards making \$157 million by 2017 from coffee exports by first advising farmers, processors and exporters to form an umbrella body.

The National Agricultural Export Board (NAEB) is leading the effort to make this happen.

During a recent workshop the NAEB Director General, George Kayonga said: "We want all such people to form an association which will help create better communication in the coffee sector."

Rwanda earned \$ 60.9 million from coffee in 2012 and about \$74.6 million in 2011. This was a decline of about 18.4% and a situation the government does not want see continuing.

A big percentage of Rwandans living in rural areas are farmers. This is why the government is fighting a lot to determine to develop the sector.

Kayonga gave an example of the Kenya Tea Development Agency which produces fertilizers, and pesticides which are used by farmers in Rwanda.

He said if coffee farmers are under one umbrella all such inputs can be produced within the country which will still contribute to more earnings.

Rwanda, with a target of producing 24,000 tonnes of coffee by end of the year, expects to earn about \$87 million.

During the workshop it was noted that most of the problems coffee farmers, processors and

exporters face are mostly sorted out by NAEB.

Corneille Ntakirutimana, the Director in charge of Production at NAEB said, "With the incomes brought in, you will then be able to buy fertilizers plus other needed requirements which will still contribute to your development."

Rwanda is making steady gains as a speciality coffee grower with customers in the United States.

According to Roasterie, an industry watcher, by growing specialty coffee, Rwandan farmers and co-ops have seen profits for over 10 years now.

'In 2000, Rwanda's first coffee cooperative earned around \$0.20 for one kilogram of regular-quality coffee. Fast-forward 11 years the same co-op earned \$3.50 per kilogram. The profits that these Rwandan coffee farmers have made have allowed them to send their children to school, build new homes and invest back into their own plantations,' states Roasterie.

Coffee Rwanda is one of the leading dealers in speciality coffee.

Rwanda: Kagame Tells Critics Rwanda Not Exporting DR Congo Minerals

16 December 2013/allafrica.com

President Paul Kagame on Monday told the nation that rising revenue from minerals exports was a result of minerals mined inside Rwanda - as he moved to dismiss long standing accusations that the country was benefiting from the mineral wealth of its neighbor DR Congo.

Speaking at Parliament in the 2013 State of the Nation address, Kagame said in the first six months of this year Rwf 30billion has been obtained from minerals. This amount, the President said, is way above compared to Rwf 39billion (\$136.6m) earned for the whole of 2012.

"And mind you all these minerals being exported are from within Rwanda, not from anywhere else as has been suggested," said Kagame, amid laughter from the packed joint session of parliament. He did not name any country, but said "our neighbours".

"You can imagine what the figure would be if the minerals perceived to be from our neighbours would be included," said Kagame.

"Rwanda is making good use of its mineral wealth, and we would actually like to see even our neighbours benefiting more from theirs," added the President.

In the 40-min address, Kagame spoke about all the sectors of the country - telling lawmakers that the country was on the right track.

He said more than 86% women are giving birth in hospital, while child mortality of under-fives dropped tremendously. To date, 95% of children have been immunized against the 12 major diseases. "We want to decrease malaria deaths from 5.5% to zero within five years," said Kagame.

On education, the President said the number of students going to school increased by 7% in primary school, and 6% for secondary school. As for university - the figure expanded by 10 percent, from 76,629 students last year to 84,448 this year.

As for vocational training, which is being emphasized by to deal with unemployment, the President

said the government has put more resources in TVET - with budget allocation increasing from Rwf 10.5 billion to Rwf 30.5 billion this year.

On security, President Kagame informed the nation that the entire territory of Rwanda was extremely secure - a situation that had been highlighted by even international bodies. The President was referring to a Gallup research which said Rwanda was one of the safest places and much more when it came to security for women.

"All Rwandans and foreigners can conduct their businesses day and night without any incidence," said the Head of State.

On social protection programs, the President said more programs are in the works to support the poorest. For the One Cow per Family (Gina Inka), the President said it continues to lift Rwandans out of poverty with 184,000 cows given this year. This is compared to the total of 300,000 cattle which were distributed the all the previous years combined.

Despite expressing satisfaction with the state of affairs in other sectors, the President openly told energy sector technocrats of his unhappiness with the current situation. The country is producing about 110MW of power - which has seen daily power cuts in the past weeks.

"I believe those responsible are listening," said Kagame. "We want electricity quickly, quickly - there is no way we can meet all our ambitious development targets without electricity."

The Head of State directed all government departments to ensure that the 20th genocide commemoration due in April and the 20th Liberation anniversary for July, be give the importance they deserve. All necessary efforts must be put in place to make sure Rwandans from all walks of life feel involved because these two events mark significant steps in the country's development, said Kagame.

The President ended his annual address with the "Ndi Umunyarwanda" national program under which individual Rwandans are being encouraged to open up to others. The concept has seen people from the "Hutu" and "Tutsi" communities asking for forgiveness for what befell the country in 1994.

RDC CONGO :

RDC : au moins 21 morts lors d'une attaque au Nord-Kivu

Par Francetv info avec AFP/17/12/2013

Des femmes et des enfants figurent parmi les victimes. Ils auraient été tués à l'arme blanche, rapporte la Monusco, la mission de l'ONU dans le pays.

Il s'agit d'une attaque d'une "extrême brutalité". Au moins 21 personnes, dont des enfants, ont été tuées, dans l'est de la République démocratique du Congo, a dénoncé la mission de l'ONU, la Monusco, dans un communiqué publié lundi 16 décembre dans la soirée.

"Les victimes, y compris des femmes et des enfants - dont le plus jeune serait âgé de quelques mois seulement -, auraient été tuées pour la plupart par arme blanche, les 13 et 14 décembre", dans les villages de Musuku et Mwenda, situés dans le territoire de Beni, dans la province du Nord-Kivu,

rapporte le texte. "Trois filles mineures auraient été violées par les assaillants avant d'être décapitées. Le corps mutilé et démembré d'un enfant aurait aussi été retrouvé sur un arbre, dans le village de Musuku", est-il précisé.

Des rebelles ougandais accusés

La Monusco ne cite pas les auteurs présumés de l'attaque. Mais le mouvement le plus représentatif de la province, la Société civile du Nord-Kivu, estime que "le carnage a été perpétré par les rebelles ougandais de l'ADF-Nalu", les Forces alliées démocratiques-Armée nationale pour la libération de l'Ouganda.

Le chef de la Monusco, Martin Kobler, cité dans le communiqué de la mission, a exprimé son "profond dégoût". "Ces atrocités ne resteront pas impunies, les auteurs ne connaîtront pas de répit tant qu'ils n'auront pas répondu de leurs actes devant la justice", a-t-il martelé.

RDC: dans la région de Beni, les ADF-Nalu sèment la terreur

Par RFI/mardi 17 décembre 2013

Dans l'est de la RDC, au moins 21 personnes ont été tuées dans une attaque d'une extrême brutalité, a rapporté la Monusco dans un communiqué publié ce lundi 16 décembre. Selon la société civile, cette attaque porte la signature des ADF-Nalu, l'un des groupes rebelles les plus secrets et le plus redoutés en RDC. Depuis des années, les ADF-Nalu terrorisent des dizaines de milliers de civils dans la région de Beni, dans le Nord-Kivu. Reportage.

Des prières sous une pluie battante. Rassemblés dans une petite maison aux murs de terre et au toit de tôle, ils sont une dizaine venus soutenir la famille qui habite là. L'angoisse est palpable. Il y a 15 jours, Véronique est partie planter des haricots. Elle n'est pas revenue.

