

AFRICA : 31 MAI 2020 : [L'Union africaine condamne fermement le « meurtre » de George Floyd par des policiers blancs aux Etats-Unis | La Guadeloupe commémore l'abolition de l'esclavage | Rwanda and the United States have signed a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) | Burundi : Le CNDD-FDD remporte les élections démocratiques 2020 avec 68,72% - NDAYISHIMIYE Evariste, élu nouveau Président du Burundi | Ethiopia, Sudan discuss 'misunderstood' Nile dam issues]

- 0/ L'Union africaine condamne fermement le « meurtre » de George Floyd par des policiers blancs aux Etats-Unis
- 1/ Burundi : Le CNDD-FDD remporte les élections démocratiques 2020 avec 68,72% - NDAYISHIMIYE Evariste, élu nouveau Président du Burundi
- 2/ Rwanda and the United States have signed a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)
- 3/ RDC : Décès du juge Yanyi - mort troublante du juge de Kamerhe et Jammal
- 4/ Ethiopia, Sudan discuss 'misunderstood' Nile dam issues - EU welcomes resumption of Ethiopian Renaissance Dam negotiations - Ethiopia and Egypt are pushing each other to the brink in a battle for control on the river Nile
- 5/ Angola extends deadline of Port of Luanda terminal international tender
- 6/ Egypt orders the wearing of face masks in public
- 7/ Algérie : Le Conseil des ministres tiendra dimanche sa réunion périodique, par visioconférence, sous la présidence de M. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Président de la République.
- 8/ Maroc - Ethiopie : Energie solaire --- Fostering partnerships in the renewable energy sector
- 9/ Côte d'Ivoire-AIP/ CPI : Le FPI salue la levée des restrictions de Laurent Gbagbo et Blé Goudé
- 10/ Ivory Coast army joins Burkina Faso in anti-jihadist operation
- 11/ Benin holds local elections despite COVID-19 threat
- 12/ La Chine signe 2 accords avec l'Union africaine concernant la fourniture d'équipements pour soutenir le renforcement de la Force africaine en attente (FAA)
- 13/ Somalia looks to first full elections in 51 years, despite COVID-19 crisis
- 14/ La Guadeloupe commémore l'abolition de l'esclavage



IMAGES : CENI BURUNDI, radiookapi.net , arabnews.com/Reuters, africa.cgtn.com, arabnews.com , algerie-eco.com, afrik21.africa, aip.ci, guardian.ng

****** DIASPORA ******

HAÏTI :

Jean-Paul Coutard, the man of modern buses “made in Haiti”, wants to scale
<https://haitiantimes.com/2020/05/28/jean-paul-coutard-the-man-of-modern-buses-made-in-haiti-wants-to-scale/>

Jean-Paul Coutard has made a name and a reputation for himself after he unveiled the first modern bus to be made in Haiti during a presentation in July 2013.

The CEO of Coutard Motors manufactured other 56-seat buses, most of which are operated by the company Patrick Coach Line which connects St-Louis-du-Nord to Port-au-Prince via Port-de -Paix. The latest creation from its assembly line, a 30-seater, air-conditioned minibus, designed to travel on our bumpy roads, put the former electromechanical student of the Diesel Institute of Haiti and a body shop in Canada under the spotlight.

In his morning interview with Magik 9 (100.9 FM), he did more than just market his projects and ambitions.

Coutard, without ever raising his voice, dazed the chefs who used his creation to make “a media circus”. He contradicted reports that publicity had helped him increase production.

Coutard praised people he knew but no longer keep in touch with, including Jovenel Moïse when the two men presented their projects in 2013. The president was then CEO of Agritrans and Coutard of CoutardMotors.

“The current president and I represented, in 2013, a great hope for modernization,” Coutard said. “Even if we know that national production is not very interesting to those who run the country, I still salute the presidency this morning,” he said, stressing that Chinese officials had praised his work.

And now ? “I can’t hear anyone,” replied Coutard. Continue reading.

Haïti - Élections : Déclaration du Secrétariat général de l’OEA
30/05/2020 10:08:26

<https://www.haitilibre.com/article-30900-haiti-elections-declaration-du-secretariat-general-de-l-oea.html>

Haïti - Élections : Déclaration du Secrétariat général de l’OEA

Vendredi 29 mai dans une note, le Secrétariat Général de l’Organisation des États américains (OEA) insiste sur le fait que la pandémie de Covid-19, devrait nous rappeler « l’importance de renforcer les règles et les institutions démocratiques sans jamais en dévier » rappelant :

« Comme le stipulent les textes fondateurs du système interaméricain, les Gouvernements légitimes n’émanent que d’élections libres et régulières. Le processus électoral et la durée du mandat présidentiel résultent d’un calendrier, antérieurement défini, prévu par la Constitution.

En ce sens, le Secrétariat général de l’OEA exhorte l’ensemble des forces politiques de la République d’Haïti à trouver un cadre de coopération en vue se conformer à la lettre et l’esprit de l’ordre constitutionnel en respectant le mandat présidentiel de cinq ans. Dans ce contexte, le mandat du président Jovenel Moïse arrivera à terme le 7 février 2022.

Le Secrétariat général de l’OEA continuera à suivre de près l’évolution de la situation en Haïti. En parallèle, l’OEA demeure prête et disposée à travailler avec toutes les parties impliquées dans la recherche de la meilleure solution pour le peuple haïtien. »

Soulignons que 48 heures avant cette note, la Fusion des sociaux démocrates avait adressé, une correspondance au Secrétaire général de l’OEA, Luis Almagro pour lui demander d’accorder une fin de non-recevoir à l’aide technique sollicitée par le gouvernement haïtien auprès de l’OEA
<https://www.haitilibre.com/article-30861-haiti-politique-le-chancelier-joseph-sollicite-l-appui-de-l-oea-pour-les-elections.html>

GUADELOUPE :

La Guadeloupe commémore l'abolition de l'esclavage

<https://la1ere.francetvinfo.fr/guadeloupe/guadeloupe-commemore-abolition-esclavage-836950.html>
Une commémoration populaire à l'initiative du CIPN, du MIR Guadeloupe et du Mouvman Rézistans, où les 7 rythmes du Gwo Ka ont retenti sur la Place de la Victoire à Pointe-à-Pître. Commémoration plus protocolaire au Fort Delgrès à Basse-Terre en présence des élus et du Préfet L. Broulhet et J-M. Mavounzy avec FJO. • Publié le 27 mai 2020 à 14h16, mis à jour le 27 mai 2020 à 20h36

Pour comprendre ce contexte de commémoration, il faut d'abord se souvenir de ce que l'on commémore. Plusieurs dates qui, à travers le temps, ont conféré au mois de mai en Guadeloupe le titre de "mois des commémorations"

Et ce mercredi 27 mai 2020, pour le CIPN (Comité International des Peuples Noirs), le MIR Guadeloupe (Mouvement International pour les Réparations) et le Mouvman Rézistans, il s'agissait avant tout de rassembler les Guadeloupéens en un même lieu pour faire mémoire de toutes les grands événements de l'histoire de la Guadeloupe qui se sont déroulés au cours du mois de mai, en 1802, 1848 et 1967, afin de mettre en exergue trois motivations profondes : L'identité, la justice et les réparations.

©guadeloupe

Une histoire évoquée au son des 7 rythmes du Gwoka pour ponctuer des textes, des poèmes et des chansons en rapports avec ces événements.

Commémoration au son du Ka

Une manifestation animée par les Groupes Kalbaska, Lakou Véranda, Masko et Gayok, soutenus par les groupes de danse Kamodjaka, Lyonn Ka, Kréol Show, les Balisiers, Koklaya et l'AJSF.

Présentes aussi pour accompagner les musiciens et les danseurs, Tricia Evy et Marie-Line Dahomay venues chanter les héros de 1802 et les martyrs de mai 67.

Enfin des poèmes ont été déclamés par Frédérique Bergina pour les ancêtres et par Massita qui prononçait les mots de Sony Rupaire sur mars 67.

©guadeloupe

La manifestation s'est terminée par une procession en direction du Boulevard des Héros, où un hommage solennel a été rendu à Ignace et à tous les combattants de la Liberté de 1802.

L'hommage protocolaire au Fort Delgrès

C'est en effet au Fort Delgrès, comme chaque année que les autorités politiques et administratives de l'Archipel ce sont retrouvées pour marquer par un dépôt de gerbe cette commémoration de l'abolition de l'esclavage et faire mémoire de tous les esclaves morts sans avoir connu cette liberté.

Une cérémonie aussi pour rendre hommage à tous les héros de l'épopée de 1802, au nombre desquels Ignace, Massoto, Solitude.

Enfin, elle aura permis à chacun de se souvenir du sacrifice de Louis Delgrès et des combattants de la liberté un 28 mai 1802 au Matouba à Saint Claude. et honorera la mémoire des esclaves.

commémorations officielles 27 mai 2020 ©J-M. Mavounzy ©guadeloupe

La Guadeloupe organise l'étape 2 du plan de déconfinement du gouvernement

coronavirus <https://la1ere.francetvinfo.fr/guadeloupe/guadeloupe-organise-etape-2-du-plan-deconfinement-du-gouvernement-837354.html>

Après les annonces faites en mi-journée par le gouvernement pour la deuxième phase du plan de déconfinement, le Préfet, la Directrice de l'ARS et le Recteur s'exprimaient ce jeudi 28 mai sur cette évolution du déconfinement qui s'inscrit toujours dans la lutte contre la COVID 19

Guadeloupe La 1ère • Publié le 28 mai 2020 à 21h40

Edouard Philippe l'a annoncé ce jeudi 28 mai 2020 : la 2ème phase du déconfinement peut être embrayée. Concrètement, elle va se traduire par un principe de liberté :

- Liberté d'abord pour les déplacements en France.
- Réouverture aussi des musées, jardins et plages sur tout le territoire. Les maires pourront imposer localement le port du masque. Pour le retour en classe,
- 100% des écoles rouvriront le 2 juin, tous les collèges aussi, mais en zone orange, seulement pour les classes de 6e et 5e.
- Au lycée, l'accent est mis sur les établissements professionnels. L'oral du bac français est supprimé.
- Les cafés et restaurants pourront rouvrir partout, mais pas dans les mêmes conditions dans les zones orange

Présentation de la phase 2 du déconfinement

Des mesures que la Préfecture de Guadeloupe, l'ARS et l'Académie ont tenu à adapter aux réalités de l'Archipel

Mostafa Fourar a pu préciser ensuite les conditions de l'application des mesures annoncées par le gouvernement pour l'Education Nationale ETC.

MARTINIQUE :

Prêcheur : le pénible départ d'un jeune très prometteur

<https://www.martinique.franceantilles.fr/regions/nord-caraibes/precheur-le-penible-depart-d-un-jeune-tres-prometteur-555082.php>

G.M. Dimanche 31 Mai 2020 - 08h48

Le Prêcheur a été touché en plein cœur lundi dernier 25 mai 2020. L'annonce de la mort tragique de Chrislain Constantin a ému toute la commune.

Chrislain Constantin est décédé le lendemain de son 20e anniversaire. Etudiant en deuxième année de médecine, il souhaitait se mettre au service des uns et des autres en tant que chirurgien, mais la vie en a décidé autrement. C'est en l'église de Balata que les funérailles ont été célébrées en présence de sa famille proche, de ses copains de promotion. Ces derniers arboraient un tee-shirt avec la photo de leur camarade et la phrase « On roule ensemble, on meurt ensemble ». Cette vingtaine de jeunes avait la passion de l'automobile et avait pour habitude d'organiser des sorties. Une cérémonie empreinte d'une grande tristesse et d'une profonde douleur. Sa mère a trouvé le courage pour poser avec les amis de Chrislain.

