

AFRICA : 18 MARS 2017 : (Egypte : le colosse découvert n'est pas celui du pharaon Ramsès II)



*Un morceau du colosse, récemment découvert au Caire.
REUTERS/Mohamed Abd El Ghany*

BURUNDI :

Sécurité : Un complot ONUSIEN pour déstabiliser le Burundi

A Bujumbura, ce mercredi 8 mars 2017, les autorités burundaises, en charge de la sécurité, prennent très au sérieux l'information selon laquelle des soldats Rwandais (le Rwanda, pays ennemi du Burundi, à cause de son implication dans la REVOLUTION DE COULEUR de 2015 au Burundi et du Coup d'Etat raté du mercredi 13 mai 2015) auraient été perçus à KALEMIE, port situé en RDC Congo sur le lac TANGANIYKA qui partage la frontière entre la RDC et le Burundi.

A Kabimba (KALEMIE en RDC Congo), dans l'après-midi du dimanche 5 mars 2017, les Babembe, population congolaise de la localité, ont stoppé un bateau plein des soldats RWANDAIS... Les autorités sécuritaires burundaises ont d'excellente relations d'amitiés et de travail avec leurs homologues en RDC Congo. La présence de la MONUSCO à l'Est de la RDC Congo, surtout aux frontières (terrestres et maritimes) avec le Burundi, n'est pas une source de confiance, en cette période cruciale où le processus électoral congolais est en marche. Ce bateau de militaires RWANDAIS à KALEMIE le démontre à nouveau.

Guerre Humanitaire - A Genève, Mardi 7 mars 2017, Zeid Raad al-Husseini, Haut Commissaire aux droits de l'homme ONU (un intime de M. SOROS Cfr. REVOLUTION DE COULEUR AU BURUNDI EN 2015 ...) explique que le BURUNDI fait parti des pays où les femmes sont les moins bien traités au Monde avec la

RUSSIE. Alors que le BURUNDI est parmi le TOP 10 des pays au monde où la femme est la mieux représenté dans les institutions nationales. [Source :

<http://www.lacote.ch/articles/regions/geneve/la-geneve-internationale-s-engage-sur-la-parite-645310>]

Curieusement, selon l'officier NKURIKIYE Pierre, porte parole de la Police Nationale du Burundi PNB, à Kirundo, au nord du Burundi, frontière avec le Rwanda, 4 pêcheurs burundais ont été enlevés dans le lac RWERU le vendredi 3 mars 2017.

Au Burundi, depuis 2015, les renseignements burundais étaient persuadés qu'une attaque surprise contre le Burundi, en utilisant les cours d'eau au lieu des frontières terrestres, avaient été envisagée par la coalition du réseau USA/OBAMA – SOROS, FRANCE (Réseau HOLLANDE), BELGIQUE (Réseau LOUIS MICHEL), RWANDA (DICTATEUR KAGAME), et du réseau de l'ex-Dictateur HIMA Buyoya Pierre.

La coïncidence fait que le SENEGALAIS M. Adama Dieng, (fonctionnaire onusien de la FRANCAFRIQUE) conseiller spécial des Nations unies pour la prévention du génocide, un ami intime des autorités RWANDAISES, à 1 jour d'une réunion du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU, vient à nouveau tirer la sonnette d'alarme sur le Burundi, persuader d'un massacre à grande échelle à venir. Alors que du côté burundais, paradoxalement, ce mardi 7 mars 2017 une réunion des responsables de haut niveau des secteurs de la sécurité, de la défense, de la justice et de l'administration, réunis à Muyinga dans les enceintes de l'église

pentecôte au quartier Mukoni, ont conclu que le BURUNDI est un pays en paix à 100%, un pays calme ...

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, le mercredi 8 mars 2017

BURUNDI : Le RWANDA ou le très mauvais voisin des GRANDS LACS AFRICAIN

A Bujumbura, ce lundi 13 mars 2017, l'officier BARATUZA Gaspard, porte-parole de Ministère burundais de la Défense Nationale et des Anciens combattants, a démenti un communiqué du Ministère de la Défense Nationale du Rwanda, qui a diffusé sur son site Internet en date du dimanche 12 mars 2017, des informations indiquant qu'une attaque avait été perpétrée sur le sol Rwandais occasionnant la mort de 2 personnes et blessant une autre, parmi un groupe de malfaiteurs qui se serait replié au Burundi.

Le porte parole du Ministère burundais BARATUZA indique qu'aucun groupe armé n'a été remarqué traversant la frontière entre le Burundi et le Rwanda. Le Burundi, contrairement au Rwanda, n'acceptera jamais que des criminels ou des déstabilisateurs du Rwanda trouvent refuge sur le territoire burundais.

Voici le communiqué : http://burundi-agnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/bdi_burundi_mindef_rwanda_2017.pdf

Curieusement, la Police Nationale du Burundi PNB, à Kirundo, au nord du Burundi, frontière avec le Rwanda, avaient informé que 4 pêcheurs burundais avaient été enlevés (par des militaires RWANDAIS) dans le lac RWERU le vendredi 3 mars 2017 [<http://burundi-agnews.org/afrique/securite-un-complot-onusien-pour-destabiliser-le-burundi/>]. La justice burundaise se demande si les 2 victimes, dont parlent ce communiqué de l'armée Rwandaise, ne seraient pas certains parmi ces individus. Les militaires RWANDAIS, généralement, tuent les citoyens burundais qui traversent la frontière ...

La RDC CONGO, le BURUNDI, et la TANZANIE en ont marre du RWANDA du Dictateur KAGAME, utilisé par les multinationales prédatrices OCCIDENTALES pour déstabiliser la région, mais surtout comme arme de destruction massive envers les populations paisibles de cette localité d'Afrique.

Le problème RWANDAIS, c'est toute une population qui errent comme REFUGIES DANS LA REGION DES GRANDS LACS depuis près de 27 ans (1994 – LE GENOCIDE DES TUTSI DU RWANDA).

L'UNIVERSISME PHILOSOPHIQUE AFRICAIN (1) demande, lors de la constitution d'un ETAT (2), de mettre autour d'une même table (ou d'un même baobab ou d'un même arbre sacré)

tous les GRANDS CHEFS des GRANDS CLANS qui habitent un territoire donné. Ce sont eux, alors, qui établissent la règle du jeu (l'ordre constitutionnel, les règles institutionnelles etc.) sur ce territoire qu'ils décident d'organiser ensemble d'une certaine manière, en y choisissant un REPRESENTANT COMMUN, soit un ROI ou un EMPEREUR (Aujourd'hui, un PRESIDENT). Au RWANDA, le problème est que ce pays, guidé par le dictateur KAGAME, ne respecte pas ce principe de l'UNIVERSISME philosophique africain. La TANZANIE a demandé au RWANDA de respecter ce principe (ou LE PEUPLE RWANDAIS). Le DICTATEUR KAGAME est monté sur le créneau en évoquant le GENOCIDE DE 1994, soutenu par les leaders OCCIDENTAUX affairistes dans les GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS. La RDC CONGO a demandé que les RWANDAIS, dont les BANYAMULENGE, rentrent chez eux, mais le dictateur KAGAME a évoqué le GENOCIDE TUTSI de 1994... Le mercredi 13 mai 2015, le BURUNDI a subi un COUP D'ETAT MILITAIRE RATE, issue d'une REVOLUTION DE COULEUR planifiée par les USA d'OBAMA (+ Réseau SOROS), la FRANCE (Réseau FRANCAFRIQUE), la BELGIQUE (RESEAU LOUIS MICHEL), depuis le RWANDA, avec les hommes de l'ancien dictateur HIMA burundais BUYOYA Pierre. Aujourd'hui, toute la horde des putschistes burundais vivent au RWANDA du DICTATEUR KAGAME (ou en OCCIDENT) et évoquent UN PROBABLE GENOCIDE AU BURUNDI ...

Dans la région des Grands Lacs, depuis 1993 à nos jours près de 15 millions de citoyens de cette région d'Afrique ont trouvé la mort à cause de ce déséquilibre provoqué sur la tradition africaine.

L'Afrique, depuis l'esclavage (15ème siècle) et la colonisation (19ème siècle), à nos jours en 2017, atteint facilement les 100 Millions de victimes africaines ...

(1) La Pensée Africaine (Mbog Bassong)

(2) En se référant à la VERITE que montre le ciel pendant la nuit, le NOIR [la matière noire et l'énergie noire] l'emporte sur les petits LUMIERES des étoiles qui illuminent le ciel.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, le lundi 13 mars 2017

Burundi : La CVR informée de la présence de fosses communes de 1972 à MAKAMBA

GENOCIDE – M. Niyukuri GAD, Gouverneur de MAKAMBA, informe la CVR que sa province comprend d'innombrables fosses communes notamment datant de 1972 et qu'il faut les protéger ...

A Makamba, au Sud du pays, ce mercredi 15 mars 2017, Mme Niragira Clotilde, Secrétaire Général de la Commission Vérité Réconciliation (CVR), organisait une rencontre de sensibilisation sur les travaux de la CVR destinée aux autorités administratives, aux représentants des partis politiques, aux confessions religieuses, aux chefs de services et de la société civile.

M. Niyukuri GAD, gouverneur de la province Makamba, en a profité, au nom de ses administrés, notamment les familles des

victimes du GENOCIDE-REGICIDE du Burundi [<http://burundi-agnews.org/genocide.htm>], de rappeler à la CVR que de nombreuses fosses communes liées en grande parties au Génocide de 1972 contre les BARUNDI commis par le régime du DICTATEUR HIMA Burundais MICOMBERO Michel, sont présentes à MAKAMBA. Le gouverneur de MAKAMBA demande, incessamment, à la CVR de donner des directives pour protéger ces endroits, surtout là où certains y ont déjà érigé des maisons.