Pour son fils, il n'y a aucun doute, sa disparition porte la signature des ADF-Nalu. « Ce qui nous a surpris, c'est que ce champ, il est tout près de la route principale. Et à cet endroit l'armée régulière est là. Donc on n'arrive pas à comprendre comment les ADF-Nalu viennent kidnapper jusqu'à 200 m de la route ! Ça me met en colère », s'empporte-t-il.

Kidnapper des femmes, des jeunes, parfois des familles entières pour peu qu'elles se soient trouvées dans les champs au mauvais moment, c'est en effet la marque de fabrique des ADF-Nalu, une rébellion ougandaise à l'origine qui demeure peu connue. La pratique est devenue frénétique. « Les cas d'enlèvement sont passés de 24 à 382 de 2010 à 2013 », indique Teddy Kataliko, président de la société civile à Beni.

660 kidnappings en trois ans

Au total, en trois ans, la rébellion a enlevé 660 personnes. Des recrutements forcés pour former des combattants ou travailler dans les champs. Selon John (pseudonyme), enlevé à l'âge de 19 ans et qui a passé six ans avec les ADF-Nalu, le mouvement se radicalise parce qu'il se sent menacé. « Avant, l'armée et les ADF cohabitaient très bien. Depuis que le gouvernement a lancé des opérations contre les ADF en 2010, ils sont devenus agressifs. Ils sont au courant qu'il y a une coopération entre l'armée ougandaise et congolaise pour lancer une offensive. C'est pour ça qu'ils sont plus méchants avec la population », affirme-t-il.

« Les ADF-Nalu interdisent aux civils d'aller dans les champs, car il peut y avoir des militaires qui se déguisent en civils pour essayer de les attraper. Du coup, quand ils voient quelqu'un dans les champs, ils le kidnappent plutôt que de prendre le risque que ce soit un militaire ou quelqu'un qui

puisse révéler leurs positions », explique-t-il encore.

Depuis un mois, et après la victoire sur le M23, l'armée congolaise annonce une offensive imminente contre les ADF-Nalu. Mais à Oïcha, en plein cœur du territoire de la rébellion, l'offensive se fait trop attendre. Depuis un an, malgré la présence de l'armée et de casques bleus, la sécurité n'a fait que se dégrader. « Il faut que l'État en finisse une bonne fois pour toutes avec ces rebelles, pour qu'on puisse retourner dans nos champs cultiver. Car c'est ça notre activité ! Sinon, comment on va pouvoir manger ? », lance un habitant.

Qui sont les ADF-Nalu ? Un ex-rebelle témoigne

Les ADF-Nalu, ou « forces démocratiques alliées », sont un groupe armé ougandais au départ créé en 1995 pour renverser le président Yoweri Museveni. Aujourd'hui, le groupe figure en bonne place sur la liste des groupes rebelles à éliminer pour l'armée congolaise et la mission des Nations unies. Le mouvement est très peu connu, car il fait disparaître tous ceux qui s'en approchent.

John (pseudonyme) a quitté la rébellion il y a six ans. Enrôlé de force à l'âge de 19 ans avec la promesse de travailler dans une mine d'or, il a passé six ans aux côtés des ADF-Nalu, un mouvement très organisé, selon lui, où la religion occupe une place prépondérante : « En arrivant là-bas, on commence par vous envoyer à l'école coranique. On vous enseigne ce qu'est l'islam, ce qui est interdit, ce qui est permis. Si vous êtes ADF-Nalu, vous devez obligatoirement être musulman. »

« Souvent, ce sont les femmes qui coupent les têtes »

Et pour monter en grade, il faut être particulièrement pratiquant. John raconte une discipline de fer : des journées rythmées par le travail dans les champs, l'entraînement physique, les prières. Et l'interdiction absolue de transgresser les règles. « Si vous tentez de vous évader et qu'ils vous rattrapent, ils rassemblent tout le monde et vous exécutent en public, pour effrayer les autres et empêcher toute nouvelle tentative. Souvent, ce sont des femmes qui coupent les têtes. Quand vous êtes nouveau, on vous initie. On passe beaucoup de temps avec des femmes, elles vous accompagnent au champ par exemple, essaient de vous séduire. Si vous succombez, vous êtes fouettés. »

En 2007, après une offensive violente de l'armée, John décide de prendre la fuite. Aujourd'hui, il est incapable d'estimer le nombre de combattants ADF, mais selon lui, l'objectif serait toujours de renverser le président ougandais : « Selon l'enseignement qu'on reçoit, l'objectif est de combattre l'Ouganda et de renverser Museveni. Et par rapport au Congo, les comandants disent en rigolant : "Mobutu n'a pas su nous déloger, est-ce que le gouvernement de Kabila va y parvenir ?" »

UGANDA :

Uganda: Claims Museveni Offered 2 Million Ugandan Votes in Favour of S. Sudan Independence
15 December 2013/allafrica.com

Kampala — A dissident Ugandan General has sensationally claimed that long serving Uganda ruler Yoweri Museveni was willing to offer two million Ugandans to vote in favour of South Sudan's independence from Sudan. South Sudan voted to secede from Sudan in a 2011 referendum.

General David Sejusa, the former coordinator of Uganda intelligence services and until recently a member of Uganda's parliament and member of the high command of the Ugandan military revealed this on Saturday at the London School of Economics where the launch of the new opposition group, Freedom and Unity Front (FUF), took place. The organisation aims at dislodging Museveni from power.

Sejusa gave the example of Museveni's offer to Garang to prove his allegations that the Ugandan leader always rigs elections.

"Museveni has no democratic credentials. He has never had them. I was with him in the bush. I have been with him for long. You know when the late Garang... I can give you this story... they [South Sudan] were going for a referendum ... this is how he [Garang] fell off with Mr Museveni and the leadership in South Sudan knows, Mr Museveni tells Mr Garang "We must win this referendum at any cost... you know I can give you two million of my Bakiga ... and you know they can fix things for us," Museveni reportedly told Garang, according to Sejusa. The Bakiga are a tribe in western Uganda, the same region where Museveni hails from.

"The idea was for him [Museveni] to have a strong hold in South Sudan. How can such a person be a democrat? That's how he fell off with Garang," Sejusa said without further explanation on how the South Sudan liberation hero fell out with Museveni.

But the Uganda dissident suggested that the late Garang rejected Museveni's offer and appears to give that as reason why Garang fell off with Museveni. Again he did not explain how the fall off between the two leaders manifested itself.

Garang died in an air crash in August 2005 while on his way to South Sudan from Uganda. He was Vice president of Sudan at the time of the crash in a Ugandan presidential chopper after meeting Museveni at his country home in western Uganda.

Bad weather was blamed for the crash which also claimed the lives of six South Sudanese officials and seven crew of the Mi 72 chopper.

Since fleeing to London Sejusa has said Museveni cannot be removed from office through elections.

On Saturday the renegade General repeated the claims and said Museveni was beaten in the 2006 elections by his arch rival Kiiza Besigye who got 69% of the votes. But according to Sejusa, the results were changed by the Uganda's intelligence services which set up a parallel vote tallying centre different from that of the official electoral commission.

In a challenge of the election results by Besigye in court, the country's Supreme court ruled that much as there were election irregularities it was "substantially enough" to affect the outcome of the elections.

Sejusa fled the Uganda after writing a letter to the internal security services asking them to investigate an alleged plan to murder those opposed to "Project Muhoozi" - a reference to an alleged plot by Museveni to make his son, Brigadier Muhoozi Kainerugaba succeed him.