Ses amis ont posé avec sa mère sur le parking de la basilique de Balata. -

La lettre de sa mère Betty Nazaire

« Que dire de toi mon Fils ! Pour moi tu étais mon bébé, mon petit ange, ton frère Allan et toi étiez notre fierté à moi et à ton père. Tu as vu le jour le 24 mai 2000 à 22h40 à la clinique Sainte-Marie. Dès ton jeune âge tu as été un enfant réservé et très discret qui n'aimait pas la foule mais son cocon familial, tu étais aimé et apprécié de tous, de tes parents, tes amis ainsi que tes copains étudiants. Il y avait une telle complicité entre nous, ton papa chéri et ton frère Allan. Tu as reçu le sacrement du baptême et de la confirmation. Tu me disais souvent : « maman une prière ne se lit pas mais elle vient du cœur ». A l'école tu as toujours été brillant et ton rêve était d'être un grand chirurgien afin de participer aux soins et à la récupération du bien-être des autres. C'était ton plan à toi mais pas celui du Seigneur. Il avait pour toi une autre mission. Tu étais d'une grande sensibilité vis-à-vis des autres, prévoyant, toujours disponible et discret. Tu savais être à l'écoute des autres en les aidant et les défendant de ton mieux. Tu savais aussi te lâcher dans les moments de loisirs avec la famille, les amis, mais surtout avec papa, maman et ton grand frère. Tu étais d'une telle douceur et d'une telle

gentillesse mon bébé d'amour, tous ceux qui ont pu te côtoyer de près comme de loin en témoignent. Le dimanche 24 mai tu fêtas ton anniversaire et ce même jour vers 23h, tu nous as rejoints dans notre lit et tu nous remercias d'avoir été des parents formidables de t'avoir donné tant d'amour. Vers 23h30 tu nous as dit « il faut que j'aille réviser mes cours ». Le lendemain ton destin a basculé, le Seigneur avait une autre mission pour toi et dans son infini bonté te donnera une place dans son cœur miséricordieux. Bien sûr nous sommes tristes et dévastés par ton départ brutal et inattendu, mais le Seigneur nous donnera force et courage, il nous fera la grâce d'atténuer cette douleur qui nous déchire le cœur, dans ce cœur où tu y resteras toujours. Etre chirurgien des vivants n'était pas ton destin, tu laisseras un vide dans la communauté étudiante de Martinique et de Guadeloupe. Merci mon bébé du bonheur et de la joie que le Seigneur t'a donnés et permis de partager avec nous durant ces 20 belles années. Bon voyage à toi mon petit Kiki d'amour, tu vas nous manquer mais tu resteras à jamais gravé dans nos cœurs. Nous t'aimons, repose en paix. »

***** AFRIQUE DE L'EST ******

BURUNDI :

Burundi : CENI – Le CNDD-FDD remporte les élections démocratiques 2020 avec 68,72%
<http://burundi-agnews.org/institutions/burundi-ceni-le-cndd-fdd-remporte-les-elections-democratiques-2020/>

ELECTIONS 2020 – BUJUMBURA (Hotel Club du Lac Tanganyika), Lundi 25 mai 2020 – M. KAZIHIZE Pierre-Claver, Président de la Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante (CENI), vient de rendre public les résultats provisoires des élections démocratiques 2020 au Burundi. Devant un parterre de personnalités politiques burundais, de journalistes et de diplomates étrangers
...

Les voici :

1/ Les Présidentielles de mercredi 20 mai 2020 – G.M. NDAYISHIMIYE Evariste, élu nouveau Président du Burundi

CNDD-FDD : 68,72%

CNL : 24,19%

UPRONA : 1,64 %

KIRA-BURUNDI : 0,55%

Sahwanya Frodebu : 0,47%

Nahimana Dieudonné : 0,42%

et Rohero Francis : 0,20%

2/ Les législatives de mercredi 20 mai 2020 – Le CNDD-FDD vainqueur.

CNDD-FDD : 68,02%

CNL : 22,43%

UPRONA : 2,44%

En termes de répartition de sièges –

1er CNDD-FDD : 72 députés

2è CNL : 27 députés

3è UPRONA : 1 député

Le CNDD-FDD a perdu aux LEGISLATIVES 2020 seulement à BUJUMBURA MAIRIE. Pour plus de détails par PROVINCES, voici :
<http://burundi-agnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/bdi-burundi-legislative-2020-ceni.pdf>

M. KAZIHIZE a terminé en informant le public que : “Les élections ont été apaisées, le dépouillement a été fait sur le lieu du vote et les procès verbaux ont été donnés. Le comptage s’est fait dans la transparence”.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Lundi 25 mai 2020 | Photo : MASHARIKI TV , CENI BURUNDI

TANZANIA :

Magufuli gifts Tanzania ex-presidents with 100 peacocks

<https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/news/Magufuli-gifts-Tanzania-ex-presidents-with-100-peacocks/1840340-5567460-lcgmn7z/index.html>

Saturday May 30 2020 | By Louis Kolumbia

President John Magufuli on Saturday May 30, gave 100 peacocks to Tanzania ex-presidents, recognizing their role in conserving the rare birds when they were in office at the country's State House in Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania, France sign loan agreement for water supply

<https://www.theeastafican.co.ke/business/Tanzania-France-sign-loan-agreement-for-water-supply/2560-5566280-uromxb/index.html>

Thursday May 28 2020

By XINHUA

More by this Author

Tanzania on Thursday signed a loan agreement with France to finance water supply projects that will benefit some 770,000 people in the country's Morogoro municipality.

The French government will extend the loan worth about \$76 million to Tanzania through its French Development Agency (AFD), said Dotto James, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning who signed the agreement on behalf of Tanzania.

"Upon completion, the water supply in the Morogoro municipality will increase from the current 37,000 cubic meters a day to 108,000 cubic meters a day," James told a press conference following signing ceremony in Morogoro.

Stephanie Mouen, AFD Country Representative for Tanzania, said the project will improve the well-being of the people in Morogoro municipality and it will also improve the environment of the area.

RWANDA :

Kagame, top EU official Urpilainen discuss Rwanda-EU ties

<https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/kagame-top-eu-official-urpilainen-discuss-rwanda-eu-ties>

By Julius Bizimungu / Published : May 29, 2020 | Updated : May 29, 2020

President Paul Kagame Friday held what he described as a "good conversation" with the European Union (EU) Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen.

The President announced on his Twitter account that the conversation focused on the broader collaboration between Rwanda and the EU.

The two parties particularly discussed cooperation when it comes to fight the new Coronavirus pandemic that has affected all parts of the world.

"Had a very productive conversation with EU Commissioner for International Partnerships @JuttaUrpilainen, in the context of the strong collaboration between the EU and Rwanda," Kagame said in a tweet.

He added that he "appreciated the EU's continuous and needed support in the fight against #COVID19 pandemic, among others."

In April, the Delegation of the European Union to Rwanda announced a commitment of Rwf52.8 billion (€52 million) to help the country in mitigating the new coronavirus crisis.

The mission said then that it was working on supporting the government of Rwanda to "sustain social protection measures to the most vulnerable groups of the population and those strongest hit by the lockdown."

Rwanda already has a social protection plan that was developed by the Government to support the most vulnerable community members affected by the Coronavirus pandemic.

The commitment from the EU is part of the European Union's Team Europe programme to support partner countries around the world with €20 billion to fight the coronavirus.

“Global cooperation is the only way out of this #coronavirus pandemic, #TeamEurope stands by its partners,” Urpilainen said in a tweet, thanking President Kagame for the “constructive discussion.”

The EU cooperates in areas of energy and infrastructure, rural development and food security, as well as governance, civil society and human rights, among others.

Rwanda: un ancien maire condamné à la prison à vie pour génocide

Société Par Marturin S. ATCHA le 31 Mai 2020 à 10:08

L'ancien maire de Nyakizu, ville située au sud du Rwanda a été condamné à la prison à vie pour son rôle dans le génocide des Tutsi en 1994.

La justice rwandaise a condamné à la perpétuité un ancien maire qui avait été mis en accusation par la justice internationale pour son rôle présumé dans le génocide des Tutsi en 1994. En effet, Ladislas Ntaganzwa, arrêté en 2015 en territoire congolais a été remis aux autorités rwandaises en 2016.

Rwanda has enlisted anti-epidemic robots in its fight against ...

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/05/25/africa/rwanda-coronavirus-robots/index.html>

CNN International-25 May 2020

Au cours de son procès, la Haute cour siégeant à Nyanza l'a reconnu coupable de « crimes de génocide et de crimes contre l'humanité » pour son rôle dans les massacres de Tutsi qui avaient cherché refuge à l'église de Cyahinda et à Gasasa, dans sa commune, selon le greffe du tribunal. Ladislas Ntaganzwa est le troisième accusé du TPIR renvoyé à Kigali.

A l'annonce verdict, sa défense, insatisfaite de l'issue du procès a annoncé qu'elle fera appel de la décision. « C'est un jugement de culpabilité. Le tribunal vient de le condamner à la perpétuité. De manière globale, nous ne sommes pas satisfaits du jugement. Nous allons faire appel », a déclaré son avocat.

Le cas Félicien Kabuga!

La condamnation de Ladislas Ntaganzwa est intervenue quelques jours après l'arrestation en banlieue parisienne, d'une autre grosse cylindrique accusée de génocide. Félicien Kabuga, surnommé présumé financier du massacre des Tutsi a été arrêté à Paris où il vivait sous une fausse identité. A 87 ans, l'homme d'affaires a passé plus de 23 dans la nature sans être inquiété par le mandat d'arrêt de la justice internationale émis à son encontre.

Après de plus de 25 ans, on peut toujours répondre de ses actes, avait réagit Antonio Guterres, patron de l'ONU.

Rwanda and the United States have signed a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) as part of broader efforts to strengthen military cooperation between the two countries.

<https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/rwanda-inks-military-deal-us>

Inked in Kigali Thursday, May 28, the deal, according to a statement by Rwanda's Ministry of Defence “will strengthen the existing good military cooperation between the United States of America and Rwanda.”

Dr Vincent Biruta, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, signed on behalf of Rwanda while Amb. Peter Vrooman, the US envoy to Rwanda, signed on the behalf of the US.

Speaking about the development, Biruta said it “will cover U.S personnel and US contractors who may be temporarily present in the territory of the Republic of Rwanda in connection with ship visits, training exercises, humanitarian activities, and other activities as mutually agreed.”

On his part, Vrooman said: “The signing of this agreement marks another milestone in strengthening the military cooperation between our two countries which has seen a significant rise, exemplified by the signature of the State Partnership Program with the State of Nebraska and its National Guard on December 12th, 2019.”

The signing was witnessed by Maj. Gen. Albert Murasira, the Minister for Defence, among other officials.

Rwanda and the US have for long had military partnership across different areas.

Among other things, the United States provides training and other forms of support to Rwanda’s peacekeeping operations.

RDC CONGO :

Congo suspends board and management of state diamond miner MIBA

By Sarah Mukabana <https://africa.cgtn.com/2020/05/31/congo-suspends-board-and-management-of-state-diamond-miner-miba-2/>

The Democratic Republic of Congo has suspended the board of directors and management of state-controlled diamond mining company MIBA, after an audit revealed significant irregularities, the government said in a statement.

The audit identified a host of problems including compliance, governance, production and financial management, the statement by Congo president’s office said following a council of ministers meeting on Friday.

It added that Congo’s mines ministry will propose measures to revamp the company.

Founded in 1961, MIBA was formerly a jewel in minerals-rich Congo’s minerals industry, with gold, nickel and copper in its portfolio. However, years of mismanagement, illegal mining, smuggling, and political instability have hobbled the company.

China’s top cobalt producer halts buying from Congo miners

<https://www.ft.com/content/ce9af944-fb70-4576-88d0-dc76821facfd>

Huayou Cobalt bows to pressure over use of child labour in DRC’s informal mining sector

China’s biggest cobalt producer is to stop buying from individuals in the Democratic Republic of Congo, bowing to pressure from customers and rights groups concerned about child labour in the country’s informal mining sector.

Huayou Cobalt, one of the top global suppliers of the metal used in batteries for electric cars and mobile devices, has faced growing scrutiny in recent years over human rights violations in the DRC, which accounts for more than two-thirds of global output.

