



[Beijing makes rare overt political intervention in Africa, while presidents of Sudan and South Sudan meet in Juba for talks. China has called for an immediate end to hostilities in South Sudan, where the government is in talks with neighbouring Sudan to deploy a joint military force to protect vital oilfields from rebels. In a rare overt political intervention in Africa, the Chinese foreign minister, Wang Yi, said he was deeply concerned by the unrest in South Sudan, which has left more than 1,000 people dead and reduced oil flows by about a fifth.]

BURUNDI :

Burundi : La suspension de la consommation de la boisson "Kargasok" recommandée
Mardi 7 janvier 2014/Xinhua

BUJUMBURA (Xinhua) - Le Bureau burundais de normalisation et contrôle de qualité (BBN), administrée par le ministère ayant charge le commerce, a recommandé lundi de suspendre la consommation de la boisson "Kargasok", nouvellement commercialisée au Burundi sans être certifiée par le BBN.

Selon le directeur du BBN, Damien Nakobedetse, ce produit est considéré comme "jus" ou "thé", il contient probablement de l'alcool.

"La consommation de Kargasok, vendu à un prix dérisoire, devient inquiétante dans la mesure où le BBN ne l'a pas certifié", a-t-il affirmé à Xinhua.

Le BBN certifie seulement les produits issus des entreprises qui sont légalement enregistrées.

M. Nakobedetse a annoncé que le BBN reste ouvert pour procéder à l'évaluation de la conformité de cette boisson en vue de s'assurer qu'elle peut être consommée sans danger.

La commercialisation de Kargasok est formellement interdite au Rwanda.

RWANDA :

Rwanda has 'no sympathy' for ex-spy chief

January 7 2014/By SAPA

Johannesburg - Rwanda's foreign minister says her government has no sympathy for a slain former spy chief who had a falling out with the country's president and who was killed in South Africa, while Rwanda's prime minister warned on Monday that betraying one's country brings consequences.

Members of the Rwandan opposition have accused Rwandan President Paul Kagame of being behind the killing of Patrick Karegeya.

Rwandan Prime Minister Pierre Habumuremyi tweeted on Monday: "Betraying citizens and their country that made you a man shall always bear consequences to you."

When asked by The Associated Press if the tweet referred to Karegeya, the prime minister said "Not necessarily, this should be one of the values of #Rwanda leaders," in response.

But in separate Twitter messages, Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo said Karegeya was a "self-declared" enemy of their African nation. Referring to Karegeya's death, she tweeted: "You expect pity?"

The Rwandan government denies it targets dissidents for assassination, though the death of Karegeya - whose body was found, apparently strangled, on New Year's Day in Johannesburg - fits a pattern of attacks on Rwandan dissidents. Kagame has long been accused of extra-territorial killings, including ones committed when Karegeya was the feared boss of Rwanda's external security agency.

Among the attacks, gunmen twice tried to kill Kagame's former chief of army staff, Lt. Gen Kayumba Nyamwasa, while he was living in exile in Johannesburg in 2010. Nyamwasa told The Associated Press in 2012 that Kagame has hunted him and other dissidents around the world "using hired killer squads."

Responding to Mushikiwabo's tweets, Karegeya's eldest son Elvis asked her on Twitter: "So it's your government's view that any 'enemy' of the state deserves to be strangled to death?" Mushikiwabo responded: "It's my Gov position: 1. what happens to its enemies shd not make it lose sleep & 2. investigation shd proceed"

She repeated accusations that the slain dissident colonel and his colleagues had been behind grenade attacks in Rwanda in recent years.

Karegeya's family, meanwhile, said the Ugandan government has rejected a request for him to be buried in Uganda, the country of his birth and where his mother and siblings still live. James Mugume, the permanent secretary at Uganda's Foreign Ministry, said Monday Karegeya cannot be buried in Uganda because of "sovereignty" issues.

“He was a citizen of Rwanda and was resident in South Africa. We don't want to interfere in other countries' matters,” Mugume said.

In an interview with the AP on Monday, Karegeya's nephew, David Batenga, said he believes that the last person seen with Karegeya used a fake passport to enter South Africa. Batenga said Monday that the man, Rwandan businessman Apollo Kiririsi Gafaranga, had seemed to be a friend of the former Rwandan external intelligence chief.

“We haven't been able to find any record of him entering the country. So he must have used a fake passport,” Batenga said.

Three days earlier, Batenga and his uncle had picked Gafaranga up at a light-rail station and driven him to the plush Michelangelo Towers hotel where he had asked to be booked in. According to family members and friends, Gafaranga had spent years earning Karegeya's trust and had travelled to South Africa at least four times, always apparently on fake documents and staying at Karegeya's home.