Brig Kainerugaba is commander of the Special Forces which among others is tasked with protecting his father and Uganda's strategic assets. He has risen rapidly through the army ranks.

The Ugandan government has in the past dismissed Sejusa as a disgruntled officer making

outrageous claims to get attention and possibly political asylum in the United Kingdom. The Uganda government spokesperson Ofwono Opondo even alleged that Sejusa was speaking under the drugs in an interview with Sudan Tribune in April.

Sejusa who has not ruled the possibility of using force to unseat Museveni using force has also received a response from the Ugandan president: "If he wants to use force, let him come. He knows my address. We have been waiting for him for some few months now," Museveni said in October.

Tanzania: Uganda Owes Tanzania U.S. \$8 Million From War
16 December 2013/East African Business Week (Kampala)

Dar es Salaam — Tanzania is still demanding for some \$8,824,964.56 from Uganda as part of compensation from the 1978/79 Kagera war which Idi Amin instigated.

The Tanzania Defense and National Service Minister, Shamsi Vuai Nahodha disclosed this while responding to questions from legislators during plenary session in Dodoma last week.

Nahodha said Uganda to date had paid Tanzania \$9,656,065 as an installment out of the total \$18,481,029.91.

"This amount was paid during the third phase government of President Benjamin Mkapa who had resumed talks with the Uganda government after several years of being stalled, after the government of Uganda had failed to fulfill its previous compensation talks," Nahodha said.

He said Tanzanian forces fought Amin's army between 1978 and 1979, following the invasion of Tanzania's Kagera region. Amin claimed the area belonged to Tanzania.

"The government of Tanzania had asked Ugandan government to pay a compensation fee, because the invasion was caused by their leader and Uganda agreed to do so," Nahodha said.

However there have been no recent payments.

Earlier Mbinga Legislature, Cpt (rtd) John Komba said it was important for Tanzania to ask Uganda to settle the compensation balance.

Record shows that a total of \$9,656,065 being compensation for Kagera war was paid to Tanzania through the Tanzania Ministry of Defense and National Service and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in 2000.

However, the 2000 sitting parliament was told by the then Deputy Minister for Finance, Prof Crispin Haule, that the total debt Uganda was supposed to pay Tanzania, as per the contract between the two, amounted to \$123.2 million.

SOUTH AFRICA :

Chile's CFR accuses South Africa pension fund of 'protectionism'
Tue Dec 17, 2013/Reuters

JOHANNESBURG

(Reuters) - Chile's CFR Pharmaceuticals CFR.SN on Tuesday accused South Africa's state pension fund of 'protectionism', saying its opposition to a \$1.2 billion bid for drugmaker Adcock Ingram (AIPJ.J) had little to do with commercial merits.

The state-run Public Investment Corporation (PIC), Adcock's top shareholder, on Sunday rejected a sweetened cash and stock takeover offer for the local drugmaker from Santiago-based CFR, saying it wanted all cash.

The PIC's rejection of the offer is likely to derail the rare 12.8 billion rand (\$1.24 billion) investment tie-up between Chile and South Africa. It is also likely to raise concerns that Africa's top economy is not always welcoming to foreign investors.

"The impression created is that the criticisms leveled at our offer by the PIC have little to do with commercial merits and are instead intended to allow a local buyer to succeed over a foreign buyer," CFR Chief Executive Alejandro Weinstein said in a statement.

"The current approach appears to be driven by protectionism."

CFR is battling a counter offer for Adcock from local firm Bidvest (BVTJ.J).

Bidvest, a conglomerate whose businesses include car sales and catering, has gone straight to shareholders with an all-cash offer for a little over a third of Adcock.

The PIC is also Bidvest's top shareholder, leading to some speculation that the fund is behind the counter bid, something Bidvest's chief executive has denied. (\$1 = 10.3158 South African rand)

(Reporting by David Dolan; Editing by Pascal Fletcher)

South Africa had already left Nelson Mandela behind

By David Blair/telegraph.co.uk/16 Dec 2013

After the funeral, South Africa will remain much as before – just as its hero would have hoped

Nelson Mandela's dignified state funeral on Sunday was in stark contrast to the tumultuous memorial ceremony last week. A guard of honour, a gun carriage and a carefully chosen audience of a few thousand replaced a rainswept football stadium in Soweto, filled with hurriedly assembled world leaders, exchanging embarrassing "selfies" and watching their words converted into random hand movements by a sign-language interpreter who later claimed to see angels.

The 10 days of commemoration for Mandela brought the world to South Africa, in a way that has not happened – rugby and football world cups notwithstanding – since the man who earned those tributes won the presidency almost 20 years ago. Yet many of its inhabitants were hardly overjoyed by the sudden burst of attention.

We are tempted to assume that the death of someone who, more than any other, was the father of a free and democratic South Africa must amount to more than an occasion for simple grief. Surely the passing of this unique human being will change his country and be of real political significance?

I used to think the answer to this would be "yes". When I was this newspaper's correspondent in

Johannesburg, my South African friends would gasp at any mention of their former leader's mortality. The thought that he would leave them one day was best left unspoken.

Even though Mandela was already in the seclusion imposed by age and illness, he still appeared to fill a niche as a silent guarantor of a free South Africa. As he neared his 10th decade, his moral authority seemed powerful enough to restrain his successors, making them that bit less willing to stray from the straight and narrow. For as long as he was around, it was possible to harbour the comforting thought that South African politicians would be a little less likely to misbehave. The logical conclusion of this argument was, of course, that they would be more likely to do harm after he passed on.

This romantic theory might once have possessed some truth, but the reality is that it ceased to have any relevance years before Mandela's death. The idea that the old man still exerted some mystical power of moral restraint was wishful thinking, to the point that many South Africans actively resent the suggestion that their country of 50 million people was, in some strange sense, dependent on the heartbeat of one man.

The world was understandably anxious to mould Mandela into his unique job description as the one human being who just about everyone could unreservedly admire. But that caused us to overlook some hard realities. The first was that South African politicians did plenty of bad things when Mandela was around – including when he was supposedly in charge. A notorious arms deal worth £4.4 billion has cast a shadow over the country's politics for the past 15 years, ensnaring one senior figure after another in a web of corruption.

We do not like to remember the fact that this extravagant acquisition of a new fleet of warships, tanks and jet fighters – which would have been of questionable value to the new South Africa even if their purchase had been corruption-free – was approved by none other than President Mandela. There is not the faintest whisper that he did anything wrong or benefited in any way, but some of those around him clearly did.

If Mandela failed to curb the venality of his comrades when he was actually president, nor could he in retirement. The proof comes in the behaviour of President Jacob Zuma. While Mandela lay on his deathbed in Johannesburg, a leaked official report laid bare the truth about Mr Zuma's use of public money on his personal home at Nkandla in KwaZulu-Natal province. The president had always claimed that £13 million from the taxpayer had been spent on nothing more than necessary "security upgrades" required by his job. It turned out that his definition of "security" included the public paying for his swimming pool, cattle kraal and chicken coop.

As you would expect from a man who lived well into his 10th decade, Mandela had lost the ability to influence events long before his death. Now that he has left the scene, Mr Zuma will continue to rule – or misrule – in much the same way as he would have done if Mandela had managed to chalk up a few more birthdays.

None of this, incidentally, reflects badly upon Mandela. On the contrary – one of his most laudable qualities was a rare willingness to acknowledge, or even insist upon, his own dispensability. In a continent where leaders cling to power for decades, Mandela chose to surrender the presidency after only one term of five years.