In December it was named alongside technology companies including Apple, Dell and Microsoft in a US class-action lawsuit filed on behalf of families of children killed or injured while mining cobalt in the central African nation. ETC

Dozens killed by suspected Ugandan rebels in DR Congo

Allied Democratic Forces group thought to be responsible for attacks targeting villages in gold-rich Ituri province

Felix Tih | 27.05.2020 <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/dozens-killed-by-suspected-ugandan-rebels-in-dr-congo/1854549>

Dozens of villagers have been killed by suspected Ugandan rebels in the northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, local media reported.

The attacks, thought to be carried out by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), targeted multiple villages in Irumu territory, Ituri province between Monday and Tuesday, according to local news website Actualite.cd in a Tuesday report.

"We are mourning, the security situation has become very complicated here with the ADF rebels. Yesterday evening, they raided Samboko village killing 14 people and [...] they also attacked Tikamaibo village precisely on the Mutuyei hills,

"At the moment, we have recorded 40 dead. Several bodies are abandoned in the bush because the hill is currently inaccessible according to the victims' families," Dieudonne Sonyau, a civil society leader, was quoted by Actualite.cd as saying.

Some 17 civilian bodies were found in Irumu territory, the Kivu Security Tracker (KST) said on Twitter late Tuesday.

Since 7 May, the KST has recorded the deaths of 50 civilians attributed to the ADF in Beni territory alone. In April, the KST recorded the deaths of 30 civilians due to the same insurgent group, KST added.

KST is a joint project of the Congo Research Group and UN Human Rights Watch. It maps violence, analyzes trends and documents human rights violations in Eastern Congo.

Increased attacks

Attacks on civilians have mounted in recent months in the eastern DRC, triggering protests in Beni last December, where locals blamed the UN peacekeeping force, MONUSCO, for failing to protect them.

The army launched an offensive in January against militias operating in the gold-rich province of Ituri as part of a wider offensive launched last October.

The ADF rebel group -- which originated in neighboring Uganda in the 1990s -- has been attacking and killing civilians in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo for over two decades.

ADF rebels have set aside their political demands and are mostly involved in the trafficking of minerals in the eastern DRC, which has abundant gold deposits.

Décès du juge Yanyi : le SYNAMAC exige une autopsie de son corps

<https://www.radiookapi.net/2020/05/28/actualite/justice/deces-du-juge-yanyi-le-synamac-exige-une-autopsie-de-son-corps>

Publié le mer, 27/05/2020 - 23:22 | Modifié le jeu, 28/05/2020 - 10:22

Le Syndicat autonome des magistrats du Congo (SYNAMAC) exige une autopsie du corps de Raphaël Yanyi et une sécurité appropriée pour tous les magistrats.

Le juge président du tribunal de Grande instance de la Gombe est décédé ce mercredi 27 mai à Kinshasa aux petites heures du matin au centre hospitalier Nganda des suites d'un arrêt cardiaque.

Pour Edmond Isofa, le président du SYNAMAC, cette autopsie permet de donner les causes réelles de son décès :

« C'est avec consternation que nous avons appris le décès du président Yanyi. Pour nous, il est important que nous soyons éclairés sur les causes réelles de son décès. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous demandons aux autorités d'envisager l'autopsie de son corps afin que nous puissions être fixés sur les causes réelles de sa mort. Et cela nous amènera à lever beaucoup d'équivoques parce qu'il y a beaucoup de choses qui se racontent. Cela va aussi sécuriser les autres magistrats ».

Le Phare : « Détournements des fonds du programme de 100 jours : mort troublante du juge de Kamerhe et Jammal »

<https://www.radiookapi.net/2020/05/28/actualite/revue-de-presse/le-phare-detournements-des-fonds-du-programme-de-100-jours-mort>

Publié le jeu, 28/05/2020 - 10:20 | Modifié le jeu, 28/05/2020 - 10:20

Revue de presse du jeudi 28 mai 2020

Les médias kinois de ce jeudi reviennent sur la disparition du juge président du procès de 100 jours. Raphaël Yanyi Ovungu, juge-président du Tribunal de Grande instance de Gombe et juge chargé du procès de Vital Kamerhe, directeur de cabinet du chef de l'Etat, et de Samih Jammal, directeur général de la société Samibo, poursuivis pour détournement présumé est décédé le 27 mai, rapporte Le Phare.

L'homme, selon des sources familiales, a été pris de malaise en début de soirée du mardi 26 mai 2020, chez lui et a rendu l'âme au Centre Hospitalier Nganda.

Mais avant son transfert à l'hôpital, fait remarquer le quotidien, ses proches ont constaté que sa peau était devenue toute noire. Cette mutation subite les pousse à croire à un empoisonnement, conclut le journal.

Cas-info.ca indique que le juge Yangi était marié et père de trois enfants.

« Il était sorti, il est rentré et tout d'un coup, il a ressenti des malaises. On l'a amené à l'hôpital Nganda vers 23 heures et c'est là que nous avons appris sa mort. C'est un juge de la république. Il est mort comme un soldat au front. Nous ne pouvons pas supputer sur sa mort pour l'instant», a déclaré un membre de sa famille dont les propos sont repris par le site web.

Au sein de sa famille, décrit Actualite.cd, c'est la désolation. Certains responsables de la famille exigent qu'une autopsie soit effectuée sur le corps, ajoute le site web. Et la justice n'a pas attendu pour exiger cette autopsie.

A en croire Mediacongo.net, après l'annonce du décès du juge Raphaël Yanyi, une réquisition de l'officier du ministère public a saisi le médecin directeur général de l'Hôpital militaire du Camp Kokolo à Kinshasa pour examiner la dépouille du défunt juge et déterminer la cause du décès.

Il faudrait également noter que le parquet de grande instance de Kinshasa/Gombe a ouvert une information judiciaire autour de ce décès mystérieux, ajoute le portail.

Pour sa part, 7sur7.cd, note que le Parquet de Grande instance de Kinshasa Gombe a demandé en "urgence" au médecin légiste de l'hôpital général de référence de Kinshasa de procéder à l'autopsie du corps du juge Raphaël Yanyi.

« Examiner le corps du feu Raphaël Yanyi Ovungu conservé actuellement à la morgue de l'hôpital Général militaire du camp Kokolo et nous déterminer les causes de son décès", a écrit l'officier du ministère public Émile Ndjale.

Il a également exigé au directeur de l'hôpital général militaire du camp Kokolo de "veiller", à ce que le "corps ne soit pas manipulé par des mains inexpertes jusqu'à l'exécution du devoir de requis", précise le site web.

Tanganyika : retour progressif de la population à Mwanza

<https://www.radiookapi.net/2020/05/29/actualite/securite/tanganyika-retour-progressif-de-la-population-mwanza>

Publié le ven, 29/05/2020 - 09:56 | Modifié le ven, 29/05/2020 - 09:56

Un retour progressif de la population est observé depuis le début de la semaine dans la localité Mwanza, située à 90 Km au Sud-Ouest du territoire de Moba, dans la province de Tanganyika.

Selon des témoins, ce retour de la population à Mwanza est consécutif au déploiement des FARDC dans la zone.

Mais le leader des Mai-Mai Fimbo na Fimbo, le général autoproclamé Bitonto, tente de convaincre une partie de la population à ne pas retourner.

Il aurait été aperçu dans la localité Lyoni, à l'Ouest de Moba.

Ses hommes portaient des armes à feu, des arcs et flèches, racontent les témoins.

Bitonto aurait rencontré l'ex-leader des Forces d'auto-défense populaire, un certain Kafwimbi Funkwe dans le but de coaliser. Ce retour de la population originaire de la zone reste toutefois timide.

Le chef de groupement Kabwela, par exemple, hésite encore pour regagner son fief.

Tensions à la frontière entre la RDC et la Zambie : le Congo Brazzaville propose les bons offices
<https://www.radiookapi.net/2020/05/28/actualite/politique/tensions-la-frontiere-entre-la-rdc-et-la-zambie-le-congo-brazzaville>

Publié le jeu, 28/05/2020 - 22:44 | Modifié le jeu, 28/05/2020 - 22:44

Le Président Félix Tshisekedi et le ministre des Affaires étrangères de la République du Congo Jean-Claude Ngakosso ont échangé ce jeudi 28 mai sur les possibilités de trouver une solution pacifique au différend frontalier qui oppose la RDC à la Zambie.

Le Chef de l'Etat congolais a reçu en audience le patron de la diplomatie de Congo Brazzaville, porteur d'un message de son homologue Denis Sassou Nguesso, rapporte le compte Twitter de la Présidence.

Pour le chef de la diplomatie de la République du Congo, les dirigeants africains doivent travailler au développement de l'économie dans la sous-région, au bénéfice des populations et, de ce fait, ne peuvent pas dépenser de l'argent dans des conflits fratricides inutiles.

« Nous sommes venus traduire nos sentiments de solidarité fraternelle au président de la République. Nous avons également évoqué ce qui pourrait ressembler à un différend frontalier entre la RDC et la Zambie. Parce que nous avons des choses plus importantes à faire dans notre sous-région : le développement économique au bénéfice de nos populations. Nous ne pouvons pas nous permettre de dépenser de l'argent pour des conflits fratricides ; nous travaillons pour qu'il y ait l'apaisement au niveau de cette frontière entre la RDC et la Zambie », a expliqué Jean-Claude Ngakosso.

Afin d'aider à l'apaisement à la frontière entre la RDC et la Zambie, le ministre Ngakosso a été reçu par le Président Edgard Lungu de la Zambie et le vendredi 29 mai, il sera reçu par le Président Emerson Mnagagwa du Zimbabwe pour le compte de la SADC, afin de rechercher les voies et moyens de parvenir à la paix.

RDC : Félix Tshisekedi et Mme Zerrougui évoquent le soutien de l'ONU à la réponse à la Covid-19
<https://www.radiookapi.net/2020/05/27/actualite/sante/rdc-felix-tshisekedi-et-mme-zerrougui-evoquent-le-soutien-de-lonu-la>

Publié le mer, 27/05/2020 - 21:11 | Modifié le mer, 27/05/2020 - 21:11

La représentante spéciale du secrétaire général de l'ONU en République démocratique du Congo, Leila Zerrougui, a échangé mardi 26 mai avec le Président Felix Tshisekedi sur le soutien des Nations Unies à la réponse contre l'épidémie de COVID-19.

Ils ont évoqué cette situation la situation sécuritaire dans l'Est du pays.

La Représentante spéciale a souligné la nécessité de s'attaquer aux causes profondes des conflits et de continuer à travailler à la réconciliation des communautés.

C'est ce qu'indique le compte-rendu de l'actualité des Nations unies en RDC du 27 mai 2020.

La journée des casques bleus est célébrée dans le contexte des défis sécuritaires énormes dans l'Est de la RDC, selon la MONUSCO

<https://www.radiookapi.net/2020/05/29/actualite/securite/la-journee-des-casques-bleus-est-celebree-dans-le-contexte-des-defis>

Publié le ven, 29/05/2020 - 15:11 | Modifié le ven, 29/05/2020 - 15:11

Les Nations-Unies ont célébré ce vendredi 29 mai, la Journée Internationale des Casques Bleus. Une journée placée sous le thème: « Les femmes dans le maintien de la paix, une clef pour la paix ».

A cette occasion, le commandant des forces de la MONUSCO, Lieutenant-Général Augusto Ferreira Costa Neves, a affirmé que cette journée est célébrée dans le contexte des défis sécuritaires énormes dans l'Est de la RDC, liés à l'activisme accru des groupes armés et rebellions en Ituri et dans les deux Kivu.

A cela s'ajoute les menaces liées à la propagation de la pandémie à coronavirus. Malgré tout, le Lieutenant-Général Augusto Ferreira Costa, estime que la contribution des casques bleus reste efficace dans les efforts de stabilisation de la RDC.