Le Burundi est un ancien vieux Royaume millénaire africain, qui était connu sous le nom d'INGOMA Y'UBURUNDI [http://burundi-agnews.org/histoire_du_burundi.htm]. Entre 1965 et 1966, les HIMA du Burundi, aidés par la FRANCE, par Coup d'ETAT Militaire, ont renversé le ROYAUME des BARUNDI en le remplaçant par une REPUBLIQUE. Minoritaires et surtout composés de certains groupes étrangers du Burundi, les HIMA n'avaient aucune assise politique, militaire ou même économique sur les BARUNDI ... De là naîtra alors l'idée de commettre un GENOCIDE en vue de s'accaparer de tout cela. Les Régions du Sud du Burundi (RUMONGE et MAKAMBA avec NYANZA LAC), véritables paradis terrestres, bordées par le Lac TANGANYIKA, avec les habitants les plus riches -socio-économiquement- du Burundi à cette époque, vont être les plus prisés par la nouvelle élite HIMA burundaise au pouvoir. C'est au SUD du BURUNDI que le régime du dictateur HIMA MICOMBERO a décidé de commencer le GENOCIDE de 1972 ...

**DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, le mercredi
15 mars 2017**

RWANDA :

Rwanda : manœuvres militaires lundi

Des soldats burkinabé en 2015 près du quartier général du régiment de la sécurité présidentielle en 2015 (illustration)

Le Rwanda va abriter à partir de lundi une manœuvre militaire impliquant une dizaine de pays africains.

La manœuvre appelée "tranquillité en Afrique" vise à répondre aux problèmes africains par des solutions africaines.

Placée sous l'égide de l'Union Africaine, cette opération va regrouper des troupes en provenance de l'Algérie, d'Angola, du Bénin, du Burkina Faso, du Tchad, d'Égypte et de l'Afrique du Sud.

Selon Martin Nzaramba, directeur des opérations, cette manœuvre militaire vise à concrétiser la volonté des États africains à résoudre par leurs propres efforts les problèmes de sécurité sur le continent. Elle visera aussi à accroître la capacité des pays participants à répondre aux défis de déploiement dans les régions en crise, a-t-il précisé.

Pour Paul Kagamé, le Président rwandais, les soutiens militaires extérieurs devront simplement être complémentaires des efforts africains.

Tranquillité en Afrique permettra également de "montrer que nous sommes capables d'être les premiers sur nos propres fronts de combat" a indiqué le Chef de l'État rwandais.

[<http://www.bbc.com/afrique/region-39300282>]

Rwanda: procès de 44 musulmans accusés de terrorisme

Au Rwanda, 44 musulmans rwandais accusés de «terrorisme» ont comparu mercredi 15 mars à Kigali. Déjà reporté précédemment, l'examen sur le fond de l'affaire a été cette fois-ci renvoyé au 4 avril, la défense ayant demandé plus de temps pour prendre connaissance du dossier. Les prévenus avaient été arrêtés après

que la police a abattu en janvier 2016 un religieux musulman rwandais soupçonné de recruter pour le compte du groupe Etat islamique en Syrie. Sans en apporter la preuve, elle avait alors assuré avoir «détecté la formation de réseaux terroristes» dans le pays. La communauté musulmane représente 2% de la population rwandaise. A ce jour, aucune attaque terroriste jihadiste n'a été recensée sur le territoire.

La petite salle de la haute cour de Kigali peine à contenir les quarante-quatre accusés et leurs proches venus assister à l'audience. L'une des rares à ne pas s'être tenue à huis clos depuis le début de cette affaire sensible. Parmi les prévenus, des hommes et des femmes au milieu desquels figurent quelques mineurs. Le détail des charges n'a pas été dévoilé par la justice rwandaise. Une des avocates a toutefois expliqué à RFI que ses cinq clients étaient notamment accusés de « terrorisme » et de « formation d'un groupe armé illégal ».

Selon une seconde avocate, dix-sept autres personnes sont accusées d'avoir tenté de mettre sur pied « un groupe de malfaiteurs pour attaquer le Rwanda », car ils étaient en désaccord avec la décision du gouvernement d'interdire le niqab. Toujours selon un membre de la défense, d'autres prévenus sont soupçonnés d'avoir tenté de mener des entraînements militaires dans l'est de la RDC voisine.

Lors d'une précédente audience, plusieurs accusés avaient dénoncé les conditions de leur arrestation, assurant avoir été arrêtés et détenus au secret parfois plusieurs mois avant la date officielle de leur arrestation.

[<http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20170315-rwanda-proces-44-musulmans-accuses-terrorisme>] Par RFI Publié le 16-03-2017 Modifié le 16-03-2017 à 00:29

Mother held in Rwanda faces future in jail

An impassioned plea for help to the Prime Minister has been issued by the young sons of a Yorkshire mother held in prison in Rwanda as her husband confirms she is five months' pregnant.

Youth worker Violette Uwamahoro, from Leeds, travelled to the country more than a month ago to bury her father but vanished on Valentine's Day, sparking fears she had been kidnapped by the country's military intelligence. Now, as she is formally charged with revealing state secrets and offences against the government, her young sons have written to Prime Minister Theresa May asking for help to bring their mother home, and her husband is calling on the Foreign Office to intervene as he fears for the safety of their unborn child. "She's five months pregnant, we can't keep that quiet now," said Faustin Rukundo, who fears his wife is being forced to pay because of his role as a political activist in the opposition to Rwandan president Paul Kagame. "She is suffering, and our child is. "Violette has no political past or present, Violette is innocent. If Rwanda chooses to crucify her because she is my wife they may just do so as they did it to so many Rwandans before her but the entire world should know that she is an innocent victim. "The British Government has to be ready to protect its citizens. They have to make sure that justice is delivered."

Mother-of-two Mrs Uwamahoro, 39, had been set to meet family in the Rwandan capital of Kigali on February 14, but vanished 20 minutes after speaking to her husband. This week she was formally charged and appeared in court, supported by a state appointed solicitor. But Mr Rukundo, a lab technician who gained British nationality along with his wife in 2014 and has lived in the UK since 2004, is calling for greater support from the British Government as he fears the trial will not be a fair one. Three of her family members have now disappeared, he said, with one, her cousin, appearing before the courts as a key witness against her. "Nobody knew where he was, his family had been looking for him," he said. "He's absolutely been coerced through torture. There's no doubt in my mind about that. She's allowed a Rwandan state solicitor, that she can't always see. She needs someone independent if she is going to get a fair trial. "The Foreign Office has told us that they will help as much as they can but they can't promise a lawyer. But the Government has to help. She needs

justice. They need to step up pressure.” The couple’s two boys, David and Samuel Mushinja, eight and 10, have been receiving support from their school in Leeds, said Mr Rukundo, but they are tortured by what is happening. “They promised that she could contact her children,” he said. “They have failed. The children are suffering. Their mother is in a traumatised state. “The school in Leeds is offering them a lot of support. But they can’t speak to her. They want to know what they can do. They still don’t believe their mother can disappear, just like that.” A spokesman for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said: “We are providing assistance to a British woman and her family following her arrest in Rwanda. Our staff in Kigali are in touch with local authorities.” The the Rwandan High Commission has been unavailable for comment.

[Published: 06:13 - Saturday 18 March Read more at:
<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/mother-held-in-rwanda-faces-future-in-jail-1-8445414>]

RDC CONGO :

Le pape annule sa visite en République démocratique du Congo

Serge KOFFI 15/03 - 14:26 - République démocratique du Congo

Le Pape François ne se rendra pas en République démocratique du Congo. Le saint-père l'a annoncé lui-même dans une interview à l'hebdomadaire allemand Die Zeit parue le 09 mars dernier.

En RDC, ce sont les évêques qui jouent les médiateurs pour faire renouer le dialogue entre pouvoir et opposition.

Le 07 mars dernier, l'épiscopat catholique dénonçait des manœuvres visant à retarder la mise en application de l'accord de la Saint-Sylvestre qui prévoit la mise en place d'une transition politique, en attendant l'organisation d'élections présidentielles et législatives d'ici à la fin de 2017.

Cette crise politique couplée à de mauvaises relations entre le Vatican et le pouvoir du président Kabila ont eu raison de la visite du pape dans ce pays qui compte plus de 32 millions catholiques.

Le souverain pontife a également annulé sa visite en République du Congo, voisin de la RDC. Il a en revanche annoncé qu'il se rendra cette année au Soudan du Sud.

[<http://fr.africanews.com/2017/03/15/le-pape-annule-sa-visite-en-republique-democratique-du-congo/>]

RD Congo : Kinshasa proteste contre la visite de Moïse Katumbi en Zambie

16 mars 2017 à 13h00 — Mis à jour le 16 mars 2017 à 20h24

Par Natacha Gorwitz et Trésor Kibangula

Le voyage de l'opposant Moïse Katumbi en Zambie n'a pas plu aux autorités congolaises. Celles-ci l'ont fait savoir aux autorités zambiennes dans une lettre officielle datée du 9 mars et à laquelle Jeune Afrique a eu accès.

Dans une lettre adressée au ministère zambien des Affaires étrangères et qu'a pu consulter Jeune Afrique jeudi 16 mars, l'ambassade de RDC en Zambie s'étonne de la présence de l'opposant Moïse Katumbi à Lusaka, la capitale zambienne, lors du match de football entre l'Afrique du Sud et la Zambie le 8 mars.

Au vu des « bonnes relations » entre les deux pays, « il est incompréhensible que la République de Zambie ait accordé un visa en faveur de M. Moïse Katumbi », se plaint l'ambassade de RDC en Zambie dans cette lettre datée du 9 mars.