One of his great missions was to build a South Africa of laws and institutions, not a frail place dependent on transient individuals. And there lies the greatest hope for the future: despite everything, South Africa has an enlightened constitution, a free media capable of exposing Mr Zuma's excesses, a vociferous opposition, and genuinely independent judges. The resilience of

these institutions – which are, admittedly, being tested by Mr Zuma, and by the ANC's hegemony – is what sets Mandela's homeland apart from most of Africa. Mandela's real monument is a country that does not depend on him. And if his funeral has no lasting political importance, that will be exactly what he would have wanted.

TANZANIA :

Tanzania Collects U.S. \$43 Million in Taxes From Mining Operations

16 December 2013/East African Business Week (Kampala)

Dar es Salaam — The government has collected Tsh70billion (about \$43 million) from mining companies in tax royalties between May and November this year.

This was revealed after a recent ministerial advisory board meeting chaired by the Tanzania Mineral Audit Agency (TMAA) Advisory Board Chairman Dr Mayungu Kayandabila.

Dr. Kayandabila said the total income taxes from Resolute Tanzania Limited Mining Company since its inception in 2010 has reached Tsh97 billion (\$60 million) while about Tsh6.1 billion (\$3.7million) was realized in tax from the same mining firm between May to November this year

"Geita Gold Mining Limited has so far paid income tax amounting to Tsh304.2 billion (\$189 million) since 2009 whereas around 4.8 billion (\$2.98 million) was realized as income tax between May to November this year," Dr Kayandabila said.

He said despite most mining firms being compliant with paying their taxes, there were still a few that have been dodging.

Apart from royalties, mining firms have to pay a skill development levy, Pay-As-You-Earn and service levy. However by smuggling the minerals out of Tanzania, culprits can evade payment.

He said that the country has so far recovered Tsh1.9 billion (\$1.18 million) between May to November this year resulting from the strict surveillance scheme that has been instituted by TMAA to make sure Tanzania mineral resources are prevented from being smuggled outside its borders.

"Around 32 smuggling cases have been reported worth Tsh15.03 billion (\$9.3 million) since TMAA instituted inspections at airports in 2012, Dr. Kayandabila said, adding that TMAA has also strengthened audit exercises in major mining firms in Tanzania," he said.

He cited Tulawaka, Mwadui, TanzaniteOne, Ngaka Coal Mines, Golden Pride, Bulyanhulu Buzwagi, North Mara and Geita Gold Mine.

He said around Tsh77.4 billion (\$48 million) in tax was collected from Tulawaka Gold Mine since its inception in the country while around Tsh178.9m (\$111,429) was collected from Williamson Diamonds Limited. Tullawaka Gold Mine was previously owned by African Barrick Gold.

The Deputy Minister for Energy and Mineral, George Simbachawene said there was need for the government to ensure that TMAA's performance contributes to the country's economic successes.

Simbachawene said Tanzania was very much determined to ensure its per capita GDP income

reaches (Tsh4.8 million) \$3,000 by the year 2025 from the current \$640 (Tsh1.02 trillion. The government is putting great importance on mineral resources in playing an important role in realizing the dream.

He said the government is keen to ensure that the required mechanisms are put in place so that it can fully utilize the returns from mineral resources.

38 arrested in Tanzania for female genital mutilation

Dec 17, 2013 /Sapa-AFP

Police in Tanzania have arrested 38 women for carrying out illegal genital mutilation on a group of girls, a local mayor said Monday.

The women were arrested on Sunday as they performed a traditional dance around a house where police found 21 girls, aged from 3 to 15, who had recently undergone excision.

"As soon as I heard about it I sent the police round," Herman Kapufi, mayor of same district in northern Tanzania, told national television.

Kapufi said some of the girls were still bleeding while others had wounds that were healing.

Female genital mutilation is still performed in some parts of Tanzania, despite having been outlawed officially in 1998.

Studies estimate that 15 percent of women and girls have undergone genital mutilation - removal of the clitoris in the vast majority of cases.

The practice, generally carried out with a knife or a razor blade without anaesthesia and in non-sterile conditions, attracts a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.

In some communities in Tanzania, women who have not undergone excision are victims of social exclusion.

Observers also cite a widespread belief that a woman who has been "cut" is more faithful to her husband.

Given the conditions in which the excision is done, girls often die from their injuries or from resulting infections.

KENYA :

Kenya, Africa Union faulted for attempted coup in South Sudan

Tuesday, December 17th 2013 /By Cyrus Ombati /standardmedia.co.ke

NAIROBI, KENYA: Kenya's former foreign affairs assistant minister Richard Onyonka has faulted Kenya and Africa Union for the attempted coup in South Sudan on Sunday night.

Onyonka said Kenya and AU failed to forestall the situation that had been seen long time ago and challenged the leadership to swiftly move in and calm the parties involved. "The signals had been

there but our leaders failed to move in and quell the tension. If they do not contain the situation it will become a regional problem and worse than what we have seen there," said Onyonka. He added the problem pits the main tribal groups Dinka and Nuer and urged President Kenyatta to focus on South Sudan and ensure it is addressed to safeguard the region and more than 40,000 Kenyans working there with their property. Onyonka said the failure for South Sudan's referendum and election to hold will be blamed on Kenya and AU, which were its guarantors and needed to monitor the development of all internal matters. "Why both Kenya and AU failed is an issue that we need to know because it is in our benefit that South Sudan matures and becomes stable," he said. Onyonka said if the crisis persists, parties should ensure there is a safe corridor to enable foreigners there leave safely. South Sudan's President Salva Kiir said Monday an attempted coup by soldiers loyal to his sacked former deputy Riek Machar had been put down. It came after heavy gunfire overnight in the capital, Juba. Mr Kiir said the government was in full control of the capital, and announced a night-time curfew for civilians.

Kenya: Governors to Withhold Pay, Hire New Health Staff

By Joseph Muraya/allafrika.com /16 December 2013

Nairobi — The Council of Governors has categorically stated that all health personnel who did not report for duty after a court order will not earn salaries for days they boycotted work.

The council termed the strike illegal saying all those who did not report to work since the issuance of the court order on December 11 will be treated as having absconded duty by both the National and County Governments.

Addressing the media on Monday, the Council Chairman Isaac Ruto said that County Governments were already putting in place mechanisms to hire fresh health personnel to offer services in the counties.

"All those who would want to work with County Governments are encouraged to apply for the positions that will be advertised," he stated.

He appealed to members of the public to apply for the positions.

"The demands being made by health workers are not related to labour relations but rather to constitutional matters which calls for a constitutional amendment," he stated.

He pointed out that, "According to Section 138 of County Government Act, the terms and conditions of service of health workers are safeguard and cannot be altered to their disadvantage but can only be improved."

Section 138 of the Constitution states that, "Any public officer appointed by the Public Service Commission in exercise of its constitutional powers and functions before the coming to effect of this Act and is serving in a county on the date of the constitution of that county government shall be deemed to be in the service of the county government on secondment from national government with their terms of service as at that date."

Clause 1(a) of the section further states that, "the officer's term of service including remuneration, allowances and pension or other benefits shall not be altered to the officer's disadvantage."

"We cannot reverse gains of devolution as provided for in the Constitution or law through an illegal strike," he added.

He said that most health workers were scared of supervision likely to occur under county governments unlike in their previous status.

Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists' Union (KMPDU) Secretary General however said they were not intimidated by Governors' move.

He maintained that despite the decision reached by governors, the health workers were going to push on, until their concerns were addressed.

During the media brief, the Cabinet Secretary for health James Macharia accused health workers of frustrating Government efforts to solve their issues long before the strike.

He said that already the Government had drafted a health policy which has also been presented to the health unions awaiting their input.