"Avec le défi lié au Covid-19, nous sommes appelés à harmoniser nos opérations avec les mesures préventives contre la propagation de la pandémie. Mais la MONUSCO est entièrement impliquée dans la recherche de la paix et la sécurité dans l'Est de la RDC. Dans l'Ituri, nos troupes sont impliquées dans la lutte pour la protection des civils au sud de Bunia, le rétablissement du trafic routier sur la nationale numéro 27, et la protection de plus de 300 mille personnes déplacées en Ituri. Dans la région de Beni, nous sommes impliqués dans les opérations conjointes avec les FARDC contre les groupes armés. Là, nous prioritons l'axe Alungupa, Kamango, Byakato-Mamove, etc. Dans la zone, nous avons aussi des travaux intenses de réhabilitation des routes pour faciliter le mouvement des populations locales et celui des FARDC dans leurs opérations. C'est juste une partie des actions des casques bleus ici dans l'Est de la RDC. Et j'espère que nous avons fait des efforts importants pour contribuer à la stabilisation de la RDC", a-t-il indiqué.

RDC : « Il faut des actions combinées pour mettre fin aux crimes à l'Est du pays », Mme Zerrougui
<https://www.radiookapi.net/2020/05/28/actualite/securite/rdc-il-faut-des-actions-combinees-pour-mettre-fin-aux-crimes-lest-du>

Publié le jeu, 28/05/2020 - 23:24 | Modifié le jeu, 28/05/2020 - 23:24

Dans une déclaration faite jeudi 28 mai à Radio Okapi, la Représentante spéciale du secrétaire général des Nations unies en RDC a affirmé qu'il faut combiner les actions militaires, judiciaires et le dialogue intercommunautaire pour mettre fin aux crimes qui continuent d'être commis dans l'est de la RDC.

« Ceux qui massacrent des gens n'ont aucune excuse et sont des criminels à considérer comme tel », a-t-elle indiqué.

Vendredi 29 mai, l'ONU célèbre la journée internationale des casques bleus.

La cheffe de la MONUSCO rappelle qu'il n'y a aucune excuse pour aller tuer, mutiler des civils, massacrer des populations, quel que soit l'argument, quelle que soit l'excuse qu'on peut invoquer.

Pour mettre fin aux actes criminels, aux agressions, il faut utiliser tous les moyens légaux qui existent, souligne-t-elle.

« Il y a l'action militaire, mais il y a aussi l'action de la justice, il y a aussi le rôle des communautés. Et là, j'insiste beaucoup. On travaille avec le gouvernement pour renforcer les moyens militaires, pour renforcer aussi la riposte judiciaire. Parce que les deux, ensemble, peuvent aider à fermer justement la tentation à ceux qui n'ont pas commis l'innommable encore. »

Leila Zerrougui lance un appel aux communautés de se parler entre elles.

Sud-Kivu : 3 blessés après attaque d'un camp des déplacés de Mikenge (MONUSCO)

<https://www.radiookapi.net/2020/05/29/actualite/securite/sud-kivu-3-blesses-apres-attaque-dun-camp-des-deplacés-de-mikenge>

Publié le jeu, 28/05/2020 - 18:24 | Modifié le ven, 29/05/2020 - 09:08

Trois personnes ont été blessées au cours d'une attaque des miliciens jeudi 28 mai sur un camp de déplacés Mikenge en territoire de Mwenga. Un milicien a été capturé par l'armée. Selon la MONUSCO, une coalition des groupes Mai-Mai de hauts plateaux a lancé l'assaut sur le camp qui est sous la protection du contingent des casques bleus et des FARDC.

Le chef de bureau de la MONUSCO au Sud-Kivu, Karna Soro, a rassuré que les trois déplacés blessés par balle sont en train d'être pris en charge par les FARDC avec l'appui de la MONUSCO. Ces dernières, selon lui, sont en train de pourchasser les assaillants.

La situation reste volatile sur cette zone des hauts plateaux.

Des sources locales renseignent que l'assaut a commencé vers 5h45' du matin. Les troupes de la MONUSCO, en coordination avec les FARDC, « ont réagi de façon robuste et ont repoussé l'attaque en capturant un des assaillants ». Les mêmes sources témoignent que malheureusement trois déplacés, qui étaient déjà sortis, sont blessés. Ils sont pris en charge et leurs vies ne sont pas en danger.

Dans la journée, les hélicoptères d'attaque étaient en route pour la zone. La Représentante spéciale du Secrétaire général de l'ONU en RDC a demandé à ce que tout soit mis en œuvre pour protéger les déplacés et mettre fin à ces tentatives d'attaque sur des personnes déplacées.

D'après des sources sécuritaires, « la situation est sous contrôle à 100% ». Les unités FARDC et MONUSCO sont en train de progresser et s'assurer que ces personnes mal intentionnées, qui ont tenté d'attaquer les déplacés, soient mises hors d'état de nuire.

Coronavirus à Bukavu : la commune d'Ibanda sera confinée à partir du 1er juin

<https://www.radiookapi.net/2020/05/28/actualite/sante/coronavirus-bukavu-la-commune-dibanda-sera-confinée-partir-du-1er-juin>

Publié le jeu, 28/05/2020 - 12:53 | Modifié le jeu, 28/05/2020 - 17:12

Le gouverneur du Sud-Kivu, Théo Kasi Ngwabije, annonce que la ville de Bukavu sera en confinement en commençant par la commune urbaine d'Ibanda dès le lundi 1er juin prochain. La décision intervient au moment où Bukavu vient d'enregistrer trois décès dus au Coronavirus.

« Nous avons un chiffre de douze nouvelles contaminations rien que pour la seule journée d'hier. En dehors de ça nous avons des cas de contacts estimés à presque une centaine, c'est une situation qui est grave. Dès lundi 1er juin, nous allons faire le confinement de la commune d'Ibanda ; c'est-à-dire lundi, mardi, et mercredi. Personne ne va entrer dans la commune d'Ibanda », a déclaré le gouverneur de province.

Il a par ailleurs précisé que pendant ce temps-là temps les équipes de santé vont lister les contacts.

« Quand je parle de couvre-feu, c'est sur l'ensemble de la ville dès lundi de 20 hr à 05hr du matin. Nous passons au couvre-feu et cela pendant 15 jours, et je vais réévaluer au regard de l'évolution de la pandémie. Sous réserve, aujourd'hui nous venons de perdre une personne et hier il y a eu deux décès. Les mesures que je viens d'annoncer ne peuvent marcher que si la population est bien informée. Je tiens aussi à vous informer que nous sommes dans un Etat d'urgence, ceux qui vont se complaire dans la désinformation et intoxication vont répondre devant la justice », a-t-il conclu.

COVID-19 : Théo Kasi parle de la nécessité d'un laboratoire pour le Nord et Sud-Kivu

<https://www.radiookapi.net/2020/05/31/actualite/sante/covid-19-theo-kasi-parle-de-la-necessite-dun-laboratoire-pour-le-nord-et>

Publié le sam, 30/05/2020 - 20:54 | Modifié le dim, 31/05/2020 - 08:39

Les provinces du Nord et Sud-Kivu souhaitent avoir un laboratoire local pour diagnostiquer rapidement les cas de contamination à la covid-19, afin de stopper la propagation de cette pandémie.

Le gouverneur du Sud-Kivu, Théo Ngwabije Kasi l'a déclaré samedi 30 mai à Goma, après avoir rencontré le représentant spécial adjoint du secrétaire général des nations unies charge des opérations, David Gressly.

« Vous êtes au courant qu'aujourd'hui les échantillons de Goma et Bukavu, le Nord et Sud-Kivu, il faut envoyer à Kinshasa. Nous avons insisté sur la possibilité de tout faire pour la décentralisation de la prise en charge au niveau des laboratoires, donc la nécessité d'avoir un laboratoire soit ici à Goma ou à Bukavu », a-t-il indiqué

« Si nous avons la capacité de diagnostiquer localement, ça va réduire le délai dans la transmission des résultats. La clé dans cette lutte contre la Covid, c'est le dépistage et avoir les résultats le plus rapidement, de façon à isoler ceux qui sont touchés et les prendre en charge. Si on a une réponse en diagnostic rapide on peut arriver à arrêter la propagation », a-t-il ajouté.

Jeudi 28 mai 20 le gouverneur du sud participe à Gisenyi au Rwanda à une réunion d'échange d'expériences entre le Rwanda et la RDC, en matière de lutte contre la Covid-19.

Rencontre bilatérale RDC-Rwanda sur le mécanisme transfrontalier de riposte contre la Covid-19
<https://www.radiookapi.net/2020/05/29/actualite/politique/rencontre-bilaterale-rdc-rwanda-sur-le-mecanisme-transfrontalier-de>

Publié le ven, 29/05/2020 - 12:07 | Modifié le ven, 29/05/2020 - 12:22

La RDC et le Rwanda se sont convenus de renforcer leur collaboration en matière de la surveillance face au Covid-19.

Au cours d'une rencontre bilatérale tenue jeudi 28 mai au poste frontalier à guichet unique entre Goma et Gisenyi, les deux pays ont étudié les modalités de la mise en place des mécanismes conjoints pour lutter contre la pandémie.

Les deux pays se sont également mis d'accord sur la surveillance, le partage des informations et expertises dans le domaine clinique et de la recherche scientifique. Aussi, de définir les mécanismes d'échange d'expertises médicales pour la prise en charge des malades ayant des pathologies chroniques et qui reçoivent leurs soins dans ces deux pays. Sans oublier de faciliter l'accès aux plateformes de diagnostic de laboratoire pour la covid-19.

« Nous sommes contents, parce qu'il y a convergence d'idées. En ce qui concerne la Covid, nous avons fait une proposition aux autorités, de mettre en place un cadre de concertation, un cadre d'échanges d'expériences entre les deux pays pour qu'on puisse chercher par tous les moyens, mettre fin à cette pandémie. Quand je parle d'échanges d'expériences, c'est à dire , en termes d'informations et recherche scientifique », a déclaré Innocent Bokele Walaka, vice-ministre de l'intérieur qui conduisait la délégation congolaise.

Des points focaux seront désignés pour faciliter le partage d'informations et d'échanges dans la lutte contre la covid-19 entre les deux pays, a-t-il fait savoir.

Pour le vice-ministre congolais de l'intérieur, ces propositions, qui ont sanctionné cette rencontre bilatérale, seront soumises aux gouvernements de deux pays pour examen et approbation avant leur mise en œuvre.

Destitution de Kabund du bureau de l'Assemblée nationale : l'UDPS juge inopportun de désigner un autre candidat

<https://www.radiookapi.net/2020/05/29/actualite/politique/destitution-de-kabund-du-bureau-de-lassemblee-nationale-ludps-juge>

Publié le jeu, 28/05/2020 - 23:34 | Modifié le ven, 29/05/2020 - 08:38

Dans une déclaration rendue publique ce jeudi 28 mai à Kinshasa, la présidence de l'Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social (UDPS/TSHISEKEDI) considère qu'il est inopportun de désigner un autre candidat parmi les députés nationaux élus sur sa liste, en remplacement de Jean-Marc Kabund-a-Kabund au poste de 1er vice-président de l'Assemblée nationale.

En conséquence, indique le communiqué, l'UDPS prévient que tout député national élu sur sa liste, qui violerait la résolution susmentionnée sera considéré comme ayant délibérément quitté le parti et, de ce fait, sera sanctionné conformément aux dispositions pertinentes de la constitution de la RDC, des statuts et du règlement intérieur du parti.

L'UDPS/Tshisekedi autorise ainsi Jean-Marc Kabund-a-Kabund à saisir les instances judiciaires compétentes afin de rentrer dans ses droits.

Le parti pointe aussi le comportement de son partenaire, le FCC :

« L'UDPS/Tshisekedi rappelle que depuis le début de la coalition CACH-FCC, elle fait face à plusieurs actes de provocation et de défiance de la part de son « partenaire » dont les agissements visent manifestement à freiner les efforts fournis par le Chef de l'Etat en vue de l'amélioration du bien-être de notre peuple longtemps plongé dans la misère ».