Le document pointe du doigt le comportement de l'opposant, « susceptible de remettre en cause la paix, la stabilité et le bien-être du peuple congolais ». Pour conclure, l'ambassade de RDC en Zambie demande aux autorités zambiennes de lui indiquer « les motifs qui ont conduit à [son] arrivée » dans le pays.

« Rien ne nous interdit de délivrer de visa à un opposant étranger, fut-il poursuivi dans son pays, dès lors que sa culpabilité n'est pas établie », a déclaré à Jeune Afrique une source diplomatique zambienne.

Katumbi en « homme libre »

En exil depuis son inculpation pour « atteinte à la sûreté intérieure et extérieure », Moïse Katumbi s'est rendu en Zambie le 6 mars sans être arrêté, alors que Kinshasa prétendait il y a quelques mois que le dernier gouverneur du Katanga traînait des casseroles judiciaires dans le pays.

L'opposant poursuit sa tournée en Afrique australe « en homme libre » selon ses dires. Mercredi, il était en Afrique du Sud où il a annoncé avoir commandé 100 000 tonnes de farine de maïs pour les habitants de l'ex-Katanga et du Grand Kasai.

[<http://www.jeuneafrique.com/417723/politique/rd-congo-kinshasa-proteste-contre-visite-de-moise-katumbi-zambie/>]

CONGO :

Congo : le gouvernement rencontre les Ong de défense des droits de l'Homme

Quelques jours après la publication par l'OCDH, l'observatoire congolais des droits de l'homme du rapport dénommé “une gouvernance par la terreur et le mépris des droits”, le ministre congolais de la justice Pierre Mabiala a échangé jeudi à Brazzaville avec quelques responsables d'Ongs.

Occasion pour ces défenseurs acharnés de la liberté de relever quelques cas de violations des droits de l'homme au Congo. “Ce rapport est intitulé “République du Congo : une gouvernance par la terreur et le mépris des droits humains”. De façon générale, la situation des droits de l'homme au Congo est inacceptable. Les droits des citoyens sont violés au quotidien (...). La torture continue à se pratiquer ; les arrestations et les détentions arbitraires ; des cas de disparitions forcées sont signalés tout comme les cas d'assassinat. L'accès aux soins de santé est difficile ; des paisibles citoyens sont expropriés de leurs terres ; la liberté de la presse est menacée ; les libertés fondamentales sont complètement confisquées. Nous sommes dans un décor d'insalubrité en matière des droits de l'homme au Congo, “ affirme Trésor Nzila, directeur exécutif de l'OCDH.

Pour sa part, Pierre Mabiala a dit n'accorder aucune crédibilité à ce rapport rédigé sur la base des faits recensés en 2016. "Vous nous servez là des faussetés. Vous avez des bribes d'informations et puis vous construisez votre propre raisonnement sur cette base ; en attaquant votre propre pays dans ce domaine. Chaque matin sur une certaine radio, on dit Trésor Nzila a affirmé qu'au Congo les droits de l'homme n'existent pas. Mais, c'est faux. Les droits de l'homme existent de par vous-mêmes d'ailleurs. Avec tout ce que vous faites là, vous pensez que moi (ministre de la Justice) je ne peux pas vous arrêter ? Les droits de l'homme existent au Congo. La preuve, là où ils sont violés vous vous taisez. Votre rapport est partisan. Il est faux, il n'est pas objectif, " s'est-il défendu.

Les responsables d'Ong ont en outre souhaité avoir un accès libre aux prisons afin qu'elles puissent examiner les conditions de détention des prisonniers dits politiques. Aux dires des autorités, cette concertation marque le début d'une longue série et consacre la mise en place d'un cadre informel d'échanges et de propositions.

[<http://fr.africanews.com/2017/03/17/congo-le-gouvernement-rencontre-les-ong-de-defense-des-droits-de-l-homme/>]

UGANDA :

Uganda police spokesperson, two others shot dead in moving vehicle

Uganda police spokesperson, his bodyguard and driver were shot dead on their way to work on Friday morning by unknown assailants believed to be riding motorcycles.

Assistant Inspector General of Police Andrew Felix Kaweesi was killed with body guard, Kenneth Erwau and driver Godfrey Wambewo about 100 metres from his residence in the capital Kampala.

The Kampala Metropolitan Police spokesperson, Emilian Kayima, declined to give any details but confirmed that the three were killed at around 9:30 am local time.

Eye witnesses tell local media Daily Monitor that four men on two motorcycles shot rapidly at the black SUV of the police officers while in motion.

“The motorbikes came from behind as the car was leaving Kaweesi’s house. The car driver tried to increase speed but they drove past the car and shot into it,” Daily Monitor quoted the eyewitness who was only identified as Mohammed.

Their bodies have been deposited at the Mulago National Referral Hospital and investigation has commenced in the incident.

Assassinations with the same mode of operation are not new to Uganda as in November last year, an army officer Major Sulaiman Kiggundu was shot dead in his car by gunmen on two motorcycles.

Assistant Inspector General of Police Andrew Felix Kaweesi was appointed in August 2016 as the spokesperson of the Uganda Police Force. He is a regular face on Ugandan television.

[Ismail Akwei 17/03 - 10:51 -

<http://www.africanews.com/2017/03/17/uganda-police-spokesperson-two-others-shot-dead-in-moving-vehicle/>]

Ugandan security forces killed more than 100 in Kasese palace assault

Uganda acknowledged on Wednesday that its security forces killed more than 100 people in an assault on a tribal leader's palace last year, revising the death toll upwards by dozens, but denied a rights group's accusation that children were among the dead.

Security forces killed scores of people in November when they stormed the palace of Charles Wesley Mumbere, a tribal leader of the Bakonzo people, who was later accused of leading a secessionist movement.

The palace was torched and Mumbere was detained along with dozens of his guards. He and some of the guards have since been charged with treason, murder, terrorism and other offences, which they deny. He is free on bail.

Officials had previously said 62 people died in the assault.

Government spokesman Ofwono Opondo said on Wednesday 103 people had been killed.

However, he denied the findings of a new report by Human Rights Watch that the death toll was even higher, at least 155, including 15 children between the ages of 3 and 14.

"Human Rights Watch found evidence, including accounts by confidential sources and medical personnel who witnessed the events, that security officials had misrepresented the number of people killed and eliminated evidence of the children's deaths," said the report, released earlier on Wednesday by the New York-based watchdog.

The children were last seen in the palace compound, according to their families, the report said.

The accounts of violence worse than previously reported could raise concern among Uganda's Western allies. The United States and Britain help fund Ugandan security forces and see the country as a reliable bulwark against militant Islam in East Africa despite frequent complaints of abuses by state forces.

In a statement responding to the Human Rights Watch report, Opondo denied children were killed.

"There is no evidence to back this falsehood," he said.

The population of the area near the palace, in the foothills of Mt Rwenzori in western Uganda, favours the opposition. Uganda's veteran leader, President Yoweri Museveni, lost to his rival Kizza Besigye there in the last polls in February 2016.

Museveni, 72, has been in power for more than three decades. His critics accuse his government of deliberately stoking violence in the region as retribution for its residents' rejection of the ruling party, a charge the government denies.

A group of Ugandan legislators have petitioned the Hague-based International Criminal Court to investigate the violence. One lawmaker accused the security forces of committing "crimes against humanity."

Opondo ruled out an international investigation since the attack is the subject of an ongoing criminal trial.

[Mar. 17, 2017, 12:00 pm By REUTERS - http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2017/03/17/ugandan-security-forces-killed-more-than-100-in-kasese-palace-assault_c1526927]

Uganda, Tanzania to strike deal on oil pipeline this month

The deliberations were heated. The media was locked out. After more than eight hours behind closed doors, the talks between Ugandan and Tanzania officials regarding the crude export pipeline ended past 9pm on Thursday night.

After the talks, Prof. Sospeter Muhongo, the Tanzanian minister of Energy and Minerals revealed to waiting journalists that an inter-governmental agreement between Uganda and Tanzania will be reached this month regarding the subject.

“The discussion today was fruitful. We are 85% sure that we may come up with an inter-governmental agreement document by the

end of this month. We in Tanzania, we have decided that is a strategic project, so we will see to it that by 2020, Uganda's crude oil will be flowing through Tanga to the international market" he said.

The meeting was attended by ministers of finance and tax chiefs from the two countries, and the oil companies with interests in Uganda.

"We have agreed to fast track everything. We are carrying out several activities so that we are able to catch up with time. We must have this pipeline ready in 2020."

Irene Muloni, the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development expressed optimism that the pipeline will be done by 2020, the oil production year.

"We thank the government of Tanzania for agreeing to host this pipeline. We need everyone's support in this venture. Where the pipeline is going to pass, be receptive," she said.

"For the first oil to come out of the ground, we must have a ready crude export pipeline to access the international market, as well as refinery to add value to our crude oil to get products for our country and region."

The crude oil export pipeline from the Albertine Graben to Tanga Port in Tanzania is going to be developed. Because Uganda's oil is waxy in nature, the 1445km long, 24-inch diameter pipeline is going to be the world's longest heated crude oil pipeline.

[By Billy Rwothungeyo Added 17th March 2017 04:05 PM - See more at:

http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1448857/uganda-tanzania-strike-deal-oil-pipeline#sthash.F9TNYFuw.dpuf]

TANZANIA :

Zim eyes \$1,5m exports to Tanzania

THE recent mission by Tanzanian buyers in Zimbabwe is expected to generate export business worth \$1,5 million in the next six months and there is a huge potential for more business, an official has said.

Trade promotion body ZimTrade recently hosted an eight-member Tanzanian business delegation, which sought to make orders from local companies.

The buyers were drawn from pharmaceuticals, agricultural implements and inputs sector companies.