"We have to ask ourselves whether that strike was genuine especially given the timing of the strike. You are aware it was two days before all of us went for the 50th anniversary despite the fact that what they were asking was still in place," he observed.

He said it was wrong for health workers to break a court order and yet they needed more laws to guard them.

"We shall hand them over to their rightful employer who is the County Governor. We have engaged everybody to make sure we get a solution... obviously they were not keen. If the child keeps on breaking glasses everywhere, you will take the baby back to the mother," he stated.

He revealed that a health bill will be ready by end of February next year.

On Monday, the Industrial Court extended orders prohibiting health workers in public hospitals from going on strike until December 24.

The order comes after the Attorney General through his representatives Paul Ojwang and Peter Ngugi applied for extension of the barring orders saying that they were unable to serve the Kenya National Union of Nurses, Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union, Kenya Health Professionals Union, Seth Panyako (Kenya National Union of Nurses Secretary General), Matendehero Sultani (KMPDU Secretary General) and Moses Lore - who are listed as respondents in the case - with the previous order due to public holidays last week.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Africa News Round Up, December, Tuesday 17, 2013

December 17, 2013 /by Administrator/independent.co.ug

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a confidential UN report says defeated M23 rebels in eastern country side have continued to recruit fighters in neighboring Rwanda while the Congolese army has been involved in human rights abuses and corruption, Reuters reports.

“The Group has documented that M23 received continued support from Rwandan territory,” the U.N. Group of Experts said in its final report to the Security Council’s Congo sanctions committee, which was seen by Reuters on Monday.

“The Group has received credible information that sanctioned M23 leaders are moving freely in Uganda and that M23 has continued to recruit in Rwanda,” it said.

The independent expert panel also accused armed groups and the Congolese army of human rights abuses – including use of child soldiers, summary executions and sexual violence – and profiting from illegal mining operations in resource-rich eastern Congo.

The U.N. experts have repeatedly accused neighboring Rwanda of backing the rebellion by M23 in eastern Congo, a claim the Rwandan government has fiercely rejected. The U.N. Security Council has blacklisted M23.

Rwanda’s U.N. mission had no immediate reaction, though a Rwandan diplomat told Reuters he dismissed the charges: “We are tired by these same allegations.”

Western officials say that Rwanda’s denials are not credible, and U.S. and European governments imposed punitive measures on Kigali to pressure it to halt its support for M23.

Rwanda has repeatedly intervened in Congo, saying it had to hunt down the Hutu militia who fled after the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Rwanda and Congo have fought two wars over the past two decades in Congo’s east.

A spokesman for the Ugandan mission said he could not comment on a report that has not been formally released yet. Congolese diplomats were not immediately available for comment.

The report estimated that 98 percent of the gold produced in Congo in 2013 was smuggled out of the country and nearly all of it traded in Uganda.

Congolese troops and the U.N. peacekeeping mission – which includes a unique Intervention Brigade mandated to eliminate armed groups – last month defeated M23, which signed a peace deal with the Congo government on Thursday.

In South Sudan, President Salva Kiir says an attempted coup by soldiers loyal to his former deputy Riek Machar has been defeated, the BBC reports.

Mr Kiir said the government was in full control of the capital, Juba, after a night of heavy fighting between soldiers in the presidential guard.

A night time curfew has been put in place and a number of arrests have reportedly been made.

Several people were reported injured and hundreds have fled to a US base.

Hilde Johnson, the UN’s special representative in the country, said she was “deeply concerned” and urged “all parties in the fighting to cease hostilities immediately and exercise restraint”.

The city's airport has been closed and the state TV channel SSTV went off air for several hours.

Shortly after it came back on air, SSTV broadcast an address from Mr Kiir, wearing military uniform rather than his usual civilian clothing and flanked by government officials.

He said the violence "was an attempted coup", but that the government was now in full control and the attackers were being chased down.

"I will not allow or tolerate such incidents once again in our new nation. I strongly condemn these criminal actions in the strongest terms possible," he said, vowing those responsible would have to stand "before the appropriate law institution".

South Sudan – the world's youngest country and one of the least developed – has struggled to achieve a stable government since becoming independent from Sudan in 2011. The independence referendum was intended to end a decades-long conflict, led by the SPLM, against the north.

The oil-rich country is ethnically and politically divided, with many armed groups active. Tensions have been particularly high since President Kiir dismissed his entire cabinet, including Mr Machar, in July.

The sackings are believed to have followed a power struggle – Mr Machar has said he plans to contest the presidential elections in 2015. He now leads a dissident faction within the SPLM.

In the Central African Republic, Reuters reports France on Monday criticized the dismissal of three ministers by the interim leader of the Country as having broken the agreement on how the transitional government would work and said the move could trigger sanctions.

Michel Djotodia, in charge of the former French colony since seizing power in March, dismissed three members of his government this weekend following a wave of Muslim-Christian clashes which have left hundreds dead.

Djotodia has lost control of his former fighters, whose abuses have sparked the creation of Christian militia forces. Under the terms of a U.N. resolution on December 5, France has deployed 1,600 troops to try to stop the violence.

Djotodia had said he would respect the terms of the January agreement signed in Gabon's capital Libreville by rebels, civil society and then-President Francois Bozize that laid out the framework for a transitional government.

Floreani said the move could be seen to be likely to cause more instability, which under the terms of the U.N. resolution was grounds for sanctions to be applied.

The transition period for CAR, a diamond-rich landlocked country with a history of instability since independence in 1960, was originally set to last until 2015. Paris is now seeking earlier elections, however.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a UN peacekeeping mission has found bodies of at least 21 people after a grisly attack in East in which several women and children were raped, mutilated and beheaded, News24 reports.

The UN mission Monusco said the victims, including a baby, were hacked to death in an attack of "extreme brutality" in a wave of violence in North Kivu last week.

A local civil society organisation blamed the rampage on the Muslim Ugandan rebel group ADF-Nalu, one of the oldest but least known armed organisations based in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

“The victims, including women and children – the youngest of which is thought to have been only a few months old – were hacked to death on December 13 and 14,” the Monusco statement said.

“Three girls under 18 are reported to have been raped by the attackers and then beheaded. The mutilated and dismembered body of a child is said to have been found in a tree, in the village of Musuku.”

Monusco chief Martin Kobler expressed his “deep disgust” at the attack.

“These atrocities will not go unpunished,” he vowed in the statement.

A North Kivu Civil Society umbrella organisation swiftly issued a statement charging that “the carnage was perpetrated by ADF-Nalu’s Ugandan rebels”.

The group urged Monusco to urgently launch a military operation against the rebels, which has been based in the mountainous area near the Ugandan border since its creation in 1995.

The UN mission said in its statement that an investigation had been opened and reinforcements dispatched to protect the civilian population in the area.

A special intervention brigade with an unprecedented offensive mandate last month helped the Congolese army clinch a rare triumph by crushing the Rwanda-backed M23 rebel outfit.

Central Africa: Cameroonians Stream Home From Troubled Car

By Moki Edwin Kindzeka/Voice of America (Washington, DC)/16 December 2013

Yaounde — Cameroon has started repatriating citizens from the Central African Republic as the sectarian crisis continues in the neighboring country.

This special flight taking off from the Bangui International Airport carries more than 300 Cameroonians. They are among about 1,000 Cameroonians who have called on their government to save them from the deepening crisis in the Central African Republic.

The country has spiraled out of control since Seleka rebels toppled President Francois Bozize in March. Last week, hundreds died in the capital in fighting between the former rebels - who are mostly Muslim - and mostly Christian militia groups that formed in response to a wave of killing and looting by the Seleka fighters.