L'UDPS/Tshisekedi constate aussi « qu'en réalisant son passage en force pour destituer Jean-Marc Kabund-a-Kabund de son poste de 1er vice-président de l'Assemblée nationale et ce, en violation de tout prescrit en la matière, le FCC vient de donner un coup fatal à la coalition CACH-FCC ».

RDC : fin de l'autopsie pratiquée sur le corps du juge Raphaël Yanyi

<https://www.radiookapi.net/2020/05/30/actualite/justice/rdc-fin-de-lautopsie-pratiquée-sur-le-corps-du-juge-raphael-yanyi>

Publié le ven, 29/05/2020 - 21:29 | Modifié le sam, 30/05/2020 - 01:23

L'autopsie pratiquée ce vendredi 29 mai sur le corps du juge décédé Raphaël Yanyi a pris fin ce soir. Demain samedi 30 mai, l'équipe de médecins légistes pourra remettre le rapport de l'autopsie au procureur général près la cour d'appel de la Gombe.

Tous les hauts magistrats étaient en réunion avec leur hiérarchie au soir de cette autopsie.

Selon les sources judiciaires, tout sera révélé après lecture du rapport fait à la suite de la réquisition du procureur.

Le Syndicat autonome des magistrats du Congo (SYNAMAC) avait exigé une autopsie du corps de Raphaël Yanyi et une sécurité appropriée pour tous les magistrats.

Le juge président du tribunal de Grande instance de la Gombe était décédé le mercredi 27 mai à Kinshasa aux petites heures du matin au centre hospitalier Nganda des suites d'un arrêt cardiaque.

Pour Edmond Isofa, le président du SYNAMAC, cette autopsie permettra de donner les causes réelles de son décès.

Sa famille avait aussi fait la même demande.

Le Parquet de Grande Instance de Kinshasa Gombe avait demandé le même 27 mai en "urgence" au médecin légiste de l'hôpital général de référence de Kinshasa de procéder à l'autopsie du corps du juge Raphaël Yanyi.

« Examiner le corps du feu Raphaël Yanyi Ovungu conservé actuellement à la morgue de l'hôpital général militaire du camp Kokolo et nous déterminer les causes de son décès », avait écrit l'officier du ministère public Émile Ndjale.

Il avait également exigé au directeur de l'hôpital général militaire du camp Kokolo de "veiller", à ce que le « corps ne soit pas manipulé par des mains inexpertes jusqu'à l'exécution du devoir de requis ».

UGANDA

Rwanda authorities hand over Ugandan suspect

https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1519430/rwanda-authorities-hand-ugandan-suspect

By Stuart Yiga Added 28th May 2020 06:16 PM

The suspect alleges that he was detained from Cumba and Kagyeyo police stations respectively.

The Rwandan immigration authorities on Thursday handed over a one Nicholas Obedi Tugumisiriza, alias Kacucu, 37, a Ugandan peasant who has been missing since May 25 2020.

The Kigezi regional Police Spokesperson, Elly Maate, says that Tugumisiriza disappeared from his garden at Kitojo village under unclear circumstances, only to realise later that he had been arrested by Rwanda on suspicion of being a smuggler.

The suspect alleges that he was detained from Cumba and Kagyeyo police stations respectively.

It is however alleged that in the course of the interrogation, the Rwandan authorities found out that the victim was innocent, which prompted his release.

The police say that the victim has been handed over for medical assessment and quarantined at Kabale hospital for further management as investigations into the matter continue

Uganda's new COVID-19 cases hit record high, 84 reported

https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1519474/uganda-covid-19-hit-record-reported

By John Tugume Added 31st May 2020 10:59 AM

Among the new cases, 52 are truck drivers while 32 are contacts of previously confirmed cases.

Uganda recorded the highest figure of new COVID-19 cases as 84 new patients were registered on Saturday.

The new cases, according to the Ministry of Health, bring the total confirmed cases to 413.

Among the new cases, 52 are truck drivers while 32 are contacts of previously confirmed cases.

Of the truck drivers, 50 arrived from South Sudan via Elegu, while two arrived from Kenya via Busia.

All the cases from the community were under quarantine at the time of testing.

“Additionally, 51 positive foreign truck drivers were handed over to their countries of origin,” the ministry said.

Uganda has so far registered 72 total recoveries with no single death related to the virus.

The ministry said on Saturday they tested 1,477 samples from points of entry while 358 were got from alerts and contacts.

Uganda has since started easing the COVID-19 lockdown, with shops that are not located in arcades and malls being allowed to operate.

Private cars – apart from those in districts at border area – have also been allowed back on the roads. The cars are, however, are allowed to carry only three passengers.

The country is also set to allow public vehicles – under strict guidelines – back on roads.

The Government will distribute free masks to all citizens in the country. Thereafter, no one will be allowed to appear in public places without wearing a masks.

KENYA :

Uhuru to chair virtual summit on impact of pandemic

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001373419/uhuru-to-chair-virtual-summit-on-impact-of-pandemic>

By Cyrus Ombati | May 31st 2020 at 11:55:00 GMT +0300

President Uhuru Kenyatta (pictured) will attend a continental summit to assess the Covid-19 impact on African, Caribbean and Pacific states.

The President-in-Office of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and President Uhuru Kenyatta are on Wednesday expected to convene the first ever Extraordinary Inter-Sessional Summit of the Heads of State and Government.

The virtual Summit, which is hosted by the OACPS, aims to assess the current global Covid-19 situation, and in particular, the effects and consequences to the members of the OACPS.

SEE ALSO: Covid-19 victim buried at midnight in Murang'a

In addition, members will identify opportunities for global solidarity and action. Kenyatta on Friday announced plans to host an extraordinary summit to deliberate on the effects of Covid-19 on the people and the economies of member countries.

Themed “Transcending the Covid-19 Pandemic: Building Resilience through Global Solidarity”, the Extraordinary Inter-Sessional Summit will consist of a dialogue by the Heads of State and Government of the OACPS, which will be followed by a high-level exchange with global strategic and development partners, who will be key to achieving the objectives identified by the Heads at the summit.

Members of the OACPS share several unique challenges which have been intensified by the Covid-19 crisis. The pandemic threatens recent advances in health and progress towards global sustainable development goals. Job losses and an increased debt burden are some of the immediate challenges. Members of the OACPS are among some of the poorest countries in the world and are, as a result, more at risk to the devastating socio-economic consequences of the pandemic.

The vulnerabilities are equally high for the Caribbean and Pacific, which mostly depend on single sectors, especially tourism.

The Covid-19 crisis also has the potential to spark a food security crisis especially in Africa, with agricultural production potentially contracting by between 2.6 per cent in an optimistic scenario and up to seven per cent if there are trade blockages.

SEE ALSO: Uhuru to chair virtual summit on impact of pandemic

There is therefore an urgent need to work with global health leaders, partners and governments to ensure that the global response to Covid-19 includes lessons learned from other epidemics and communicable diseases, particularly as it concerns the protection of vulnerable populations.

Held simultaneously across the four time zones in which the OACPS operate, the summit is expected to focus on three pillars, which include building resilience, keeping economies functioning and rebooting for a strong recovery and boosting global solidarity and deepening partnerships.

At the conclusion of the summit, the OACPS leaders are expected to endorse a communique based on the mentioned three pillars.

Kenyatta became the OACPS's head in December 2019. In a recent communique, he said the summit will make specific pronouncements on intended approaches that will ensure that the effects of the pandemic have minimal economic disruptions.

Tough questions for Kenya as Covid-19 spreads

<https://www.nation.co.ke/dailynation/news/tough-questions-for-kenya-as-covid-19-spreads-311422>
Sunday May 31 2020

Question: Where does Kenya stand on the coronavirus risk index? How many Kenyans are likely to be infected by the virus before it finally peters out?

Out of the infected, how many will require hospital care? How many will die? When?

The Sunday Nation has spent the past three weeks trying to answer these questions, talking to virologists, epidemiologists, mathematicians and all manner of experts.

It has attended numerous press conferences, shot tens of questions to Ministry of Health officials and studied tomes of research papers on the Covid-19 pandemic. In the end, we have come to an unfavourable conclusion: the number of infections, their peak, and cumulative deaths depend on who you ask. And the numbers are as varied as the projections.

SOUTH SUDAN :

South Sudan Vice President Tests Positive for Coronavirus

<https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/south-sudan-vice-president-tests-positive-coronavirus>

By John Tanza May 30, 2020 07:19 PM / South Sudan's longtime vice president has tested positive for the coronavirus.

James Wani Igga said on the state-owned South Sudan Broadcasting Corp. that his test results had come back positive.

"My samples [were] taken for testing a few days ago and today it has been found positive for corona," he said. "And so, I encourage all South Sudanese to really go for testing. This is very important so that we stop the spread of this pandemic to more people."

Igga was the fifth senior South Sudanese official to test positive for the coronavirus.

The newly appointed chairman of South Sudan's reconstituted National Committee on COVID-19, Fifth Vice President Hussein Abdelbagi, tested positive last week.

First Vice President Riek Machar Teny and his wife, Minister of Defense Angelina Teny, tested positive two weeks ago.

The South Sudan government's spokesperson, Michael Makuei, said on May 20 that he and all those on the nation's 15-member coronavirus task force had tested positive for the virus.

'Wear it properly'

Dr. Anthony Garang, acting chairman of the South Sudan Doctors' Union, said many South Sudanese, including the task force members, were contracting the virus because they refused to follow preventive measures, such as wearing face masks.

"Using the masks has its own ways. It does not mean that when you are wearing a mask, that is it. You need to wear it properly," Garang said. "You need to put it on properly. And once you put it on, you need to make sure you don't remove it, you don't touch it with your hands and touch other parts of your body with it. That is one particular thing that was missed. People could wear a mask, and when they want to talk, they pull it down and they talk. Then, they put it back and they don't immediately wash," Garang said.

South Sudan Health Minister Elizabeth Acuei Yol replaced Dr. Angok Gordon Kuol, the country's coronavirus incident manager, on Wednesday and appointed Dr. Richard Lino Lako as the new incident manager. There were no reasons given for this shuffle.

In mid-May, South Sudan health officials announced the country's first death from COVID-19. A top health official described the deceased as a 51-year-old "high-profile South Sudanese."

The person had arrived at a military hospital in Juba in critical condition, according to Health Ministry Undersecretary Dr. Makur Matur Koriom, who is also a member of South Sudan's High-Level Taskforce for COVID-19.

South Sudan has registered 994 COVID-19 cases, six recoveries and 10 deaths.

Lobbies raise alarm over Covid-19 threat to South Sudan

<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/ea/Lobbies-raise-alarm-over-Covid19-threat-to-South-Sudan/4552908-5567760-76fqvrz/index.html>

Saturday May 30 2020 By GARANG A. MALAK More by this Author

Various South Sudanese stakeholders are expressing fears that the country is likely to experience a catastrophic level of coronavirus infections if authorities do not strictly enforce measures.

As of Wednesday, the country confirmed new 188 Covid-19 cases, which brought the total number of confirmed cases nationwide to 994, with six recoveries and 10 deaths.

South Sudan was the last country to confirm its first Covid-19 case since the outbreak in the region, but now it second to Kenya in the region with the numbers of cases, having skipped Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Burundi.

Speaking to The EastAfrican on Wednesday in Juba, various stakeholders said that if authorities don't act fast to fix the current crisis, the country will have the highest Covid-19 numbers in the region.

Matiop Kuol Akech, a resident of Lologo suburb in Juba, says the virus will mostly affect the livelihoods of the vulnerable population if not properly handled. He was worried that increased cases are interfering with people's planned activities affecting future prospects of business.

"In addition, people in the grassroots are not well informed about the dangers of the pandemic. The more the locals mingle among themselves, the more the cases will increase, something that is happening currently and worrying," Mr Matiop stressed.

He wants the government to prioritise grassroots awareness campaigns

The national taskforce on Covid-19 in a statement recently recommended wearing of facemasks countrywide as compulsory.