ZimTrade's public relations officer, Dillon Kamutenga, told NewsDay that the recent mission by Tanzanian buyers was expected to generate export business worth about \$1,5 million in the next six months and there is a huge potential for continued business.

According to Trade Map, total trade between Tanzania and Zimbabwe grew by an average of 18 percent, from \$7,95 million in 2012 to \$12,86m in 2015.

In 2012, Tanzania's imports from Zimbabwe were \$2,9 million, while its exports to Zimbabwe were \$5,02m. By 2015 the figures had improved with Tanzanian imports from Zimbabwe reaching \$5,7m, while recording \$6,3m as exports to Zimbabwe.

Kamutenga said their participation in Zambia's trade shows in the last two years has directly contributed to export receipts worth over \$2 million.

He revealed that since 2012, ZimTrade conducted market surveys in South Sudan, Angola, Zambia, Mozambique, Namibia and, more recently, Tanzania and the DRC.

“The objective was to identify export opportunities for Zimbabwean companies and to recommend appropriate market entry strategies,” he said.

“Opportunities were identified in sectors such as agricultural implements and inputs, pharmaceuticals, processed foods, protective clothing, building and construction and engineering services as well as mining supplies.”

Following the surveys, Kamutenga said ZimTrade organised trade promotional activities such as buyer/seller missions, B2B meetings, as well as facilitated companies to participate in relevant trade fairs. Furthermore, capacity building programmes were conducted to assist Zimbabwean companies to explore these markets.

However, he noted that Zimbabwean companies faced challenges in penetrating these markets.

“Our products continue to be uncompetitive in both the domestic and international markets, due to, among other things, the cumbersome regulatory and administrative processes, the high costs of production and logistics issues, among others,” he said.

[March 17, 2017 in Business - BY MTHANDAZO NYONI
<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2017/03/17/zim-eyes-15m-exports-tanzania/>]

Tanzania gives coal mining licence to Dangote after president's order

Tanzania has awarded a coal mining licence to the local unit of Nigeria's Dangote Cement as part of plans to lower the company's production costs and ease disruptions caused by energy shortages. The cement maker suspended output in December, citing technical problems and high production costs, but has since resumed making the building material. "The process of allocating a coal mining area to the Dangote cement factory was completed on March 11," Tanzania's energy and minerals ministry said in a statement on Monday. "The company (Dangote) will be given a (coal mining) licence covering 9.98 square kilometres in the Ngaka area." The cement factory in the southeastern Tanzanian town of Mtwara, with an annual capacity of 3 million tonnes, runs on expensive diesel generators and has sought government support to reduce costs. Last week, Tanzanian President John Magufuli gave government officials a seven-day ultimatum to allocate a coal mining area to Dangote within the mineral-rich Ngaka coal fields, which are licensed to another company. The Ngaka coal basin in southern Tanzania, an area covering more than 840 square kilometres, is licensed to Tancoal Energy Ltd, a subsidiary of Intra Energy Corp, which is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange. Intra Energy said it would work with authorities to hand over part of its licensed coal mining area to Dangote, but raised concern about what it called "special treatment" being given to the Nigerian cement maker by the Tanzanian government. The Australian coal miner owns a 70 percent stake in Tancoal Energy, with the remaining 30 percent held by National Development Corp, a Tanzanian public investment firm. Magufuli also ordered state-run Tanzania Petroleum Development Corp (TPDC) to supply Dangote Cement with natural gas with immediate effect. Previous talks on gas supply had stalled because Dangote Cement wanted "at-the-well" prices for natural gas, according to TPDC. Dangote, Africa's biggest cement producer, has an annual production capacity of 43.6 million tonnes. It targets output of between 74 million and 77 million tonnes by the end of 2019 and 100 million tonnes of capacity by 2020. In Tanzania, Dangote

wants to double the country's annual output of cement to 6 million tonnes.

[By Reuters | Updated Fri, March 17th 2017 at 12:24 GMT +3

Read more at:

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001233012/tanzania-gives-coal-mining-licence-to-dangote-after-president-s-order>]

KENYA :

Tanzania to send 500 doctors to Kenya

[By NATION REPORTER -

<http://www.nation.co.ke/news/Tanzania-to-send-500-doctors-to-Kenya/1056-3854448-g1fkkqz/>]

Tanzania has agreed to send 500 doctors to Kenya to help address medics shortage in the country and also mitigate effects of the just ended strike.

Last year, a study by healthcare planners in Tanzania revealed that the country is producing more medical doctors than it can absorb in its hospitals.

Over 60 per cent of medical graduates who were trained in Tanzania and abroad were not recruited to cover the shortage of doctors in most State-run health facilities.

The researchers analysed data showing the output of medical graduates in Tanzania over ten years, warning that the government needed to address the matter urgently.

According to the findings, only 14 per cent of those who were not employed by the government managed to find full-time jobs in private hospitals.

But the rest, according to the lead researcher, Dr Nathanel Sirili, cannot be accounted for.

SOUTH SUDAN :

South Sudan buys weapons during famine: UN report

South Sudan's government is spending oil revenue on weapons as the country descends into a famine largely caused by President Salva Kiir's military campaign, a confidential UN report says.

The report obtained by AFP on Friday calls for an arms embargo on South Sudan — a measure that has been backed by the United States but was rejected by the Security Council during a vote in December.

"Weapons continue to flow into South Sudan from diverse sources, often with the coordination of neighbouring countries," said the report by a UN panel of experts.

The experts found a "preponderance of evidence (that) shows continued procurement of weapons by the leadership in Juba" for the army, the security services, militias and other "associated forces."

South Sudan derives 97 percent of its budget revenue from forward sales of oil. From late March to late October 2016, oil revenues totalled about \$243 million, according to calculations from the panel.

At least half — "and likely substantially more" — of its budget expenditures are devoted to security including arms purchases, the 48-page report said.

The government continued to sign arms deals as a famine was declared in Unity State, where 100,000 people are dying of starvation and a further one million people are near starvation.

"The bulk of evidence suggests that the famine in Unity State has resulted from protracted conflict and, in particular, the cumulative toll of repeated military operations undertaken by the government in southern Unity beginning in 2014," said the report.

The government is blocking access for humanitarian aid workers, compounding the food crisis, while significant population displacement is also contributing to the famine.

An upsurge in fighting since July has devastated food production in areas that had been stable for farmers, such as the Equatoria region, considered the country's breadbasket.

The total number of South Sudanese facing famine could rise to 5.5 million in July if nothing is done to address the food crisis, the experts said.

WEAPONS POUR IN

The report was released ahead of a special Security Council meeting on South Sudan on Thursday that will be chaired by British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson.

The meeting could once again revive calls for an arms embargo, which was rejected despite warnings from the United Nations of a risk of genocide in South Sudan.

While the previous US administration pushed for a ban on weapons sales, President Donald Trump's government has yet to make clear its stance on ending one of Africa's worst conflicts.

Borders with Sudan and Uganda continue to be key entry points for weapons supplies to South Sudanese forces and some shipments are also entering from the Democratic Republic of Congo, according to the report.

LARGE QUANTITY

The panel cited information from high-ranking South Sudanese military and intelligence officers that Egypt had shipped military equipment, small arms, ammunition and armoured vehicles to South Sudan over the past year.

Experts are investigating the delivery this year of two L39 jets from Ukraine that were sold to Uganda, but may have ended up in South Sudan, as well as a contract with a Seychelles-based company for a very large quantity of armaments.

In comparison, opposition forces have received limited supplies of light weapons ammunition, the report said.

After gaining independence from Sudan in 2011, South Sudan descended into war in December 2013, leaving tens of thousands dead and 3.5 million people displaced.

The United Nations is pushing regional leaders to exert pressure on Juba to end the violence that has turned tribal, pitting Kiir's Dinka community against ethnic Nuer, Shilluk and other groups.

[Saturday March 18 2017 : By AFP

<http://www.nation.co.ke/news/africa/S-Sudan-buys-weapons-amid-famine/1066-3854212-yqegj9/>]

Ethiopian army frees six children kidnapped by South Sudan gunmen

Ethiopia's military has rescued six children kidnapped by South Sudanese raiders in a cross-border attack, an official said on Friday, but dozens of others remain missing and soldiers are pursuing the gunmen to recover them.

Officials said 28 people were killed and 43 children were kidnapped in attacks on Sunday and Monday in Ethiopia's Gambella region, which shares a porous frontier with South Sudan.

"Soldiers engaged the bandits and brought back the children on Thursday," said Umod Othow, a spokesperson for the regional government.

"Operations are taking place. Both the kidnappers and the remaining children are still inside Ethiopia," he added.

The raids were another demonstration of how South Sudan's civil war threatens to destabilize the region.

The oil-rich nation has been mired in a civil war since President Salva Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, fired his deputy Riek Machar, a Nuer, in December 2013. The resulting conflict has split the country along largely ethnic lines and forced more than 3 million people to flee their homes.

More than one million of them have found refuge in neighboring Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Sudan. Regional governments have expressed fears that violence in South Sudan could spill over its borders into their own nations.

(Editing by Toby Davis)

[By Aaron Maasho | ADDIS ABABA

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ethiopia-southsudan-idUSKBN16O1NF>]

SOUDAN :

Sudan Call urges opposition unity, renews commitment to African roadmap

March 17, 2017 (KHARTOUM) - Leaders of the opposition umbrella “Sudan Call” have called for the unity of opposition forces stressing commitment to the African roadmap for peace and security in Sudan.

On Thursday evening, the opposition National Umma Party (NUP) organised a celebration on the occasion of the release of armed movements’ prisoners. The event was addressed by several Sudan Call leaders inside Sudan and abroad.

On 8 March, the Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir pardoned 259 prisoners from Darfur armed groups.