But this time he had asked to be booked into a hotel, citing growing fears of the Rwandan regime and the security risk to his friend.

Karegeya was found dead in the hotel room after failing to respond to phone calls and text messages from his nephew. Gafaranga was gone, taking only his cellphone and wallet with him and leaving his suitcase behind in the room, Batenga said. Batenga believes more than one person was involved in the killing, saying it would likely take a several men to overpower his uncle and there weren't any signs of a massive struggle in the hotel room.

South African police have said they are following several leads but have provided no details.

Gafaranga's name was on a list of seven people claimed in a blog run by Rwandan dissidents to belong to a hit squad sent to South Africa to eliminate Karegeya. The blog said its information came from informers. Some of the hit men, it charged, had entered South Africa via Mozambique.

Karegeya had been living in exile in South Africa for more than five years after having a falling out with Kagame. - Sapa-AP

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

UK, US 'hacked into Uganda's phone network'

Date: Jan 07, 2014/newvision.co.ug

By Vision Reporter

British and American intelligence agencies remotely hacked into Uganda's telephone network system in order to access conversations of high-profile individuals in Uganda, a new report has

revealed.

The report offers insight into the murky practice of foreign intelligence collection by Britain and America who remotely access data and conversations on personal computers, phones, routers, hard disks and mobile phone SIM cards in other countries.

Equally, the report also reveals that Uganda telecom was remotely used to listen in on conversations of the Ecuadorian Embassy's staff in London where Wikileaks founder Julian Assange had sought refuge.

The details published by the website www.theregister.co.uk elaborate that the operatives under the UK Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) used a base station which mimics Uganda telecom's infrastructure and collects mobile signals to tap mobile phones.

The report hints that the British and American intelligence could have targeted high profile individuals in the Government of Uganda. The US National Security Agency has recently been in the spotlight for hacking and spying on world leaders. This has caused a global uproar.

The report reveals that shortly after Wikileaks founder Assange arrived in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, the embassy's staff started getting welcome messages from Uganda telecom on their mobile phones. This is because the British intelligence services had not reconfigured their data slurping base-station correctly from a previous operation in Uganda, according to the report.

The website adds that details of the hacking into the Uganda telecom network are contained in a 50-page top-secret document that was written by a division of the US National Security Agency (NSA) and sent to the German magazine Der Spiegel.

The hacking of Uganda telecom was revealed by journalist Jacob Appelbaum in his keynote to the 30th Chaos Communication Congress held in Germany on December 30. The full document was uploaded to whistle blowing website www.cryptome.org and details the names of the people and organisations targeted.

There was no immediate response from the communications industry regulator, Uganda Communications Commission (UCC). Fred Otunnu, the UCC director for communications and consumer affairs, asked for more time in order for the commission to come up with an appropriate response.

Neither could the Uganda telecom managing director Ali Amir be contacted on phone. By press time, he had not responded to an email message seeking his comment.

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

Anti-Poaching Operation Spreads Terror in Tanzania

By Kizito Makoye/ipsnews.net/2014/01/07

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania , Jan 6 2014 (IPS) - Ali Nyenge, a resident of Iputi ward in Tanzania's northern Ulanga District, woke up as anti-poaching security officers surrounded his home. He says they accused him of illegal hunting and in front of his 11-year-old son, made him take his clothes off, poured salt water on his body and whipped him with a cane.

"I had no choice than to obey their orders," Nyenge told IPS by phone from Ulanga. "I sustained severe injuries. I could hardly sit down. I begged them for mercy but they kept on hitting me."

The 38-year-old farmer, who has publically accused security forces of assault, claims the ordeal caused him severe physical and emotional torture. At one point, Nyenge said his captors forced him to draw a python on his thigh using a razor blade.

Nyenge's story is one of many to emerge as the government investigates an anti-poaching campaign aimed at reducing the illegal ivory trade, but which has also brought allegations that security forces committed rape, murder, torture and extortion of locals. A parliamentary inquiry found 13 people were murdered and thousands of livestock – the livelihood of many – were maimed or killed.

In October 2013, President Jakaya Kikwete ordered more than 2,300 security personnel from Tanzania's People's Defence Force, local police and special anti-poaching militias, and wildlife rangers to step up enforcement of a ban on elephant and rhinoceros poaching, which has been growing in recent years. But in November, Kikwete was forced to end the campaign, dubbed Operation Tokomeza, under heavy criticism.