SUDAN :

AU chair calls for sanctions relief for Sudan, Zimbabwe

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/au-chair-calls-for-sanctions-relief-for-sudan-zimbabwe/1853447>

Ramaphosa calls for end of oppression of Palestinians, freedom for their homeland

Hassan Isilow | 26.05.2020 JOHANNESBURG

The chairman of the African Union, who is also the president of South Africa on Monday, called for the unconditional lifting of sanctions on Sudan and Zimbabwe.

"As we deal with the impact of this [novel coronavirus] pandemic, we repeat our call for the unconditional lifting of sanctions that have been imposed on Zimbabwe and Sudan," Cyril Ramaphosa said in a televised address marking Africa Day.

The US has sanctions imposed on Sudan, accusing it of sponsoring terrorism, while Zimbabwe was sanctioned for rights abuses and irregular elections during the leadership of late President Robert Mugabe.

As a result of the sanctions, the two African countries cannot access much-needed aid to fight COVID-19 and purchase medical supplies. About 96,000 people have been infected with COVID-19 in Africa and almost 3,000 have died.

Ramaphosa also called on developed countries, multilateral institutions and donors to provide vulnerable countries -- especially in Africa -- with the necessary support in the form of diagnostic and therapeutic medical supplies.

He also said they could assist with the necessary financial support to sustain the livelihoods of vulnerable people.

"We repeat our call for a comprehensive, robust economic stimulus package for Africa that includes debt relief and other support measures for the continent's immediate humanitarian needs and necessary economic recovery," he appealed.

Ramaphosa urged African leaders to ensure that the pandemic did not reverse developmental gains.

"We must not under any circumstances allow this global health emergency to derail our efforts to silence the guns on the continent," He said.

Ramaphosa said tragic conflicts must end as they destabilized a number of African countries and exacted a heavy toll on human life.

"We must continue to affirm the supremacy of dialogue over military intervention," he said.

Ramaphosa added that as Africans, they would continue to stand on the side of justice and called for an end of the oppression of the Palestinian people and occupation of their homeland.

Sudan: Talks continue with Ethiopia on border tension

Sudanese general says a chance given for diplomacy before eruption of possible all-out war with Ethiopia

Bahram Abdel-Menim | 29.05.2020 <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/sudan-talks-continue-with-ethiopia-on-border-tension/1857877>

KHARTOUM, Sudan

Sudan's army said on Friday that diplomatic contacts with Ethiopia to contain border tensions were ongoing.

The Sudan's army spokesman, General Amer Mohamed al-Hassan, said in a statement that one Sudanese officer had been killed and seven other soldiers injured due to attacks launched by Ethiopian militias backed by the Ethiopian army.

"We decided to give chance for diplomacy in Khartoum and Addis Abbas to calm the situation on the border strip before it turns into an all-out war between the two countries," said al-Hassan.

He added that the recent attacks on Sudanese territory by the Ethiopian army and militias violated previous agreements between the two countries.

Al-Hassan called on Ethiopia to abide by its agreements with Sudan on their mutual boundaries, along with deployments of official forces on either side of the border.

On Thursday, a Sudanese army officer and a child were killed and seven other soldiers were injured as a result of attacks by Ethiopian militias in the border areas in the past two days.

Ethiopia has yet to comment on the accusations.

Sudan and Ethiopia have been engaged in continuous talks over the demarcation of the borders between the two countries.

* Ahmed Asmar contributed to this report from Ankara

Sudan summons Ethiopian Diplomat over deadly border clashes

<https://nation.com.pk/30-May-2020/sudan-summons-ethiopian-diplomat-over-deadly-border-clashes>

The top Ethiopian diplomat in Sudan was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Khartoum on Saturday after several Sudanese troops and civilians were killed in an attack by Ethiopian militants.

"The Ethiopian charge d'affaires was summoned in protest over the army-backed incursion in Sudan by Ethiopian militants who attacked Sudanese civilians and troops," the Sudanese ministry said in a statement.

A Sudanese military spokesman said Friday that a captain and several soldiers, as well as civilians, had been killed in clashes in the southeastern state of Al Qadarif.

The Foreign Ministry said there were children among the casualties. It added the Sudanese government would take measures to stop further incursions.

The state-run Sudanese news agency SUNA said Ethiopian villagers living in border areas frequently trespassed to Sudanese land to plant and harvest crops.

ETHIOPIA :

Ethiopia's COVID-19 cases surpass 1,000 as 95 new cases confirmed

Source: Xinhua | 2020-05-30 21:31:30 | Editor: huaxia

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-05/30/c_139101226.htm

ADDIS ABABA, May 30 (Xinhua) -- Ethiopia's confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 1,063 after 95 new cases were confirmed on Saturday, the Ethiopian Ministry of Health said on Saturday.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Health, in a situation update statement issued on Saturday, revealed that from the total of 5,034 medical tests that were conducted in the last 24 hours, 95 of them tested positive for COVID-19, eventually bringing the total number of cases to 1,063 as of Saturday afternoon.

According to figures from the ministry, 94 of the latest confirmed cases are Ethiopian nationals while the remaining one is said to be an Indian national, comprised of 71 males and 24 females and with their age ranging from 15 to 80 years old.

The ministry said that from the total of 95 new COVID-19 cases, some 30 are said to have travel history from abroad, 4 having contact with known confirmed cases, while the remaining 61 are said to have no travel history from abroad as well as without prior contact with known confirmed cases.

The ministry said that some 208 patients who tested positive for COVID-19 have so far recovered from the virus, of whom some 11 of the patients recovered during the past 24-hours period.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Health has previously reported eight deaths due to illnesses related to the COVID-19, in which the latest COVID-19 death is a 62-year-old man who succumbed to the disease on Friday, according to the ministry.

Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous nation with about 107 million people, confirmed its first case of COVID-19 on March 13.

The Ethiopian government has instituted a wide range of measures to contain the spread of COVID-19.

In April, the Ethiopian House of People's Representatives, the lower house of the Ethiopian parliament, announced a five-month state of emergency to curb the spread of COVID-19 in the country. Enditem

Ethiopia, Sudan discuss 'misunderstood' Nile dam issues

Ethiopian prime minister says two sides will continue talks through water ministers

Addis Getachew | 22.05.2020

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia

Ethiopia and Sudan on Thursday agreed to continue efforts for “win-win solutions” to the dispute over the Nile dam project.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his Sudanese counterpart Abdella Hamdok held a virtual meeting to discuss issues regarding the \$5 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

In a series of tweets, Ahmed said the two sides “addressed misunderstood issues” and explored ways to reach “an amicable solution.”

“We have agreed to continue with technical level engagements through our Water Ministers tasked to discuss outstanding issues and arrive at win-win solutions,” he said.

“I also reiterated the economic advantages of the GERD for all that we can seize through the spirit of collaboration.”

Hamdok, who has been trying to convince Ethiopia to resume trilateral talks with Cairo, also held discussions with Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouli on Tuesday.

US-sponsored talks between the three countries broke down in February after Ethiopia accused Washington of siding with Egypt.

Cairo opposes the hydropower project that Ethiopia started building in 2011 on the Blue Nile, a tributary of the Nile River, near the border with Sudan.

Tensions between Egypt and Ethiopia have escalated as the latter prepares to start filling the dam this July, as agreed in a prior accord.

The Declaration of Principles (DoP) signed by the three countries in 2015 provided that negotiations would continue along with the dam’s construction.

While a resumption of tripartite talks seems on the cards, it remains unclear whether the upcoming negotiations would be mediated.

Ethiopia has earlier said it would prefer mediation by an African partner, while Egypt maintains it is “always ready” for negotiations.

The GERD’s construction is expected to finish by 2023 and the hydroelectric dam will produce 6,475 megawatts for Ethiopia’s domestic and industrial use, as well as for export to neighboring countries.

Ethiopia plans to fill it up over four to seven years starting this July, but Egypt wants the pace to be even slower.

Cairo says it has a “historical right” to the Nile waters, a claim that Ethiopia has categorically rejected.

EU welcomes resumption of Ethiopian Renaissance Dam negotiations

<https://egyptindependent.com/eu-welcomes-resumption-of-ethiopian-renaissance-dam-negotiations/>
EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell on Thursday welcomed the resumption of negotiations between Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), and stressed the importance of reducing tensions between the three parties.

During his conversation with African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security Ismail Sharqi, Borrell emphasized the importance of seeking a solution that satisfies all three parties, and said that Brussels is ready to provide support.

Sudanese Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Yasser Abbas held two separate meetings on Monday with his counterparts, Egyptian Minister Mohamed Abdel-Ati and Ethiopian Minister Seleshi Bekele, to discuss arrangements for the resumption of negotiations on the dam.

The Sudanese Ministry of Irrigation said in a statement that the two meetings were held via video conference and in the presence of members of the technical negotiation delegation from each of the three countries involved.

The ministry also said that the meetings occurred as a result of recent meetings held between Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and his Egyptian and Ethiopian counterparts.

Following the meetings, all three countries’ water ministers were instructed to make arrangements for the resumption of negotiations on the GERD as soon as possible.

The Sudanese News Agency reported Hamdok as saying that Sudan is ready for continuous communication with the two countries to reach an agreement that guarantees full consensus between the three parties and takes into account their respective interests.

Commenting on the latest developments, Professor of Water Resources at the Africa Research Institute at Cairo University Abbas Sharaqqi said that Ethiopia’s attempts to return to the negotiating table to resolve differences over the GERD are unpredictable.

Sharaqqi stressed the need to complete the negotiations begun in Washington and to refuse to allow Ethiopia to close this path, something it had previously stipulated as a condition for its return to negotiations.

He added that Ethiopia aims to waste time, bifurcate the GERD issue and incite new problems between Egypt and the upstream countries that Ethiopia is encouraging to demand a share of the Nile’s water.

Negotiations were suspended in February after Ethiopia refused to sign a draft agreement prepared by the United States and the World Bank.

Sudan on May 12 rejected Ethiopia’s proposal to sign a partial agreement to start filling the reservoir of the dam in July.

Ethiopia has announced its plan to store 4.9 billion cubic meters of Nile waters in the reservoir of the dam in July, while Cairo insists on adhering to the Washington talks on filling and operating rules for GERD, as well as to the declaration of principles signed between the three countries in 2015.

Egypt's Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Water Resources has rejected Ethiopia's plan to fill the reservoir of the GERD before construction work is finished and regardless of whether an agreement has been reached with downstream countries.

Egypt relies considerably on fresh water from the Nile and has voiced concerns that the GERD would negatively impact the country's water supply, especially in light of overpopulation fears, and has thus insisted throughout negotiations that measures be put in place to protect downstream countries in case of drought during the filling process at the dam.

Ethiopia pours water on Egypt's Nile rights claim ahead of crunch dam talks

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1681311/middle-east>

CAIRO: Ethiopia has opened the floodgates to further controversy over a giant dam scheme by rejecting Egypt's historic claims to the waters of the Nile.

Ahead of the anticipated resumption of stalled talks over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) project, two Ethiopian ministers poured water over the Egyptian stance on river rights.

In a speech to political party representatives and religious leaders regarding the latest developments in GERD negotiations, Ethiopian Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy Seleshi Bekele said the talks, also involving Sudan, were being "clouded by Egypt's tendency to recall and confirm the so-called (historic rights) in water, which can never be accepted by Ethiopia or Nile-sharing countries." Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs Gedu Andargachew added that his country's position was firm with regard to utilizing its water resources in a fair way "in accordance with the agreed cooperation principles and not causing any major damage."

Meanwhile, Ethiopian religious leaders have called on the government to press ahead with the construction of the dam while negotiating with Nile-sharing countries.

Ethiopia's official news agency ENA, reported that a statement issued during a press conference by the Ethiopian inter-religious council of seven institutions, "underlined Ethiopia's natural right in developing the Nile." The council also called for the resumption of tripartite discussions.

Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Patriarch Abune Mathias said the government needed to continue with construction of the dam on the basis of mutual understanding with upstream countries and without any foreign intervention.

Mathias pointed out that the Ethiopian people had played a big part in funding the project in the hope of improving their living conditions and seeing the development for their country, adding that work should carry on "for the sake of the people" without causing any damage to Nile-sharing countries.

Cardinal Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel, head of the Ethiopian Catholic Church, said that Ethiopia had "the right to develop its rivers in order to provide electricity for millions of its citizens, just like Egypt did. Egyptians are provided with electricity better than the Ethiopians. In our situation, students and families do not have electricity.

"Upstream countries must know that the Ethiopian people do not have the intention to harm Egypt or Sudan," he added.

Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council Secretary-General Sheikh Qassem Mohammed Tag El-Din also agreed that Ethiopia should carry on with building the dam "in the best interest of its people who are living in darkness and who do not have electricity.

"Concerning the dam, we need to stand together in harmony and even make sacrifices if this is what it takes to complete the project," he added.

The tripartite negotiations, which have been stalled for several months, are close to resuming.

The Sudanese Ministry of Irrigation announced that two separate meetings were recently held between Sudanese Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Yasser Abbas and his counterparts from Egypt and Ethiopia, Mohammed Abdel-Ati and Bekele, respectively.

The ministry added that two members of the delegation from each country attended the meetings which had been set up to pave the way for fresh GERD negotiations.

In a statement, Sudan's irrigation ministry said that the ministerial meetings had followed recent talks held between Sudanese Prime Minister Abdullah Hamdok and his Egyptian and Ethiopian counterparts.

Abbas Sheraqy, professor of water resources at Cairo University's faculty of African studies, said Ethiopia's attempts to return to the negotiation table to settle the GERD issue had swung between resumption and manipulation.

He pointed out that Ethiopia was ready to resume GERD discussions despite having failed to attend the final day of the last round of negotiations in Washington in February last year, when it was due to sign an agreement, drafted by the US in collaboration with the World Bank, on the filling and operation of the dam.

Ethiopia's U-turn did "not befit a sovereign state that is a UN member under the pretext that it needed more consultations, as if nine years of negotiations were not enough," he added.

Sheraqy underlined the need to resume the talks in Washington and not to allow Ethiopia to cancel them which, he said, was its precondition to resuming them. He added that Ethiopia recently called for allowing downstream countries to attend the negotiations under the umbrella of the African Union.

Addis Ababa, he noted, was aiming to waste time and further complicate the GERD issue and was pushing Egypt into a new issue with downstream countries.

Egypt has stressed during its negotiations with Ethiopia the need to maintain its historic rights to the Nile waters. A 1929 treaty (and a subsequent one in 1959) gave Egypt and Sudan rights to nearly all of the Nile waters. The document also gives Egypt veto powers over any projects by upstream countries that would affect its share of the waters.

Ethiopia launched construction in 2011 on the Blue Nile in the northern Ethiopian highlands, from where 85 percent of the Nile's waters flow.

One of Egypt's main worries is that if the water flow diminishes, it could affect Lake Nasser, the reservoir further downriver, behind Egypt's Aswan Dam.

Ethiopia said that 73 percent of the GERD project had been completed. Its government is to start deliberations within a month on a date to start filling the dam.

Ethiopia: 30,000 violence-exiled people return

Upon return, internally displaced people also demand government give assurances of their safety

Addis Getachew Tadesse | 26.05.2020

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia More than 30,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in western Ethiopia have been brought back to their homes after two years of living in camps in the adjoining Amhara region, said local media.

Over the last two years violence displaced more than 49,000 people from their homes in the Metekel Zone in the Benishangul Gumuz state, the Amhara Mass Media Agency (AMMA) reported on Tuesday.

The returnees are demanding that the government give them assurances on their future safety, the agency said.

Following the eruption of violence in villages in adjoining regional states, a command post had been established to implement a state of emergency there, according to the local media.

The IDPs' return was made possible by the collaborative efforts of the two regional state governments and the army now that the security situation has greatly improved, it said.

"The returnees will receive food rations that will be enough for two months," AMMA quoted Etagegnehu Ademe, deputy commissioner of the Amhara Disaster Prevention and Food Security Commission.

Earlier, more than 9,000 displaced people were repatriated after the Command Post overseeing security in conflict hotspots in the adjoining regional states was able to confiscate 34 firearms and 681 bows.

According to the report, 41 of 71 people suspected of instigating the violence were convicted and are serving prison terms.

Over 12,000 Ethiopian migrants flown back home

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/over-12-000-ethiopian-migrants-flown-back-home/1842505>

Returnees include 11 survivors of tragedy in Mozambique where 64 found dead in cargo container

Addis Getachew Tadesse | 15.05.2020

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia

More than 12,000 undocumented Ethiopian migrants had been flown back to their country since the coronavirus outbreak, the International Migration Organization said.

Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Alemayehu Seifeselessie, IOM's communication officer in Ethiopia, said: "The returnees are mainly from Sudan, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Djibouti and Kenya."

"Since April 2020, the total number of Ethiopians who have returned is over 12,032," he said.

"We expect the return to continue over the coming weeks," he added.

The returnees, according to reports, include 11 Ethiopians who survived the gruesome incident occurred in March in Mozambique where 64 Ethiopians were found dead in a cargo container on a truck bound for South Africa.

More than one million Ethiopian migrants work in the Middle East, many of whom are undocumented and now stranded after the outbreak of the pandemic.

Last month, Saudi Arabia flew hundreds of migrants back to Ethiopia. A first Saudi flight carrying hundreds of migrants was denied landing at the Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, with Ethiopia claiming it had not been informed beforehand about the operation.

SOMALIE :

Somalia looks to first full elections in 51 years, despite COVID-19 crisis

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/05/1064702>

James Swan, Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Somalia (UNSOM), told the Security Council that 2.6 million internally displaced persons are particularly at risk from the novel coronavirus.

Somalia coronavirus cases

In its latest situation report, the World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday put the number of confirmed cases in Somalia at 1,502, with 59 deaths.

Even before the outbreak, more than 5 million Somalis required humanitarian assistance, Mr. Swan said, as the country continued to deal with the al-Shabaab terrorist insurgency and a major locust invasion that is putting food production in peril.

COVID-19 is also having a severe economic impact, with remittances from the Somali diaspora dwindling and the federal Government projecting an 11 per cent drop in nominal GDP this year, he said.

Nevertheless, the Federal Government and Federal Member States have responded quickly to the crisis "within their means," he said, with Prime Minister Hassan Khaire leading a National COVID Task Force and the six regional states participating in national-level coordination efforts.

UN aiding Government effort

[UNSOM head James Swan at the Security Council on 21 May 2020. He says that despite severe COVID-19 effects, Somalia is making progress on State-building priorities including preparing for one-person-one-vote elections.]

UNSOM head James Swan at the Security Council on 21 May 2020. He says that despite severe COVID-19 effects, Somalia is making progress on State-building priorities including preparing for one-person-one-vote elections., by UNSOM

“The UN family is working to reinforce the Government’s response”, he said, noting that the WHO is helping to expand Somali hospital and testing capacity, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also providing electricity generators.

Somalia’s response is greatly aided by having achieved the so-called decision point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative, on 25 March, enabling it to tap into additional budget support and grant financing from global institutions, he said.

Looking beyond the immediate health crisis, Mr. Swan – speaking from Mogadishu via video-conference – said the coming weeks will be decisive in determining how Somalia will proceed with its first direct elections since March 1969.

In the coming weeks, a parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee will make recommendations to resolve outstanding electoral issues, while the head of the National Independent Electoral Commission will report on plans to conduct the vote within a constitutional timeframe.

The pathway to a vote for all

“These Somali institutions will determine the pathway to elections,” said Mr. Swan, urging Somalia’s partners to be ready to mobilize the technical support and financial resources needed to make the landmark polls a success.

Coronavirus Portal & News Updates

Readers can find information and guidance on the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) from the UN, World Health Organization and UN agencies here.

For daily news updates from UN News, click here.

Turning to the security situation, he said that Somalia has made progress in recovering areas occupied by al-Shabaab, including the strategic town of Janaale, liberated by the Somali National Army and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) on 16 March.

Al-Shabaab resists ceasefire call

“We regret that al-Shabaab has not embrace the Secretary-General’s appeal for a global ceasefire (in response to the pandemic) and that their terrorist operations continue unabated,” he said.

He added that regrettably, due to COVID-19, the pace of future military operations could be impacted by a slowdown in international partner training needed for the fight against the terrorist group.

Mr. Swan’s briefing to the Council followed the release of the Secretary-General’s latest report on the situation in Somalia. The Council is due to decide on renewing AMISOM’s mandate by 31 May and UNSOM’s mandate by 30 June.

****** L'AFRIQUE DU SUD ******

MADAGASCAR :

Madagascar slams WHO for not endorsing its herbal cure

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/madagascar-slams-who-for-not-endorsing-its-herbal-cure/1836905>
President Rajoelina said WHO has shut eyes, as a drug to combat COVID-19 has been discovered by a poor African country

Felix Tih | 11.05.2020

Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina has slammed the World Health Organization for not endorsing its COVID-19 herbal cure.

Last month, the Malagasy president officially launched Covid-Organics (CVO), an organic herbal concoction, claiming that it can prevent and cure patients suffering from the novel coronavirus.

"If it were a European country which had discovered this remedy, would there be so many doubts," he said in an exclusive interview with France 24, Paris-based international television news network and Radio France International.

"The problem is that it comes from Africa. And they cannot accept that a country like Madagascar, which is one of the poorest countries in the world, has discovered this formula to save the world," he added.

The World Health Organization (WHO) had warned against the use of CVO without any medical supervision and cautioned against self-medication. The WHO further said that they have not approved the concoction for the patients suffering from COVID-19.

On Thursday, the WHO, however, has called for clinical trials of CVO.

"Covid-Organics is a preventive and curative remedy against COVID-19, which works very well," said President Rajoelina.

He attributed recovery of 105 COVID-19 patients in Madagascar to the herbal potion.

"A marked improvement was observed in the health of the patients who received this remedy just 24 hours after they took the first dose. The cure was noted after seven days, even ten days. This remedy is natural and non-toxic," he said.

Madagascar has donated CVO, which is claimed to cure the COVID-19 to several African countries.

Last week, the African Union in a statement said it is talking with Madagascar to obtain technical data regarding the safety and efficiency of the herbal remedy.

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa allows phased reopening of tourism amid COVID-19

By CGTN Africa | <https://africa.cgtn.com/2020/05/31/south-africa-allows-phased-reopening-of-tourism-amid-covid-19/>

The South African government on Saturday announced a phased reopening of tourism, further easing COVID-19 restrictions starting from June 1.

"Based on the COVID-19 epidemic expected trajectory, the first phase of the recovery for the sector will be driven by domestic tourism, followed by regional tourism and international tourism next year," Tourism Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane said.

On May 24, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that the lockdown for the whole country will be lowered from level four to level three effective from June 1, allowing more industries to resume operations and millions of people to return to work, accompanied by the reopening of schools.

Although South Africa will be gradually reopening up in the coming months, depending on how the virus is spreading, the tourism sector is expected to fully recover in the end of this year, said Kubayi-Ngubane.

The past two months of lockdown have been difficult for the tourism sector, she said.

“We continued to see many businesses in the sector fighting for survival and our projections showed that almost 600,000 jobs were at risk if the sector doesn’t come into operation by September 2020,” Kubayi-Ngubane said.

“As we open up the sector, we are therefore confident that measures have been put in place to protect our employees, suppliers, tourists and all those who are involved with the sector,” the minister said.

BOTSWANA :

Botswana to help repatriate citizens stranded abroad

<https://africa.cgtn.com/2020/05/31/botswana-to-help-repatriate-citizens-stranded-abroad/>

By CGTN Africa - Botswana will help repatriate citizens stranded abroad by coronavirus travel bans, with more than 100 due to arrive on Wednesday from Ethiopia, President Mokgweetsi Masisi said on Saturday.