According to Cameroon's acting ambassador to the Central African Republic, Nicolas Nzoyum, it was very difficult for the Cameroonians to travel home by land because of the growing violence.

"In fact they hired trucks to take them to Garoua Boulaye [on Cameroon's border with CAR] and wanted me to help them by giving them what we call an escort [soldiers] in French to take them there," said Nzoyum. "It was difficult to do it and I asked them to come to the residence [embassy]."

Unspeakable violence

People like 30-year-old Baba Toukour, who said he lived in Bangui for five years, report seeing horrible scenes of violence as fighting Bangui escalated.

"When the dead body of a Muslim was brought to the mosque," he said, "tension rose and they began to kill Christians, Senegalese, Malians, Sudanese, just all foreigners. Many Cameroonians were killed in front of me."

A Cameroonian who worked as a nurse in Bangui, Agnes Limana, also witnessed atrocities. "They have been killing people in front of us, committing crimes, seizing all of our goods, raping, kidnapping."

A miner from South West Cameroon, Divine Abada, said he decided to come back because he was scared the Central African African Republic was on the brink of ruin.

"These crazy Seleka rebels caught me in the bush, beat us very well, took everything away from us," said Abada. "Those guys, when they just hear that you are a Cameroonian, they say you are a spy for Bozize who has come into the country to cause confusion. We saw so many people that had been killed besides us. They beat us until they took everything, food, money everything."

Homeward bound

One woman said, "Oh, we have been saved. We are safe, my brother. Oh God, yea." When the first contingent of 320 Cameroonians arrived at the Douala International Airport, they said they were grateful to God for bringing them back home safely, and sang Cameroon's national anthem.

There are 5,000 Cameroonians in Bangui, and about 20,000 in the Central African African Republic.

Some say they are being targeted by supporters of CAR President Michel Djotodia, because ousted president Bozize was given asylum in Cameroon after he was forced out of power.

Goods destined for the landlocked country are stuck at the Douala sea port in Cameroon, as truck drivers refuse to transport them to Central African African Republic for fear they may be killed and the goods looted by rebels.

Last month, Djotodia dispatched special envoys to neighboring countries to make a plea for assistance in stabilizing the Central African African Republic.

Peacekeepers have arrived from France and African countries, such as Burundi, but stability in Bangui or other parts of the Central African African Republic so far appears to be out of reach.

Le colonel Ntsourou arrêté par l'armée à Brazzaville

12/17/2013/APANEWS

Congo RDC - Le colonel Marcel Tsourou ex-N°2 du Conseil national de la sécurité, a été arrêté lundi à Brazzaville en compagnie de son épouse et de ses trois enfants suite à l'assaut lancé dans les premières heures de la matinée à son domicile, indique un communiqué officiel des forces armées congolaises.

« Le colonel Ntsourou s'est rendu et serait en sécurité dans les locaux de l'Etat major général de l'armée », situés à quelques encablures de sa maison, indique le communiqué précisant que « les Brazzavillois peuvent vaquer à leurs occupations habituelles sans problème.

Demain mardi étant un jour ouvrable, tout le monde devrait reprendre le travail, les élèves doivent aussi reprendre le chemin de l'école. Le calme est revenu, il n'y a plus de panique ».

Par ailleurs au sein de la population brazzavilloise on signale plusieurs décès et blessés tant du côté des éléments de la garde du colonel Ntsourou que du côté des forces armées congolaises, à l'issue de cette traque.

Les magasins, les boutiques, les pharmacies et d'autres structures publiques qui avaient fermé leurs portes durant les tirs, ont rouvert et la circulation a repris petit à petit son cours normal.

Le colonel Marcel Tsourou, numéro 2 des services de renseignements du Congo-Brazzaville, avait été arrêté « pour complicité d'incendie involontaire et détention illégale d'armes de guerre », suite à l'explosion meurtrière d'un dépôt de munitions à Mpila le 4 mars 2012. La catastrophe avait fait près de 300 morts, 2 300 blessés et de nombreux sinistrés.

Insatisfait du verdict de l'affaire du 4 mars 2012, qui avait condamné Marcel Tsourou à cinq ans de prison avec sursis le pouvoir de Brazzaville qui s'est pourvu en cassation veut l'arrêter pour organiser un autre procès.

Il avait été libéré le 10 septembre dernier.

Pour les autorités de Brazzaville, Marcel Tsourou est le cerveau de l'affaire de l'explosion de la poudrière de Mpila et ne peut dès lors bénéficier d'un tel verdict suite à ce procès

Source : | APANEWS

Soudan du Sud: poursuite des tirs dans la nuit à Juba

le 17 décembre 2013/AFP

Juba (AFP)

De nouveaux échanges de tirs ont été entendus tôt mardi dans la capitale du Soudan du sud, au lendemain de l'annonce par le président qu'un coup d'Etat avait été déjoué dans la toute jeune nation, a constaté un journaliste de l'AFP.

Des tirs sporadiques, notamment à l'arme lourde, ont repris dès les premières heures de la matinée et ont été entendus jusqu'à 9h00 (06H00 GMT) mardi, en provenance de bâtiments militaires, à quelques km du centre ville de Juba. Seuls quelques véhicules patrouillaient dans les rues désertes de la capitale dont les habitants étaient barricadés dans leurs foyers.

Le ministre des Affaires étrangères Elia Lomuro a fait état d'au moins 12 morts au cours des combats qui avaient éclaté dimanche peu avant minuit .

"Au moins 12 personnes ont été tuées", a déclaré M Lomuro à la radio Eye, précisant que la majorité des victimes étaient des soldats .

Selon d'autres radios à Juba, au moins 130 blessés ont été admis à l'hôpital.

Le président du Soudan du Sud Salva Kiir avait annoncé lundi avoir déjoué une tentative de coup d'Etat après d'intenses combats à Juba, et a attribué ce coup de force à l'ancien vice-président Riek Machar, limogé en juillet.

"Il y a une tentative coup d'Etat, mais ils (les auteurs) ont échoué et nous avons le contrôle" de la situation, a déclaré le président Kiir, qui avait troqué ses habituels costume et chapeau de cow-boy pour une tenue militaire couleur camouflage.

Strife-Torn Central African Republic Faces Food Crisis

Tuesday, 17 December 2013/Scoop Media

Press Release: UN News

Strife-Torn Central African Republic Faces Looming Food Crisis, UN Warns

New York, Dec 16 2013 - The Central African Republic (CAR), wracked by conflict that has killed thousands of people and driven more than half a million from their homes over the past year, is now facing a looming food crisis, the United Nations warned today, calling for urgent action to provide crop seeds to farmers.

Crop production has decreased sharply after the civil conflict that broke out in the north-east last December spread through the rest of the country and seeds are now in short supply due to looting and because people have had to eat them instead of saving them for planting.

"Desperate farmers have been selling tools and livestock so that they can feed their families, which leaves them without means of making an income, and raids on livestock and agricultural equipment have been widespread," UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Emergency and Rehabilitation Director Dominique Burgeon said in Rome.

Due to the challenges in reaching affected farming families, work must begin now to help them get ready for the 2014 planting seasons, FAO said. Planting of the main 2014 maize crop is due to start in early March in the centre and south of the country, while planting of sorghum and millet should start in the north of the country in May. Farmers urgently need seeds and other agricultural inputs in time for planting in March.

Agriculture accounts for 53 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and a major share of employment in the CAR, where nearly three quarters of the population of 4.6 million people live in rural areas. Agricultural exports, one of the main sources of foreign exchange earnings, have dropped sharply this year, especially timber, cotton and coffee.