"The anti-poaching operation had good intentions, but the reported murders, rapes and brutality are totally unacceptable," Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda told the parliament in December.

Pinda said wildlife poaching has reached alarming dimensions in the country's national parks, especially Selous Game Reserve, whose elephant population has dwindled from 55,000 to 13,000.

During the final two months of last year, the government estimates 60 elephants were killed in the country, compared to only two in October, when the operation was in effect.

Neema Moses, also a resident of Ulanga, told a parliamentary committee formed to investigate human rights abuses that she was stripped naked, made to insert a bottle into her vagina and forced to have sex with her in-laws by security forces.

Presenting a report on the abuses in parliament, the chairman of the committee, James Lembeli, said his team proved beyond doubt that members of security forces spread terror and committed "untold" atrocities against innocent civilians.

"Honourable Speaker, some women claimed to have been raped and sodomised. In Matongo ward in Bariadi district, for instance, one woman alleged to have been raped by three soldiers at gunpoint."

Lembeli said victims included local government leaders who were humiliated in makeshift interrogation camps in front of their constituents. He cited the case of Peter Samwel, councilor for Sakasaka ward in Meatu district, who complained he had his arms and legs tied with a rope and was hung upside-down for hours.

According to Lembeli, the raids forced some people to abandon their homes for fear of being harmed.

Eyewitness accounts say suspected poachers lost thousands of animals and other property, including cash, when they were seized or outright stolen by officers.

In Minziro village in Kagera region near Lake Victoria, residents recall a stunning blow they suffered on Oct. 13, when a group of soldiers invaded the village, beat up locals and set ablaze homes of people they suspected to be illegal immigrants.

Abraham Kafanobo, the deputy chairman of the village, told IPS that most residents had since fled and said they feared to return even after the operation had been suspended.

The scandal has led to the sacking of four government ministers – of tourism, defence, livestock development and home affairs – for failure to rein in the ministries they were leading.

Tourism minister Khamis Kagesheki said in October that poachers engaging in the ivory trade should be killed “on the spot”.

Lawyer and human rights activist Issa Shivji criticised the military involvement in a civilian operation, saying the way the operation was implemented was a great shame on Tanzania.

Professor Shivji called for a swift investigation of the alleged abuses and said criminal charges should be brought against security personnel who took part in the operation irrespective of their rank.

“It’s not only the shame, it’s a big tragedy to the nation which requires a collective assessment of the people to ask ourselves, where are we going? What prompted security organs, which have the mandate to protect lives, dignity and respect of the people to act [so] irresponsibly?”

Tanzania Arrests Two Over Ivory Smuggling

6 January 2014/Sabahi (Washington, DC)

Tanzanian security forces are questioning two suspects in connection to the 81 elephant tusks seized at Dar es Salaam Port last week, Tanzania's Daily News reported Saturday (January 4th).

Tanzania Port Authority (TPA) Board Chairman Joseph Msambichaka said in a press conference that investigations were ongoing and more details would be available shortly.

Authorities suspect there is a link between these tusks and the 60 elephants killed in Tanzania in the past months following the suspension of the controversial anti-poaching campaign over allegations of human rights abuses.

On December 31st President Jakaya Kikwete said the country will resume the anti-poaching operations.

KENYA :

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Africa News Round Up, January, Tuesday 07, 2014

January 7, 2014 /by Administrator/independent.co.ug

In South Sudan, China, the biggest investor in the country's oil industry, on Monday called for an immediate ceasefire as rebel and government negotiators haggled over the scope of peace talks meant to end three weeks of fighting, Reuters reports.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Beijing was deeply concerned by the unrest in South Sudan that has killed more than a thousand people and forced the government to cut oil production by about a fifth.

Sudan, which also has an economic interest in its southern neighbor's oil output, said the Juba government discussed the deployment of a joint force to secure its oilfields during a visit by Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir.

"China's position with regard to the current situation in South Sudan is very clear," Wang told reporters in Addis Ababa, where the peace talks are taking place. "First, we call for an immediate cessation of hostilities and violence."

An Ethiopian delegate said Wang had met both rebel and government delegations.

The peace talks opened formally on Saturday in Ethiopia, but delegates have yet to sit down for face-to-face negotiations.

The fighting is the worst in South Sudan since it won independence from Sudan in 2011 in a peace deal that ended one of Africa's longest civil wars.

China is the biggest investor in oilfields in South Sudan, through state-owned Chinese oil giants China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) and Sinopec. The fighting forced CNPC to evacuate workers.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Karti said Kiir and Bashir had discussed the deployment of a joint force to secure oilfields under threat from the rebels. He said the areas of deployment would be discussed at a later date.