In his address before the celebration, NUP leader al-Sadiq al-Mahdi pointed to unnamed organs casting doubts on the unity of the Sudan Call and spreading rumours that some coalition parties could sign bilateral agreements with the regime.

He stressed that Sudan Call forces are united and there is “no room for bilateral solutions”, saying actions of the alliance are not taken arbitrarily but according to an agreed upon plan.

Al-Mahdi said the Sudan Call would either achieve peace and stability through the Roadmap Agreement or the popular uprising, pointing they would adopt what he described as “soft attack” by mobilising the masses and gaining international support to achieve their goals.

He described policies implemented by the regime as “harmful and failed”, saying it is destroying the country and giving no hope for a bright future.

For his part, leader of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM-MM) Minni Minnawi, called on the opposition forces to apply internal democratic reforms in order to become a “true national opposition”.

He urged the opposition forces to put further pressure on the regime to achieve peace, saying the calls to lay down arms is nothing but an attempt to “strip the oppressed of his weapon” which could lead to ominous consequences.

Minnawi added the release of his movement prisoners was the first step of its kind since 15 years, pointing the government had executed some prisoners.

“These crimes are not time-barred and won’t be covered up by the release of prisoners,” he said.

The leader of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) Gibril Ibrahim, for his part, said they support a comprehensive and just peace that reinstates the rights and removes the injustice.

He underscored commitment to the African Roadmap, saying they seek to implement it without delay.

“We will continue to adhere to all options and on top of them is the popular uprising until the regime abandons its security solutions,” he said.

Ibrahim further demanded the opposition forces to overcome the narrow organisational differences in order to achieve the “structural change project”.

The government and Sudan Call signed in March and August 2016 the Roadmap Agreement brokered by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) including several steps towards their participation in a national constitutional process inside Sudan.

However, the parties failed to sign a cessation of hostilities and humanitarian agreements that are seen crucial before to move forward in the roadmap implementation process.

Last January, al-Mahdi called on the United Nations to pass a resolution requiring the Sudanese government to implement the confidence-building measures included in the Roadmap.

The Sudan Call, which was established in Addis Ababa on 3 December 2014, includes the NUP and rebel umbrella of Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF), and the Civil Society Initiative (CSI).

Sudan Call internal groups include the Sudanese Congress Party (SCoP), Sudanese Baath Party (SBP), Center Alliance Party (CAP), Sudanese National Party (SNP) and Sudanese National Alliance (SNA).

(ST)

ETHIOPIE :

Ethiopia: Death toll in Addis Ababa rubbish dump landslide rises to 115

Emergency workers in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa searched through a mountain of garbage for the fifth consecutive day on Thursday as the death toll from a landslide at a rubbish landfill site rose to 115.

The Horn of Africa country has declared three days of national mourning for the victims of the disaster that occurred at the 50-year-old Reppi dump on Saturday evening.

Two bodies were uncovered on Thursday morning, rescue workers and residents taking part in the search said, a day after a government spokesperson raised the toll to 113, 75 of whom were women.

“As the number of missing people is still high, we expect to pull more bodies out today and in the coming days,” an emergency worker told Reuters.

Residents of the area say at least 80 people remain unaccounted for. Dozens of victims have so far been buried at the Abune Aregawi Church nearby since Tuesday.

Hundreds of people live near the dump, the city’s only landfill site. Some of the victims scavenged for food and items that could be sold, such as recyclable metal.

The landslide destroyed dozens of homes. Officials in the capital say they plan to resettle most of the tenants and build a waste-to-energy plant.

Ethiopia is one of Africa’s fastest growing economies, but the drive to industrialize has also stoked discontent among those who feel left behind.

[with Reuters 16/03 - 08:51

<http://www.africanews.com/2017/03/16/ethiopia-death-toll-in-addis-ababa-rubbish-dump-landslide-rises-to-115/>]

Ethiopia: EU Pledges to Deepen Ethiopia Partnership

[By Haftu Gebrezgabiher

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201703160527.html>]

European Union (EU) pledged to deepen its 41 years partnership with Ethiopia in all spheres.

Speaking at a book launch entitled: 'The History of Parliament, Democracy and Diplomacy' Tuesday, representing the EU's Ambassador to Ethiopia and Press and Information Department Head Solomon Kebede said the EU would enhance its supports to the country in widening democracy and ensuring progress.

Through its development cooperation, the EU stands by Ethiopia to help it address its key challenges, such as poverty, a rapidly growing population, environmental pressures and climate change, he said, adding it would raise its partnership in halting such challenges and ensuring development.

A German Think Tank, Hanns Seidel Foundation, representative Uta Staschewski expressed commitment to work with Ethiopia. She said the book would move forward the efforts in practicing parliamentary system.

Hanns said the institution has been closely working with the Ethiopian Foreign Relations and Strategic Studies Institute in a bid to enhance the development of democracy and diplomacy in Ethiopia.

The book is authored by Melaku Mulualem - a seasoned writer and researcher in the areas of parliament, democracy and diplomacy. The book is sponsored by EU, it was learnt.

EGYPTE :

Egypte : le colosse découvert n'est pas celui du pharaon Ramsès II

Paris Match | Publié le 17/03/2017 à 08h46 | Mis à jour le 17/03/2017 à 09h14

C.H avec AFP

Un morceau du colosse, récemment découvert au Caire.

REUTERS/Mohamed Abd El Ghany

Les morceaux de statue découverts la semaine dernière au Caire ne représenteraient pas le pharaon Ramsès II mais Psammétique I, un autre roi d'Égypte.

Une statue découverte il y a une semaine dans la banlieue du Caire pourrait représenter le pharaon Psammétique I, a indiqué jeudi le ministère des Antiquités. Les restes de deux statues ont été trouvés le 9 mars par une équipe d'archéologues égyptiens et allemands dans une friche à Matareya, une banlieue populaire au nord-est du Caire construite sur le site antique du temple solaire d'Héliopolis. Mais des hiéroglyphes sur des fragments de l'une des statues de huit mètres suggèrent qu'elle aurait représenté Psammétique I qui a régné de 664 à 610 avant J.C, a ajouté le ministère dans un communiqué.

Lors d'une conférence de presse au musée du Caire, le ministre des Antiquités, Khaled al-Anani, a affirmé que les hiéroglyphes signifiaient «bras fort», l'un des noms de la 26e dynastie des pharaons. Mais «nous ne confirmons pas à 100% que (ces restes) ont appartenu à Psammétique I», a-t-il dit.

Au premier abord, les chercheurs avaient estimé que ce colosse était une représentation du mythique pharaon Ramses II, la statue

ayant été découverte non loin du temple du deuxième roi pharaon.
[<http://www.parismatch.com/Actu/Sciences/Egypte-le-colosse-decouvert-n-est-pas-celui-du-pharaon-Ramses-II-1211978>]

SOUTH AFRICA :

Xenophobic Attacks: Nigeria, South Africa agree terms

In view of the recent xenophobic attacks on some foreigners and especially Nigerians living in South Africa, Nigeria and South Africa have agreed to setup a new mechanism tagged ‘ The early warning unit’ to proffer a lasting solution to a repeated attacks on Nigeria and other Africans in South Africa

Nigeria’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyeama, in a joint briefing with the Minister of Interior, Lt-Gen. Abdulrahman Danbazau (rtd) at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Abuja described the initiative as the concrete outcome of their meeting with the South African government.

Onyeama, while briefing journalists, explained that the South African government condemned the attacks and assured the Nigerian delegation that there would not be a repeat of such attacks on Nigerians.

He noted that the Nigeria delegation demanded for more genuine commitment from the South African Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the police, regarding the consistent reoccurrence of attacks on Nigerians, and to assure the Nigerian community in the country of safety of lives.

“We proposed to the South African government that from our discussions with the Nigerian community in South Africa, we feel they have no access to the government agencies that are responsible for their security, the government agencies that have it within their power to prevent such actions and the government agencies that have it as their mandate to address there complaints.” he said.

South Africa’s International Relations Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane had on Monday, condemned the recent spate of xenophobic violence in South Africa, after a lengthy meeting with

a high-level delegation of Nigerian government officials, led by Onyeama in Pretoria.

“I used the opportunity of this meeting to brief Minister Onyeama on the recent unfortunate violent incidents affecting foreign nationals in South Africa, including Nigerian nationals. In this regard, I highlighted the South African Government’s condemnation of these incidents, emphasised that no single death has occurred during this unfortunate period,” Nkoana-Mashabane said.

Commitments were made on Monday to ensure that all the signed thirty-four sectoral agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoU) between Pretoria and Abuja are fully implemented.

President Jacob Zuma had a “successful” state visit to Nigeria in March last year which resolved to elevate the bi-national commission to a head of state level.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari is scheduled to travel to South Africa at a date yet to be announced to further cement the relations

[with PRESS AGENCY South Africa -

<http://www.africanews.com/2017/03/18/xenophobic-attacks-nigeria-south-africa-agree-terms/>]

ANGOLA :

Angola jails alleged coup plotters for up to 10 years

Luanda - An Angolan court handed down jail terms Wednesday ranging from four to 10 years to eight men accused of seeking to topple the country's long-ruling president, Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

The men were described as the ringleaders among 35 former fighters from the Unita opposition party who allegedly tried to seize power in January 2016.

The purported plot was reported by the Angolan media only last November, and 35 people were placed on trial in Luanda, the capital, just a few days later.

Summarising his case last month, prosecutor Edelvasse Matias urged the court to hand down jail terms of six to eight years.

"The accused sought to foment trouble against the Angolan state and physically harm President Eduardo dos Santos," he said.

"If their scheme had succeeded, it would have destroyed the lives of millions of Angolans."

Knives and bayonets

According to the indictment, the men were arrested on January 30 and 31 last year, close to the presidential palace and the public television and radio station.