Food prices are high and volatile due to severe market disruption. Maize prices in Bangui, the capital, rose 31 per cent between January and November, while millet prices increased by 70 per cent between March and October in Ouham province, an important sorghum and millet producing area in the northwest.

CAR has been thrown into turmoil since Séléka rebels launched attacks a year ago and forced President François Bozizé to flee in March. A transitional government has since been entrusted with restoring peace and paving the way for democratic elections, but armed clashes have erupted again.

In Bangui last week, Christians and Muslims launched reprisal attacks against each other in and

around the city, killing at least 450 people and driving nearly 160,000 others from their homes.

Earlier this month the Security Council authorized an African-led and French-backed peacekeeping force to quell the spiralling violence, and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon took to the airwaves on Friday to make a personal appeal to the CAR people to end the bloodshed, which has been marked by increasing inter-communal violence between Christians and Muslims.

“The recent upscaling in peacekeeping operations in the country is expected to create favourable conditions for farmers to return to their fields,” said Bukar Tijani, FAO Regional Representative for Africa.

“This is why we need to get inputs to them urgently. Failure to assist them will bring a serious deterioration of the food security situation and a massive need for protracted food assistance.”

For more details go to UN News Centre at <http://www.un.org/news>

ENDS

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More than 1,200 killed since May in Boko Haram attacks

Authint Mail /17 December 2013

LAGOS — Attacks by Islamist group Boko Haram in Nigeria's restive northeast have killed more than 1,200 people since May, when a state of emergency was declared in the region, the United Nations said Monday.

Nigeria placed the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe under emergency rule on May 14, following waves of deadly violence by the Islamist rebels.

President Goodluck Jonathan sent thousands of troops backed by air support to the northeast to crush the four-year-old uprising.

The UN toll is the first independent fatality figure to have emerged since the military operation was launched.

"Some 1,224 people have been killed in Boko Haram related attacks" since May, the UN humanitarian agency (OCHA) said in a statement.

The toll includes civilians, military personnel as well insurgents killed by security forces repelling attacks.

But OCHA spokeswoman Choice Okoro told AFP that UN figure did not include insurgents killed during targeted military operations.

Defence officials have in recent months released a series of statements claiming scores of rebel deaths in operations on Boko Haram strongholds.

The details of those statements have been difficult to verify amid a communication blackout in much of the northeast and the military has been widely accused of downplaying fatalities among civilians and its own personnel.

"The humanitarian situation in northeast Nigeria has been increasingly worrisome over the course of 2013," the UN said, adding that there have been 48 separate "Boko Haram related" attacks in the region since emergency rule was declared.

Among the most gruesome was a pre-dawn massacre at an agricultural college in Yobe state, during which gunmen entered dormitories under the cover of darkness and shot dead 40 students in their sleep.

OCHA noted that "information on the situation is scarce," with figures of those displaced by the conflict and those who have fled to neighbouring states "hard to gauge."

The military had switched off the mobile network across the region, apparently to block Islamists from coordinating attacks.

Officially, mobile service has been restored in all three states, but communication remains difficult in Borno, the epicentre of the insurgency and where Boko Haram was founded more than a decade ago.

Jonathan, who has described the military offensive as a success, has extended the state of emergency through to May of next year, a move he said was necessary to clear out remaining Boko Haram strongholds.

While the security forces have not stopped the bloodshed, they have largely succeeded in containing Boko Haram in the northeast, the group's historic base.

Through 2012, the insurgents staged attacks across the wider north, including near-weekly suicide bombings at churches in major population centres.

Boko Haram, declared a terrorist organisation by the United States in November, has said it is fighting to create an Islamic state in Nigeria's mainly Muslim north.

Washington also slapped a \$7 million (5.1 million euros) bounty on the group's purported leader, Abubakar Shekau, who has ruled out any form of negotiations with the government.

Emerging nations overtake West in electronic waste

Author: Alister Doyle, Reuters/16 December 2013

OSLO - China and other emerging economies have overtaken Western nations in dumping old electronic goods, from TVs to cellphones, and will lead a projected 33 percent surge in the amount of waste from 2012 to 2017, a U.N.-backed alliance said on Sunday.

The report, the first to map electronic waste by country to promote recycling and safer disposal of often toxic parts, shows how the economic rise of developing nations is transforming the world economy even in terms of pollution.

"The e-waste problem requires attention globally," Ruediger Kuehr of the U.N. University and executive secretary of the Solving the E-Waste Problem (StEP) initiative, told Reuters. StEP is run by U.N. agencies, governments, NGOs and scientists.

The weight of electronic goods discarded every year worldwide would rise to 65.4 million tonnes

from 2012 to 2017 from 48.9 million in 2012, with most of the growth in developing nations, StEP said.

By 2017, it would make the annual piles of old washing machines, computers, fridges, electronic toys and other goods with an electric cord or battery the weight equivalent of 200 Empire State Buildings or 11 Great Pyramids of Giza, it said.

Some waste from rich countries ends up in developing nations, where many people work in hazardous conditions for low wages dismantling it.

Waste from emerging countries, as well as Russia and other former Soviet bloc nations, overtook totals from Western nations such as the United States, the European Union, Japan and Australia around 2012, StEP data showed.

In that year, the West produced 23.5 million tonnes of waste and all others 25.4 million, a shift from the previous estimates for 2007 when the West accounted for most, StEP said.

Mountains of trash

By 2017, trash from the West would rise to 28.6 million tonnes, far less than the 36.7 million from other countries, a side-effect of the economic rise of emerging nations such as India, Brazil and South Africa.

"Although there is ample information about the negative environmental and health impacts of primitive e-waste recycling methods, the lack of comprehensive data has made it hard to grasp the full magnitude of the problem," Kuehr said in the report.

Consumers could help with better recycling, especially at Christmas, he said.

Waste can be valuable if recycled. One study estimated that a million cellphones can yield 24 kg (53 lb) of gold, 250 kg of silver, 9 kg of palladium and more than 9 tonnes of copper.

Sunday's report also showed that the average person on the planet produces 7 kg of electronic waste every year. Americans were among the highest with 29.8 kg each.

Separately, U.S.-based experts trying to track the fate of waste said that about two-thirds of U.S. electronics waste is collected for re-use or recycling and that only 8.5 percent of the collected units are exported.

Bigger electronic items, especially TVs and computer monitors, were exported to nations including Mexico, Venezuela, Paraguay and China, it said. Smaller items often went to Asia.

Jeremy Gregory, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a co-author of the report, told Reuters it was hard to track trade because the waste is often merely described as "mixed metals" on import documents.

StEP urged nations to adopt clearer trade descriptions.

UN/AFRICA :

Central Africa: UN Chief - Syria, Car Are World's Top Dangers

16 December 2013/Voice of America (Washington, DC)

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has cited armed conflict in Syria and the Central African Republic as the two most serious crises facing United Nations agencies around the world today.

At a news conference Monday in New York, Ban demanded a cease-fire in Syria before peace talks between the government and opposition begin in Geneva next month.

The U.N. chief said in 2013 "the Syrian conflict deteriorated beyond all imagination" and the number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon alone may soon reach one million.

Ban also told reporters he is "gravely concerned about the imminent danger of mass atrocities" in the Central African Republic.

France has deployed 1,600 troops to the C.A.R. as part of a U.N.-authorized mission to stabilize the landlocked country, which has been ravaged by a cycle of revenge killings between Muslims and Christians.