Separately, the two warring parties in South Sudan have begun direct talks in Ethiopia aiming at a ceasefire.

Analysts say that by seizing Bentiu, the capital of the oil-producing Unity State, the rebels have in effect been able to hold the country to ransom and made their bargaining position much stronger.

Also on Monday, the South Sudanese government announced it had agreed to a cessation of hostilities with a rebel it has been fighting for nearly two years, David Yau Yau.

It had been feared that Mr Yau Yau, who has troops in Jonglei state, would join the new rebellion.

Mr Yau Yau previously said he took up arms to win greater rights for his Murle ethnic group, rather than to overthrow the government.

In another development, the United Nations said militiamen had taken control of a UN food warehouse in Bentiu and that UN vehicles had been commandeered in the rebel-held town of Bor.

In the Central African Republic (CAR) United Nations officials are warning the Security Council that the country is on the brink of a catastrophe, with half the population made homeless since ethnic warfare broke out, Aljazeera reports.

UN political affairs chief Jeffrey Feltman told the council on Monday that about 2.2 million people throughout the country need assistance, about half the total population.

About half the people of Bangui have been driven from their homes, a total of about 513,000, he said. An estimated 100,000 people are seeking shelter at a makeshift camp at the airport near the capital.

The Central African Republic has been plunged into chaos as the country's Christian majority seeks revenge against the Muslim rebels, who seized power in a coup in March. Fighting between Christian and Muslim militias intensified in December.

An attack on Bangui by the Christian militia calling itself the anti-Balaka on December 5 triggered heavy unrest in the capital, Feltman said.

A report in late December by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon reported 600 deaths in Bangui in those attacks, and Feltman put the current total at "750 casualties" in the capital.

"The death toll outside Bangui is likely to be substantial," he said. "Killings in Bangui and the rest of the country continue every day, and the population remains divided along religious affiliation," Feltman said.

The UN Children's Fund warned at the end of December, that children are being recruited into the militias, and verified the killings of at least 16 children since December 5, two of whom were beheaded.

In Egypt, local media reported on Monday it no longer appears to be a question of if, but when army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi will declare his candidacy for president, News24 reports. With no other obvious candidates for the post, the general who deposed Islamist President Mohamed Morsi in July has kept Egyptians guessing about his intentions as the clock ticks down to the presidential vote that could happen as soon as April.

Sisi's candidacy would further deepen divisions between the many Egyptians who believe a firm hand is needed to steer the country through crisis and Islamists bearing the brunt of a state crackdown on dissent.

Speaking to Reuters on condition of anonymity, an official in the security services said Sisi was "most likely going to announce that he will run for the presidency", adding: "The army in a recent meeting expressed its support for him to run."

Responding to a local TV report saying Sisi would run, the army issued a statement on Saturday

saying the military did not make declarations via anonymous sources and urging the media to show professionalism in its reporting.

But it did not clearly deny the main elements of the report read out during an evening talk show on MBC Egypt: that Sisi will now run and Sedki Sobhi, currently chief of staff, will take his place as defence minister and army chief.

Though Sisi enjoys broad support among those Egyptians happy to see the end of Morsi's rule, he is reviled by his Islamist opponents, who view him as the mastermind of a bloody military coup against the country's first freely elected head of state.

The army-backed government has mounted a crackdown on Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood, driving it underground and prompting fears of longer term instability. Prominent secular dissidents have also been arrested in a blow to political freedoms.

But Sisi's supporters see him as the kind of strong man needed to bring stability after three years of turmoil. His face has appeared on posters and chocolates, he has been lionised by the media and songs have been dedicated to him and the army.

UN/AFRICA :

UN warns CAR on brink of catastrophe

07 Jan 2014 /aljazeera.com

About 2.2 million people in Central African Republic need assistance according to UN political chief.

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The UN Children's Fund warned at the end of December, that children are being recruited into the militias, and verified the killings of at least 16 children since December 5, two of whom were beheaded.

In December the Security Council authorised a multinational African peacekeeping force, which is expected to increase its troop strength from about 2,500 to 3,500, to keep a lid on the violence. France sent in about 1,600 troops on December 9 to back them up.

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

China urges immediate end to conflict in South Sudan

David Smith, Africa correspondent/The Guardian/Tuesday 7 January 2014

Beijing makes rare overt political intervention in Africa, while presidents of Sudan and South Sudan meet in Juba for talks

China has called for an immediate end to hostilities in South Sudan, where the government is in talks with neighbouring Sudan to deploy a joint military force to protect vital oilfields from rebels.