It said they had eight guns, as well as knives and bayonets.

The men were accused of plotting "to take over (the television station) after capturing the head of state at the presidential palace", the indictment said.

The accused repeatedly denied the charges. One of their lawyers, Assureira Sebastiao, on Wednesday said the verdict was a "political" decision and said there would be an appeal. Unita has denied any involvement in the affair.

The other defendants in the group were acquitted or sentenced to lighter jail terms that were covered by time already served in custody.

General elections are scheduled to be held in Angola in August, but Dos Santos, 74, has said he does not intend to seek a further term.

Massive oil boom

He has named his defence minister, Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco, as his successor.

Dos Santos has governed the oil-rich central-western African power since 1979, just four years after independence from Portugal, making him Africa's second-longest serving leader after Equatorial Guinea's Teodoro Obiang Nguema.

For half of his tenure, Angola was gripped by a bloody civil war that ended only in 2002, which was followed by a massive oil boom.

But critics say millions of Angolans have missed out on the wealth, corruption is widespread and dissent is brutally repressed.

[2017-03-16 15:31 -

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/angola-jails-alleged-coup-plotters-for-up-to-10-years-20170316>]

AFRICA UNION :

EU reinforces cooperation with the African Union and announces new peace building support of €120 million

*High Representative/Vice President, Federica Mogherini, and Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, on official visit to the African Union**

Today the High Representative/Vice President, Federica Mogherini, and Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, concluded an official visit to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The aim of the visit was to strengthen ties and boost partnership with the African Union on common areas of cooperation. In this respect, they met with the new leader of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat who took up office just two days ago. Remarks following her press point with Moussa Faki Mahamat are available [here](#).

The EU announced new financial support for the Horn of Africa region as well as for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

High Representative/Vice President, Federica Mogherini, said: "2017 will be a defining year for the partnership between Europe and Africa. Here today with our partners at the African Union we discussed how to strengthen our common work on global challenges, from peace and stability to investing in youth and cooperation on migration. We are taking forward this key partnership towards the 5th Africa-EU Summit, which will be held in Abidjan in November 2017. What happens in Africa matters in Europe, and viceversa, and we have a lot to gain from increased cooperation at all levels." HR/VP Mogherini also met with Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn.

Commissioner Mimica announced together with Smail Chergui, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, two agreements on the European Union's financial contribution from the EU's African Peace Facility to AMISOM.

"This €120 million support reinforces our commitment to the peace building mission in Somalia. Without the achievements made by AMISOM, Somalia would not be where it is today. AMISOM's essential role is to continue to providing a safer and more secure environment in Somalia which benefits the Somali people and the development of the country as a whole until its gradual phasing-out." Commissioner Mimica added.

Background

European Union and Africa: Key partners

The EU and Africa are key partners have a long-standing and comprehensive partnership, based on common interests and shared values which has deepened and diversified over decades, as evidenced in the Lomé and Cotonou agreements, and in particular since the adoption of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy in 2007. Through its long-standing development cooperation, the EU has assisted African countries in a number of different sectors (governance, peace, security, energy, education, trade, economic growth and job creation, sustainable agriculture, infrastructure, health, and migration) and positive results have been achieved, especially regarding the Millennium Development Goals. We are working together to achieve a similar output in the framework of Agenda 2030.

The EU and Africa are currently working towards the 5th Africa-EU Summit, which will be held in Abidjan in November 2017, with youth being the key theme.

Read the Factsheet: EU-Africa: Key partners

EU support to Amisom

Since the mission's initial deployment in March 2007, the EU has so far provided more than €1.3 billion to AMISOM, which is expected to reach €1.5 billion by the end of 2017. This is clear proof of the EU's continued commitment to support AMISOM which is an integral part of the EU's comprehensive and long term approach to support security and development efforts in Somalia. Today's additional support of over €120 million covers six months of operations, including a contribution to troop allowances for all AMISOM soldiers, salaries and allowances of the AMISOM police and civilian components, death and disability compensation for military and police personnel, as well as operational costs of the mission's offices in Nairobi/Mogadishu and the General Dhagabadan Training Camp in Mogadishu.

IP/17/646

Published on 17 Mar 2017 — European Commission - Press release - Brussels, 17 March 2017

[<http://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/eu-reinforces-cooperation-african-union-and-announces-new-peace-building-support-120>]

Chadian Faki Mahamat takes over as African Union Commission head

Faki will be heading the AU executive which is made up of 54 countries, a few days after the United Nations warned that the planet was facing the “worst humanitarian crisis since the end of the second World War” with up to 20 million people including in

three African countries namely Somalia, South Sudan and Nigeria facing a risk of malnutrition due to famine.

“The famine that ravages vast areas of Africa these days is a real humiliation for us. The immense potential of our continent and the enviable economic growth rate of many member states of the union leave us no justification of this hideous human tragedy,” Faki said at the AU Commission headquarters in Addis Ababa.

The 56-year-old Chadian was elected in an AU summit held in January. He has been Chad’s foreign minister since 2008.

“Silencing guns and drawing an Africa free from conflict by the year 2020 remains the medium-term objective that will remain imperturbably fixed for me. Giving women and young people their rightful place in the promotion of peace, development and the African renaissance,” said the incoming AU head.

Faki’s election as head of the AU marks a likely refocus by the organisation on issues of peace and security on the continent. The Chadian leader had campaigned on the theme of “development and security”.

In his speech, Faki referred to a report by Rwandan President Paul Kagame recommending AU reforms.

The document calls on the institution to distinguish itself from other regional organizations and focus its efforts on key issues such as politics, peace and security.

“Our administrative procedures must be adapted to the reform requirements as proposed in President Kagame’s illuminating report,” said the new chairman of the AU commission.

Former Chadian Foreign Minister Moussa Faki Mahamat on Tuesday took office as the chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission, promising to reform the institution and tackle the continent's crises.

[Ken Karuri with AFP 15/03 - 13:00

<http://www.africanews.com/2017/03/15/chadian-faki-mahamat-takes-over-as-head-of-the-african-union-au-commission/>]

Chief: African Union Needs Troop Surge in Somalia

The head of the African Union mission in Somalia is seeking a surge in troops to help the country's military control areas won back from extremist group al-Shabab, saying the Somali National Army has been unable to take charge as expected.

Francisco Caetano Madeira's request for an unspecified number of extra AU troops comes amid widespread concern that Somalia's military won't be ready to take over the country's security as the 22,000-strong AU force prepares to withdraw by the end of 2020.

Al-Shabab continues to carry out deadly attacks in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, and elsewhere. Its attacks on military bases in the past two years have slowed joint AU-Somali offensives against the group.

Similar US warning

Madeira's comments came the same day the head of the U.S. Africa Command made a similar warning to the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington.

The AU force known as AMISOM will begin withdrawing in 2018, "and if this departure begins prior to Somalia having

capable security forces, large portions of Somalia are at risk of returning to al-Shabab control or potentially allowing ISIS to gain a stronger foothold in the country,” Commander General Thomas Waldhauser said.

After a decade in Somalia, the regional countries contributing troops to the AU force are fatigued, Waldhauser said.

IS fighters latest threat

And fighters pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group are the latest terror threat in this Horn of Africa nation after breaking away from al-Shabab in 2015.

The U.S. military is said to be seeking a larger role in Somalia for counterterror operations, but that would consist of more airstrikes, including drone strikes, and expanded special forces assistance to local troops.

Somalia’s new president, the Somali-American Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, took power last month as the fragile central government tries to expand its authority into more parts of the country.

During a visit to Somalia this week, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged more support for the underequipped AU force after its top donor, the European Union, last year said it was cutting funding by 20 percent

[March 11, 2017 4:38 AM - Associated Press - MOGADISHU, SOMALIA — <http://www.voanews.com/a/chief-says-african-union-needs-troop-surge-in-somalia/3761214.html>]

USA – AFRICA :

U.S. rejects reported support for South Sudanese rebels

March 15, 2016 (JUBA) – The U.S. embassy in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, rejected the local medias' reports that Washington is in support of the armed opposition groups.

The Dawn, an English language newspaper on Monday published a story claiming the U.S is supporting the newly formed rebel National Salvation Front of General Thomas Cirillo.

The newspaper quoted an anonymous source on its front page article accusing the U.S Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of hatching a plot to overthrow the government of President Salva Kiir.

“This is not out of blue. There are reports that the CIA is intensifying their regime change agenda,” The Dawn anonymous source said.

“The United States does not provide training, equipment, or any other type of support to opposition forces seeking to overthrow the government of South Sudan,” said a statement released by the Embassy on Tuesday stated.

The statement did not mention the pro-government newspaper, The Dawn, by name but categorically denied the report as “false and baseless”.

“Recent assertions in local media that the United States is providing such support are false, baseless and not in the interest of peace in South Sudan,” said the embassy.

"The United States reiterates its long-held view that there is no military solution to the political crisis in South Sudan and renews its call upon all parties to the conflict to end military operations immediately and comply with the permanent ceasefire in the peace agreement,” the statement further said.

Last July, the same newspaper published what it said were secret documents indicating that the CIA attempted to assassinate senior government officials. However, this report was strongly denied by the U.S. authorities.(ST)

[<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article61902>]

US regulator probes Angolan deal involving BP and Cobalt

SEC requests information regarding \$350m payment to fund a research centre

US regulators are probing an Angolan oil deal in which BP and a Texan partner agreed to pay \$350m to fund a research centre that has yet to materialise.

New York-listed Cobalt International Energy disclosed in a regulatory filing this week that the Securities and Exchange Commission, the stock market watchdog, had “initiated an informal inquiry” into the payments and whether they violated anti-corruption laws.

Under a December 2011 deal to secure rights to explore for oil under southern-Africa’s oil-rich seabed, Cobalt and BP agreed jointly to make \$350m in payments in instalments over four years to pay for a centre run by Sonangol, the Angolan state oil group.