In Geneva, the United Nations launched an appeal to donors for another \$6.5 billion to help support the nearly nine million Syrians uprooted by the conflict, the largest ever appeal for a single crisis.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres says the Syrian refugee disaster is the largest since the Rwanda genocide and "probably the most dangerous for global peace and security since the Second World War."

Aide humanitaire - L'ONU réclame 13 milliards pour 2014

17 décembre 2013/Associated Press , Agence France-Presse

La moitié de la somme ira aux victimes du conflit en Syrie

L'ONU a prévenu lundi qu'elle aura besoin de près de 13 milliards \$ US en 2014 pour venir en aide à au moins 52 millions de personnes dans 17 pays, y compris les millions de Syriens qui ont été chassés par la guerre civile.

« C'est le montant le plus élevé que nous avons jamais eu à demander au début d'une année, a dit la responsable humanitaire de l'ONU, Valerie Amos. La complexité et le coût de ce que nous faisons augmentent continuellement. » L'aide sera distribuée par 500 agences onusiennes, dont celles qui s'occupent des réfugiés, des enfants et de l'alimentation.

Environ la moitié de l'aide réclamée de 12,9 milliards \$ US — soit quelque 6,5 milliards \$ US — servira à fournir des abris, de la nourriture et des soins de santé en Syrie et dans les pays voisins touchés par la guerre.

« C'est l'appel le plus important jamais lancé pour une seule crise », a dit Mme Amos. La Syrie compterait à elle seule quelque 2,5 millions de personnes dans « des communautés très difficiles à rejoindre » en raison des combats et des problèmes de sécurité, a-t-elle ajouté.

Le conflit, qui s'étire depuis près de trois ans, a déjà fait plus de 100 000 morts et chassé des millions de personnes de chez elles, et une aide humanitaire serait requise même si les combats devaient prendre fin demain, a indiqué Mme Amos.

« Nous sommes ici confrontés à une situation terrifiante qui verra, d'ici la fin de 2014, nettement plus que la moitié de la population syrienne déplacée ou ayant besoin d'une aide humanitaire, a pour sa part estimé le Haut-Commissaire pour les réfugiés, AntDonio Guterres. Ça va au-delà de ce que nous avons vu depuis plusieurs, plusieurs années, et ça rend encore plus criant le besoin pour une solution politique. »

Il y a un an, l'ONU avait demandé une aide humanitaire de 8,5 milliards \$ US pour 2013, mais la guerre civile syrienne a forcé l'agence à gonfler ce montant à 13,6 milliards \$. L'ONU et d'autres organismes ont indiqué lundi qu'ils n'auront reçu que 60 % de l'aide demandée pour 2013. De tels écarts signifient que des gens sont laissés sans nourriture, sans abris et à la merci de la violence, ont-ils dit.

« Quand on examine la réponse humanitaire prévue en 2014 et les fonds requis, la communauté des ONG est très préoccupée de constater que les appels de cette année demeurent largement sous-financés, ce qui laisse des blancs pour répondre aux besoins humanitaires immédiats en plus de ralentir le rétablissement de millions de civils, ce qui laissera une cicatrice intolérable pendant des années », a lancé Jasmine Whitbread, la directrice de Save the Children International.

S'exprimant depuis la ville libanaise frontalière d'Arsal, le porte-parole de l'agence onusienne des réfugiés, Peter Kessler, a déclaré à l'Associated Press que l'emphase sera mise, en 2014, sur l'aide offerte aux pays-hôtes pour mettre en place et développer les infrastructures nécessaires pour accueillir un grand nombre de réfugiés.

Explosifs largués sur des quartiers d'Alep

Sur le terrain, l'armée de l'air syrienne a mené un de ses raids les plus meurtriers, avec 76 personnes dont 28 enfants tués à Alep. L'Unicef a estimé lundi qu'il était « inacceptable que des enfants soient pris pour cible de cette manière » après les raids aériens la veille sur des quartiers rebelles d'Alep. Un autre enfant a été tué lundi par un obus de mortier près d'une école du quartier d'Alep al-Jadida, tenu par le régime.

Selon l'Observatoire syrien des droits de l'Homme (OSDH) et des militants, l'armée utilise dans sa guerre contre les insurgés des « barils d'explosifs » remplis de TNT qu'elle largue à partir d'hélicoptères et d'avions militaires. Selon des militants d'Alep, l'intensité de ces raids sur la métropole, autrefois important centre économique, a été « sans précédent ».

Des images publiées sur Internet montrent d'importants dégâts dans des immeubles et des bulldozers dégageant des décombres tandis que des hommes cherchaient encore des survivants.

Ces barils d'explosifs « sont largués par les avions militaires sans système de guidage, c'est pour cela qu'ils font un grand nombre de victimes », indique Rami Abdel Rahmane, directeur de l'OSDH. Il s'agit de barils en métal recouverts à l'intérieur d'une couche de béton et remplis de TNT « pour faire un maximum de destructions et de morts », précise-t-il.

Une source de la sécurité syrienne a réfuté l'utilisation de barils, affirmant que « des bombes ont été larguées sur Alep » et que « toutes les poches terroristes seraient attaquées [...] sans pitié ». Une autre source de la sécurité a néanmoins précisé que l'armée préfère utiliser ces barils au lieu des missiles qui sont plus onéreux car importés de Russie.

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

EU Says Will 'Explore' Possible Central African Republic Mission

By Laurence Norman/online.wsj.com/Dec. 16, 2013

Diplomats Indicate No Decision Likely in Near Future on a Military or Civilian Mission to the Restive Nation

BRUSSELS—European Union foreign ministers said they would explore a possible civilian or military mission to the Central African Republic.

In recent days, France has called for European assistance beyond financial aid to help support the country's deployment to the Central African Republic.

In a statement on the situation in the African nation on Monday, the bloc's foreign ministers confirmed the "willingness of the EU to examine the use of instruments" that will help stabilize the Central African Republic, including a possible "military and civilian" EU mission. EU diplomats, however, signaled no decision was likely in the near future.

The foreign ministers also said that when security is restored to the country, the EU would consider some kind of contribution to the country's security "to guarantee a durable resolution of the crisis."

France has deployed 1,600 troops to the Central African Republic as part of a mission authorized by the United Nations to stabilize the landlocked country, which has been ravaged by a cycle of revenge killings between Muslims and Christians. The French government says it has sent the troops to the country for a six-month mission to back up a multinational force of African soldiers.

Since the start of the intervention on Dec. 5, however, French forces have found themselves inching closer to the front lines in the highly volatile conflict, undertaking risky patrols to disarm militants and vigilantes.

Several EU diplomats, however, said there was no real momentum behind an EU mission for the country—at least for now.

One EU official said there was only a brief discussion of the issue at Monday's foreign ministers meeting and claimed France had concluded some days ago EU member states were unlikely to

unanimously approve an operation in the Central African Republic for now.

The official said some kind of future operation to help maintain security was more likely.

The EU has a number of civilian and military missions in Africa, including an army training mission in Mali, a border security advise team in Libya and a police mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The U.K., Belgium, Spain and Germany are among the countries providing transport and logistics support for the French-led mission in the Central African Republic.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said there are "some other countries" who are considering offering military assistance but he didn't give details.

"The position of France has been supported unanimously," he told reporters on exiting from the meeting,

Mr. Fabius said EU heads of government will discuss the situation in the African country at their year-end summit later this week.

In their statement Monday, the EU foreign ministers said they would keep under review their humanitarian-aid contribution, which the bloc has already tripled this year to 60 million euros (\$83 million). The EU has also contributed €50 million to the African Union-led stabilization force.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 17 Décembre 2013 ... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 17/12/2013