In a rare overt political intervention in Africa, the Chinese foreign minister, Wang Yi, said he was deeply concerned by the unrest in South Sudan, which has left more than 1,000 people dead and reduced oil flows by about a fifth.

"China's position with regards to the current situation in South Sudan is very clear," Wang told reporters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where direct talks aimed at a ceasefire finally got under way on Monday. "First, we call for an immediate cessation of hostilities and violence."

China would do what it could to help restore stability in South Sudan and urged international powers to back the Ethiopian-led mediation efforts. An Ethiopian delegate told Reuters that Wang met both rebel and government delegations. China is Africa's single biggest trading partner, having overtaken the United States over the past decade, but professes to remain neutral and not interfere in African states' internal politics.

It is the biggest investor in oilfields in South Sudan through state-owned Chinese oil groups China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) and Sinopec. The fighting forced CNPC to evacuate workers.

Similar in size to France, South Sudan is estimated by BP to hold sub-Saharan Africa's third biggest oil reserves. Its plight is attracting more global attention than most conflict-torn African nations. US president Barack Obama received daily briefings while on holiday in Hawaii, the New York Times reported, describing this as "a level of attention unheard-of for any other crisis in that part of Africa".

The high stakes were becoming increasingly apparent as Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir flew into Juba to meet his South Sudan counterpart Salva Kiir, less than two years after the governments almost went to war over oil.

Bashir's arrival reflected Sudanese fears that the three-week conflict could damage its struggling economy. All of landlocked South Sudan's oil is piped through its northern neighbour, providing vital hard currency in transit fees for Khartoum.

Sudan's foreign minister Ali Karti said the men were "in consultations about the deployment of a mixed force to protect the oilfields in the south". Neither of the presidents referred to the proposal during a press conference in the South Sudanese capital Juba. The return of Sudanese troops to the south could send the crisis in an unpredictable new direction; at least two million people died during the north-south conflict that eventually led to the south's independence.

Anti-government forces loyal to rebel leader Riek Machar control the town of Bentiu, the capital of oil-rich Unity state. The south's government has said oil is no longer flowing from Unity's fields. Most, if not all, of the Chinese and Pakistani oil workers have left the country because of the outbreak of violence.

Bashir, an indicted war crimes suspect wanted by the international criminal court, would not meet Machar, al-Jazeera reported. It said the Sudanese government attributed this to practical reasons and was not taking sides.

Kiir and Machar were comrades during the south's struggle against Khartoum, which culminated in a US-funded referendum and secession in July 2011. Relations with Sudan had remained fraught and renewed war seemed possible. But in March the two countries agreed to resume pumping oil through pipelines from south to north. A month later Bashir made his first visit to the south since it gained independence.

On Monday Bashir said he feared that after allowing South Sudan to hold a vote to break away from Sudan in 2011, the outbreak of violence could mean "that our huge sacrifice did not bear fruit."

"We have come to see what we can do to stop this war knowing all too well that armed conflict would never resolve a problem and also knowing that any problem no matter how complicated can be solved at the negotiation table," Bashir said. "We fought each other for 20 years and in the end we sat and talked peace. Any further fighting is just a perpetuation of suffering for innocent civilians and loss in of lives and more destruction."

He added: "We are convinced that armed conflict will only create complications that will do no good that the people (of South Sudan) must and will come back to the negotiating table."

Kiir told reporters that "taking power by military force is a crime" and that Machar's actions should be condemned by the international community.

Despite the international pressure from multiple sides, the violence goes on. Fighting continues outside the flashpoint town of Bor, the capital of Jonglei state, which has untapped oil reserves. On Sunday a South Sudanese army general was killed when a government convoy was ambushed.

Meanwhile Oxfam reiterated its warning of a growing humanitarian crisis, noting that the Awerial refugee camp on the banks of the Nile is now home to 75,000 people. Desire Assogbavi, head of the charity's African Union liaison office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, said: "Thousands of families already living in extreme poverty have been pushed from their homes and cut off from what they need to survive.

"We are doing what we can to ensure those most affected by the violence have their basic needs met, such as access to food, water and sanitary living conditions. But if the conflict continues, it will become even more difficult to meet the increasing needs of those affected."

Kiir has blamed his long-term rival and former vice-president, Machar, whom he sacked in July, for starting the fighting in a bid to seize power. Machar dismissed the allegation but has acknowledged leading soldiers battling the government.

The conflict has taken on ethnic undertones: Kiir is from the majority Dinka community and Machar from the Nuer group.

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 07 Janvier 2014... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 07/01/2014