BP told the Financial Times this week it had not been contacted by the US regulators about the payments.

The anti-corruption campaign group Global Witness and others have queried the research centre project, pointing to the fact that scant progress appears to have been made five years after the payments started to flow. Anti-corruption activists have raised questions about the cost of the research centre.

Cobalt mentioned the inquiry in the section of its earnings filing that warned of risks to the company under anti-corruption laws. The company said officials from the SEC called the company on Monday to tell it about the probe and had requested information

related to the inquiry. The Houston-based company said: “We believe our activities in Angola have complied with all applicable laws, including the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and we will cooperate with the SEC’s inquiry.”

BP said: “We understand from Sonangol that the [research centre] is still in the planning stage.”

Cobalt did not comment beyond the details in its filing. Sonangol did not respond to a request for comment on the status of its research centre. The SEC declined to comment.

Cobalt is the operator of the project, known as Block 20, and holds a 40 per cent stake in it. BP holds 30 per cent, with the remaining 30 per cent held by Sonangol.

The payments for the research centre were agreed alongside a “signature bonus” — a standard practice in the oil industry in which energy groups pay hefty one-off fees to governments in exchange for rights to prospect a given parcel of territory for oil.

Under the deal for Block 20, which lies to the south of BP’s prodigious Greater Plutonio project, Cobalt and BP agreed to pay a \$7.5m lump sum and \$200m for social projects on top of the \$350m for the research centre.

Related article

Big energy fears peak oil demand is looming

Will electric cars, renewables and gas end the era of rising crude consumption?

In 2016, the Norwegian oil group Statoil said it had held discussions with Norwegian police about \$50m that it had paid towards the research centre. Statoil said the payments were

legitimate and the police said at the time they were not launching a criminal investigation.

Statoil told the FT this week that it had not been contacted by the SEC. “We continue to follow up with Sonangol” on the progress of the research centre, it said, adding that the Angolan group had told Statoil the planned centre would be built in the city of Sumbe, south of the capital, Luanda.

Cobalt struck oil at Block 20 in 2014 and has since drilled more exploration wells, with varying success. The exploration lease agreed in 2011 expired at the start of this year and Cobalt says the authorities are weighing an application for an extension.

This is not the first time that US authorities have taken an interest in Cobalt’s Angolan operations. In February US prosecutors dropped a five-year corruption investigation stemming from revelations that Cobalt’s local partner in a separate Angolan oil deal had been secretly owned by some of the country’s most powerful officials. The SEC had already dropped its parallel investigation. Cobalt denied wrongdoing throughout.

In 2015 Cobalt reached a deal to sell out its interests in Angola to Sonangol for \$1.75bn but the agreement fell through.

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CHINA – AFRICA :

China Launches Studies Exchange Program For African

Journalists

[<http://frontpageafricaonline.com/index.php/diaspora/3483-china-launches-studies-exchange-program-for-african-journalists>]

Beijing, China – Twenty nine African journalists have begun a 10-month development and media studies in Beijing, the People’s Republic of China.

Report by Alpha Daffae

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The training topics include China’s political, cultural, media and economic studies amongst others.

Other activities will include touring China, covering major political activities at the National People’s Congress and other major events like the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) economic summit slated for September this year.

The development studies and media exchange is being organized by Renmin University of China (RUC) based in the capital, Beijing. The program is also part of the Asian nation’s efforts in strengthening its relations with the African continent and other neighboring countries in Asia.

It is also part of the China Africa Press Center (CAPC) program organized and initiated under the watch of the PRC’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This year is the third CAPC program and participants are highly optimistic and are in high spirit for the 10 months activities.

Counselor Liu Yutong, Chief of the Public Diplomacy Division at the Information Department of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, welcomed the journalists before recalling the impact of the international political shocks of 2016 including Great Britain's exit from the European Union, the election of businessman Donald Trump as President of the United States and the continuous global economic turbulent.

Yutong said these factors are affecting new and emerging economic powers in the world. Despite the shocks, he said China maintains its economic growth while the political situation in the country remains stable unlike other world powers like the U.S and the United Kingdom.

The Chinese diplomat emphasized that his country's policy reform has helped maintain economic growth for over a decade.

He hailed Chinese President Xi Jinping for opening the economic bridge in the country which he described as fundamental to the development of China.

He later admonished the journalists to tour the country and understand the cultural and economic diversities in order to have a more balance view about China.

China, the most populous nation and second strongest economy in the world, is currently transforming its economic successes into improving international relations across the world with massive interest in collaborating with African countries to ensure the continent achieve economic progress as well.

Speaking earlier, Professor Yi Zhihong, Vice President for International Studies and Alumni Development at the Renmin University of China, welcomed the students into the program and said he believes the diversity of the class of 48 students

(journalists) brings a new experience to the professors and students alike.

RUC, is China's highest rated university that specializes in humanities and social studies, and in 2013, the university's school of journalism, humanities and social science was rated number one in China by the country's Ministry of Education. Currently, there are 64 African students studying at Renmin University.

One African journalist each was selected from Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Serra Leone, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Togo, Mauritania, Egypt, Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Mauritius, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique, Rwanda, Botswana, Burundi, South Africa, Senegal, Gabon, South Sudan, Sudan, Congo Brazzaville and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

These African journalists have joined 15 other journalists from South Asia and Southeast Asia as well as four other journalists from Pakistan.

INDIA – AFRICA :

D-League's Satnam Singh toils slowly toward NBA breakthrough

CEDAR PARK, Texas -- Satnam Singh and the Texas Legends are loosening up at halftime of their NBA Development League road game against the Austin Spurs, and their 7-foot-2, 285-pound center from India is displaying a smooth shooting touch.

The 52nd pick of the 2015 NBA draft dribbles between his legs, pulls up and swishes a 15-foot jump shot from the right wing. He then steps back and swishes one from 20 feet. As Legends teammates continue to shoot, he moves toward the basket, grabs two rebounds and dishes to teammate DeJuan Blair.

Singh then steps back out to the right wing and swishes from 18 feet and 20 feet. Finally, he misses an 18-footer, but then he banks in a shot off the backboard from the same spot on the floor.

Mixing shots and rebounds, he eventually drifts over to the left side of the court and buries a 15-footer.

Satnam Singh shares a high-five with Texas Legends assistant coach Zendon Hamilton, who has praised the big man from India for his relentless work ethic. Courtesy Texas Legends

For good measure, he punctuates the session with a deliberate slam dunk. The rim announces a loud THUNK in response, and Singh turns to join his teammates as they huddle up to receive instruction from head coach Bob MacKinnon.

Surely, a player of his size who can knock down shots, clog the lane and protect the rim will be a factor in the outcome of this game.

If it were only that simple.

SINGH IS ONLY 21, but he has been the subject of global media coverage for the better part of seven years. ESPN The Magazine tabbed Singh as a future star in a 2012 article right after he turned 16. A recent Netflix documentary, "One in a Billion," chronicled his unlikely basketball journey up until his draft selection by the Dallas Mavericks.

For those unfamiliar with Singh's background, here is a thumbnail sketch:

He grew up on a family farm in rural Ballo Ke, Punjab -- a village with a population of about 800. As a child, he towered above his peers -- his father, Balbir, is 7 feet tall -- and left home at age 9 to pursue basketball at a sports academy in Ludhiana. By age 14, Satnam stood 7 feet himself and received a basketball scholarship to IMG Academy, a renowned sports training facility in Florida. After five years at IMG, he became the first India-born player ever picked in the NBA draft.

Singh made history as the first native of India to be selected in the NBA draft when the Mavericks grabbed him with the 52nd pick in 2015. Jesse D. Garrabrant/NBAE via Getty Images

He's now in his second season with the Legends, the Mavericks' D-League affiliate in the Dallas suburb of Frisco, working to become the first India-born player in NBA history.

It all adds up to Singh being the dominant homegrown basketball figure in the world's second-most populous nation.

India boasts a number of basketball talents, including Palpreet Singh, who was picked in the 2016 D-League draft, and national team members Amritpal Singh, Vishesh Bhriguvanshi and Amjyot Singh. But those players don't possess the height, upside and international profile of Satnam.

After being drafted by the Mavericks, Satnam Singh was relieved to clear a major hurdle on the path toward the world's top basketball league. He's well aware of the popularity surge the sport enjoyed in China after the emergence of Yao Ming and would love to make a similar impact in India. Singh isn't making any brash predictions of eclipsing Yao, who was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame last year, but he wants to play a prominent role in growing the game from niche to mainstream status on the Asian subcontinent.

It's not hard to see where the 7-foot-2 Singh got his height. His father, Balbir, shown outside the family home in the village of Ballo Ke, stands 7 feet tall. SHAMMI MEHRA/AFP/Getty Images

"My goal is to make basketball more popular," Singh said. "I think I've opened the gate for Indian kids. The gate is open, but they need to work hard. I know it's a lot of pressure. I just think about what I need to do. I need to focus on my game for my career, for my life, for my family, for my fans, for my country."

If there is one thing Singh has learned from all the media coverage he has received over the years, it's that there is widespread interest as he pursues a basketball dream. He has an opportunity to inspire millions upon millions of youths if he graduates to the NBA.

"He's got a lot of pressure on him," MacKinnon said. "There are a lot of people counting on him. We don't take that lightly. It's not the normal pressure that a 21-year-old has, and there is good and bad with that. He's handling it well. Right now, his focus is on his individual career, but he is the face of basketball in India. That is undisputed."

SINGH LIVES a relatively quiet life in suburban Dallas and spends a lot of time at home. There is little to distract him from basketball.

He attends a Sikh temple most Sundays. He will go to the movies and out to dinner. There are a couple of nearby Indian restaurants he likes, and he will accept invitations to eat at the homes of friends. But he prefers to serve as his own chef for the most part. He eats a lot of chicken, fish, vegetables and Indian beans while closely watching his calorie and carbohydrate intake. That means no rice or naan.

"I love to cook for myself," Singh said. "I cook every day. That's why my body is so lean, because I'm eating healthy foods at my house that I make myself."

All this makes Singh seem fairly normal off the court, but his life isn't without its celebrity moments. In January, he made headlines by participating in a professional wrestling workout at the WWE Performance Center in Orlando, Florida. Singh said he was flattered to be invited by the WWE and did it as a favor for a business connection, but he wants to make clear he isn't wavering from his career path.

"I'm here because of basketball," Singh said. "I don't want to lose my basketball. [WWE] is a huge opportunity, but I need to focus on basketball."

In 2014, Singh rubbed elbows with actor Akshay Kumar in Florida when the Bollywood star was visiting his niece, who plays basketball at IMG Academy. When Singh was drafted by the Mavericks, Kumar shared the news with millions of Twitter followers.

"He's really humble," Singh said of meeting Kumar. "I love him. He's a great actor. It was a good surprise for me."

SINGH HAS APPEARED in just eight of the Legends' 42 games this season. Based on statistics alone, it might appear as if Singh is buried on the bench. He's averaging just 1.6 points and 1.3 rebounds per game, but to hear his coaches tell it, those numbers greatly belie his progress. They insist that India's most famous basketball player isn't lost in the shuffle.

MacKinnon knows Singh wants to play but stresses that development comes in small increments and points out that Singh has moved up on the team's depth chart. Less than two years removed from a postgraduate season at IMG, he's competing alongside and against former NBA players and many others on the cusp of moving up to the NBA. It's too early to be concerned about statistics.

"Our league is hard," MacKinnon said matter-of-factly. "Our league is the second-best league in the world."

Singh couldn't speak English and when he arrived at IMG Academy in Florida in 2010, but he is fluent now. Courtesy IMG Academy

Instead, Singh's opportunities come in practice. He's being asked to focus on rebounding, getting up and down the court and being more active on defense. MacKinnon and assistant coach Zendon Hamilton, both in their first season with the Legends, said they have seen significant progress from Singh.

"Mostly this year, I have worked on my speed work and footwork," Singh said. "I know I can shoot anytime, but mostly I need to [work on] my post movement and get faster on my feet around the rim. More rebounding and finishing the shot."

In order to reach those goals, the team wants Singh to become lighter, which will increase his speed and reduce injury risk. It used to be that centers pushing 300 pounds and more, such as former pros Eddy Curry, Oliver Miller and Stanley Roberts, could enjoy productive careers.

"That's the old NBA," said Hamilton, who played six seasons in the league. "Those days are over."

NBA players are more athletic than ever now, and big men are expected to keep up with smaller players and react quickly to the ball. If big men are slow of foot, they are a major liability in transition.

Longtime NBA forward Eduardo Najera, who owns a stake in the Legends and works as a scout for the Mavericks, has insight on this evolution of the game. He played for the athletic Mavericks and Denver Nuggets teams that ran the court with abandon in the 2000s and helped usher in a faster style of play.

Most of Singh's opportunities with the Legends come at practice, not during games. He's being asked to focus on rebounding, running the court and being active on defense. Courtesy Texas Legends

"Now the center position has become more of an athletic, long shot-blocker that can run with everybody else," Najera said. "It's been kind of frustrating for some of the centers in the league, like Satnam. So it's just bad timing for him, because he does have a lot of talent. ... If he would have come in a decade before, he probably would be an NBA player."

Singh is seemingly left with a paradox. While he works to shed unnecessary weight, coaches don't want him to lose the strength he built with years of grueling work in the IMG weight room. Singh

has taken boxing classes in addition to his regular work with the team, and MacKinnon and Hamilton said the results are apparent.

"He's lost 40 pounds and become quicker," MacKinnon said. "He can run the court much better now. He reacts to plays better. He's in more plays in practices, and when he gets in games, he gets in more plays now because he can move better."

SINGH HAD ALWAYS intended to play college basketball, believing that was the natural path to the NBA. But speaking only Punjabi when he arrived at IMG in 2010, he faced a steep academic climb. It was years before he was fluent in English, which slowed his scholastic progress.

Dozens of Division I universities were interested in Singh, notably Central Florida, Miami, Pittsburgh and South Florida, but he was unable to gain NCAA eligibility. He instead made himself available for the draft despite being considered a relatively raw prospect. Fortunately for him, the Mavericks took a flier in the second round and are providing Singh with a structure for improvement. But the jump required him to grow up quickly in a basketball sense.

Singh's size and power are what drew the NBA's interest, but basketball has evolved into a game where speed and athleticism are valued over brute strength. Courtesy Texas Legends

"It was a huge step for me, because I don't have college experience," Singh said.

It's fair to wonder if, given the option, Singh would have been in a better position to develop at the collegiate level. Have his NBA chances been hurt because he didn't get that opportunity?

"Absolutely not," said IMG basketball development specialist Dan Barto, who has worked extensively with Singh. "The Legends

have said they're focused on his development. I think probably long term, it gives him a better chance of potentially being in the NBA from age 26 to age 35."

Barto believes the college basketball system can actually hurt some players who have legitimate NBA potential. In addition to the academic demands required of college athletes, NCAA rules restrict the amount of practice time. By contrast, Singh is completely immersed in basketball with the Legends.

"He will have all the chances and opportunities he wants as long as he continues to work," Hamilton said.

In addition to playing and training with the Legends in the D-League, Singh has spent time the last two offseasons with the Mavericks' Summer League teams. Bart Young/NBAE via Getty Images

That bodes well for Singh, whose dedication draws ardent praise from his coaches. Just as his height was inherited, Singh credits his father for instilling his work ethic.

"He's in a minority of how hard he works compared to anyone else," said John Mahoney, who coached Singh at both the varsity and postgrad levels at IMG. "We've had pros come in here, but I haven't seen anyone work like he does. Just tremendous work ethic."

LOOKING AHEAD, Singh wants to play for the Mavericks in the NBA Summer League, which provides an offseason opportunity for young players and free agents to gain experience and showcase their potential, for the third consecutive year. After that, he hopes to join India's national team for the first time since 2013. The FIBA Asia Cup will be held this August in Beirut, and Singh said there is an "85 percent" chance he will be there.

So while Singh ultimately didn't see any action in that game against Austin, which the Legends lost 115-109, it shouldn't be perceived as a reflection of his progress or potential. Rather, it indicates he still has a lot of work ahead of him. But thanks to the habits instilled by his father, there is perhaps no one better equipped for it.

"He's determined to make it," Mahoney said. "He's going to make it."

[http://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/18909688/far-india-home-d-league-satnam-singh-toils-slowly-distant-nba-breakthrough]

EUROPE – AFRICA :

Extra €165m from EU for drought crisis in South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia

The EU announced on Friday (17 March) a further €165m for drought-stricken parts of eastern Africa, during a visit by Foreign Affairs chief Federica Mogherini and Commissioner Neven Mimica to Addis Ababa, the continent's diplomatic capital.

The cash will be divided between South Sudan – described by Mimica last month as a “man-made crisis” – and the Horn of Africa countries hit by drought; Somalia, Ethiopia, plus Kenya.

Commissioner Mimica said: “The sooner we act, the more lives we can save. This package of €165m will support the urgent needs of South Sudanese people in the country and the region but also the millions of people at risk of famine in the Horn of Africa. With this additional support, the EU shows the way to other members of the international community to also respond urgently.”

Breaking down the new support, some €100m goes to South Sudan, the world's youngest country, embroiled in civil war and famine.

The second part of the package, €65m, is for the ongoing serious droughts in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.

Christos Stylianides, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, with Mimica and Mogherini, said: “With this new assistance, we will do our utmost to contain the effects of these extremely challenging circumstances in the Horn of Africa.”

The trio of the EU's most senior officials dealing with Africa were in the Ethiopian capital for a meeting of the African Union – ahead of a major EU-Africa summit planned for November.

The aid for South Sudan breaks down as €30m for vulnerable people in the new state, particularly women and children, and the remaining €70m for South Sudanese refugees who have fled to neighbouring countries, primarily Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Sudan.

The €65m for Horn of Africa countries follows three years of failed rains – partly blamed on the El Nino effect – which have again left severe droughts in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.

Rainfalls for the coming rainy season in 2017 is again predicted to be below average, exacerbating the crisis.

In Somalia, some 6.3m people are in dire need of emergency food rations, with a pre-famine alert already issued.

Britain's Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson, was himself in both Somalia and Ethiopia this week, tweeting about UK aid efforts.

In total some €400m was allocated by the EU – already the world's largest aid donor – to combat the affects of El Nino in the Horn of Africa and east Africa.

In February, the EU approved a further €200m for the new government in Mogadishu, as the formerly failed state tries to transition into some form of resilience.

Before setting off for Africa, Mogherini held an informal meeting of overseas aid ministers in Brussels on Thursday – which included a first meeting with the new President of The Gambia, Adama Barrow.

Barrow won an initially disputed election in December 2016, and this was his first visit to Brussels. There was, eventually, a peaceful transition of power, with Mogherini hailing a “new chapter” in EU-Gambia relations, and welcomed Barrow’s decision to reverse his predecessor’s withdrawal from the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

The EU-Africa summit in November will largely concentrate on the EU’s ‘New Consensus’ on Development.

[By Matthew Tempest | EURACTIV.com - 17 mars 2017
<https://www.euractiv.com/section/development-policy/news/extra-e165m-from-eu-for-drought-crisis-in-south-sudan-somalia-ethiopia/>]