Botswana ended a 48-day lockdown a week ago, allowing businesses and schools to reopen under strict conditions but its borders are still closed with only returning citizens and essential goods allowed in.

“In order to alleviate the plight of our citizens abroad who have been adversely impacted by the pandemic, mostly students and those affected by the global travel bans, we have decided to assist them with financial assistance to either cope where they are or to return them home,” Masisi said in a televised speech.

Masisi said the government has helped 400 return from South Africa and neighbouring countries.

Botswana has recorded just 35 coronavirus cases and one death.

But the economy has been severely hit, with real gross domestic product forecast to contract by 13% in 2020.

De Beers discussing temporary move of diamond sales from Botswana with Govt.

<https://www.miningmx.com/trending/42071-de-beers-discussing-temporary-move-of-diamond-sales-from-botswana-with-govt/>

By David McKay - May 29, 2020

DE Beers is in discussions with the Botswana government to move diamond sales from its capital, Gaborone, nearer to buyers in international centres in order to get rough diamond trade flowing again, said Reuters.

Citing De Beers executive vice president of Diamond Trading, Paul Rowley, the newswire said the temporary shift in sales point would be done in such a way that the sales were still booked in Botswana. “If we can move our product closer to them it would give us the flexibility to restart sales as soon as the markets reopen,” said Rowley.

“The temporary measure will enable us and our government partners to generate some revenue in this difficult period,” said Rowley. Anglo American unit De Beers sells 90% of its total supply from Gaborone whose economy relies on diamonds, said Reuters.

But since the COVID-19 pandemic, diamond buyers from traditional centres, such as Antwerp and Mumbai, have been unable to travel to Botswana, which they previously visited ten times a year to view and buy diamonds, it said.

Movement restrictions and weaker demand forced De Beers to cancel its diamond sales, known as sights, in April and May after the February sale declined by 36% to \$551m.

The COVID-19 outbreak has come at a bad time for the diamond industry following poor trading conditions in 2019. De Beers made its smallest profit in more than a decade last year after a glut of rough and polished stones destroyed margins for the industry's crucial middlemen who cut, polish and trade them, said Bloomberg News.

ZIMBABWE :

Interview: Zimbabwe backs China's new national security law for Hong Kong, senior official says

Source: Xinhua| 2020-05-30 17:52:09|Editor: huaxia

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-05/30/c_139100937.htm

HARARE, May 30 (Xinhua) -- Zimbabwe reaffirmed its adherence to the one-China policy and backed China's top legislature's decision to establish and improve the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to safeguard national security, a senior official has said.

Zimbabwean Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services Minister Monica Mutsvangwa told Xinhua on Thursday that the new law will help consolidate Hong Kong's security and stability, and protect it from Western interference.

Western countries that are obsessed with interventions always want to see people divided, Mutsvangwa said. "We are very much for the one-China policy and that is what we support as a country."

"We know the suffering when people are divided. We know China's policy toward Hong Kong has actually brought the people together as one and helped achieve the economic development," she added.

The minister said foreign intervention aimed at destabilizing Hong Kong was a "disgrace," which should be discouraged.

"Where there is unity, where there is peace. There is certainly development and so we support that law. We only hope that this foreign intervention does not continue to happen, because all that it does actually bring disunity and discord in a country and that affects the rate of development which China is moving at," she said. Enditem

ZAMBIA :

Three Arrested Over Killing of Three Chinese in Zambia

<https://www.caixinglobal.com/2020-05-28/three-arrested-over-killing-of-three-chinese-in-zambia-101560309.html>

What's new: Zambian police have arrested three people in connection with the killing of three Chinese nationals at a warehouse in the capital of Lusaka on Sunday, the BBC reported.

Caixin has learned the victims were three men from Jiangsu province who had worked for a Chinese company in the country.

It remains unclear whether the victims were known to the three suspects.

What's the background: Zambian Foreign Minister Joseph Malanji said on Tuesday that the murder is "shocking" to him, and added "legal investors should not be threatened by this kind of behavior."

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said on Wednesday that the Zambian government has promised to bring the murders to justice and protect all foreigners in the country, including Chinese citizens.

This is not the first clash involving Chinese people in Zambia this year. An investigation was launched earlier this month after video showed a Zambian citizen being barred from entering a local Chinese restaurant, sparking talk of racism.

Quick Takes are condensed versions of China-related stories for fast news you can use. To read the full Caixin article in Chinese, [click here](#).

Give me accessible leaders, Lungu challenges N/West

May 30, 2020 <http://www.daily-mail.co.zm/give-me-accessible-leaders-lungu-challenges-nwest/>

JACK ZIMBA Ikeleng'i

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu has asked the people of North- Western Province to give him leaders he can work with.

The head of State says the lack of coordination between the provincial administration and Members of Parliament (MPs) has negatively affected development in some parts of the province.

And Elijah Muchima, who is MP for Ikeleng'i under the United Party for National Development (UPND), welcomed President Lungu in the district and attended all his meetings and programmes.

“Give us leaders who will cry for you,” the President told about 20 headmen who gathered to meet him. <http://epaper.daily-mail.co.zm/>

MALAWI :

HRDC rejects ‘fake member’ who endorsed DPP-UDF alliance

May 31, 2020 Martha Chikoti <https://malawi24.com/2020/05/31/hrdc-rejects-fake-member-who-endorsed-dpp-udf-alliance/>

The Human Rights Defenders Coalition (HRDC) has rejected a fake member who endorsed Democratic Progressive Party (DDP) and United Democratic Front (UDF) alliance on Friday.

Chifundo Kapesa who claimed to be HRDC treasure for Karonga chapter told a press conference on Friday that he had resigned from the grouping saying its leaders used the grouping to promote political careers and support some political parties.

He then endorsed President Peter Mutharika describing him as a peace loving and developmental leader.

But in a press statement signed by HRDC Chairperson Gift Trapence and other members on Friday, the coalition said Kapesa has never been a member of the grouping and there is no position of treasure in HRDC structure.

HRDC also claimed that Kapesa and other individuals who were with him at the press briefing are agents of the Democratic Progressive Party (DDP) hired to tarnish both image and reputation of the human rights organization.

“This act of desperation will not work. HRDC will continue to be a people social movement driven by the need to respect and protect human rights of all Malawians,” the grouping explained in the statement.

The HRDC also made it clear in the statement that it will take a legal action aimed at deterring the other group or any entity in future from defaming the group.

HRDC is a human rights organisation that has been leading post-election demonstrations since last year.

NAMIBIA :

Last group of Zimbabwean nationals repatriated

<https://www.namibian.com.na/91454/read/Last-group-of-Zimbabwean-nationals-repatriated>

News - National | 2020-05-30 by Taati Niilenge

THE second group of Zimbabwean nationals who arrived in Walvis Bay on the Carnival Fascination vessel yesterday were repatriated on an Air Namibia flight last night.

The 77 Zimbabwean nationals are currently in quarantine in Zimbabwe, where they joined others who departed yesterday afternoon. The vessel left Walvis Bay at around 08h00 this morning en

route to Durban, South Africa, where the South African crew members will disembark. It will then proceed to Mozambique. Some of those on board have been on the vessel for about eight months. The vessel had arrived from various countries to repatriate international sea personnel due the Covid-19 pandemic.

Namibia Ports Authority's commercial executive Immanuel !Hananeb at a press briefing yesterday assured the nation that the ports authority has the country's interest at heart.

"We had Namibians on board that vessel and we had the responsibility to assist and ensure that those Namibians came home safely. That is what we have done. We took all the precautions that were necessary.

"It has helped us to put every precaution in place to eliminate all risks. Namibia can be rest assured that there will be no infection from this operation," he said.

According to !Hananeb, the two groups were transported by buses that were already waiting before the vessel entered the port. The aircrafts at the Walvis Bay airport were also ready before the buses departed from the port. He said all who boarded the vessel or buses had full protective clothing and gear that consisted of masks, goggles, gloves and full body suits.

The police escorted the group to the Walvis Bay airport to avoid the risk of any of the passengers getting out of the escort. The seven Namibians and one citizen from Botswana are currently in quarantine at a local hotel for 14 days.

ANGOLA :

Angola extends deadline of Port of Luanda terminal international tender

<https://africa.cgtn.com/2020/05/29/angola-extends-deadline-of-port-of-luanda-terminal-international-tender/>

By Sarah Mukabana - May 29, 2020

Angola has extended to June 30 the deadline for the submission of bids for the concession and operation of the multipurpose terminal of Port of Luanda, the Concession Evaluation Commission said on Friday.

The extension of the deadline results from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the commission said.

Launched on Dec. 16, 2019, the international tender had previously set March 30 this year as the deadline for the opening of the bids.

The terminal has an annual handling capacity of about 2.6 million tons per year. The company to win the international tender will manage the terminal for 20-25 years.

The main aim of the tender is to promote development and improve efficiency of the port activity through the participation of seasoned private firms in this sector.

Local and international companies with experience in port management are invited to take part in the international tender, the commission said.

Luanda port terminal handles both general cargo and containers. It has an annual handling capacity of 2.6 million tons.

Huawei set-up to let Angolan students attend classes online

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/05/29/20200529001/>

29 May 2020| Angola| China

Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd of China has come up with a way to teach Angolan students online while the Covid-19 pandemic confines them to their homes, Angop reports.

The Angolan state-run news agency says Huawei has begun testing the set-up last month. The report says the arrangement will let students at seven Angolan institutions of higher education attend classes virtually for six months.

Angop quotes Ermelinda Cândido, head of Cinfotec, one of the institutions, as praising Huawei's initiative.

It quotes a representative of Huawei in Angola, Luís Gonçalves, as saying the arrangement may be extended this year to serve seven other institutions, with the certification process ongoing for several of them.

One of the purposes of the set-up is to keep up "TIC Talent," the Huawei programme of training people in information communication technology so they can obtain internationally recognised qualifications, which about 70 Angolan students have availed of since 2015, Angop says.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinapl.org.mo/huawei-set-up-to-let-angolan-students-attend-classes-online/>

Angola the source of 13 pct of the oil China used in 2019

28 May 2020 | Angola | China

Angola supplied 13 percent of the crude oil China consumed last year, China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC) says, citing an official government work report presented to the Chinese legislature, the 12th National People's Congress.

The Chinese state-owned company says the document contains figures given by the China Petroleum and Chemical Industry Federation, which indicate that China used 696 million tonnes of crude last year, 7.4 percent more than the year before.

The document says Russia was the biggest source of the oil China used last year, supplying 19 percent, Saudi Arabia was the second-biggest, supplying 15 percent, and Angola was the third-biggest.

China imports almost 70 percent of the crude oil it uses, and over 40 percent of the natural gas it uses, CNPC quotes the document as saying.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinapl.org.mo/angola-the-source-of-13-pct-of-the-oil-china-used-in-2019/>

Angola exposé: Portugal connections

<https://www.theafricareport.com/27390/angola-expose-portugal-connections/>

In the third of a five-part series on Angola's campaign to find its stolen funds, we meet one woman who has dared to speak up against the elites in both Angola and Portugal.

"I simply tweeted saying getting loans is one way of laundering money," explains Ana Gomes, the former Portuguese MEP who has taken on the elites of both Angola and Portugal through her investigations, official complaints, in the media and in court.

Isabel Dos Santos sued Gomes for tweets she alleged had damaged her honour and reputation. "I said in court, you have the reputation of mother Teresa of Calcutta or the reputation of Al Capone," says Gomes, who is small in stature but exudes energy. It is no secret who Gomes thinks Isabel resembles.

Portugal – Angola connection alive as ever

The Portuguese landed in Angola more than 400 years ago, brutally colonized it and stayed until 1975.

READ MORE Angola: Radio as a form of struggle; scenes from late colonial times

The elites in Luanda and Lisbon have quarreled but were ultimately drawn back together because of the synchronicity of their economic interests.

One savvy business executive who welcomed us to his Lisbon boardroom dotted with photographs of stars and politicians he had met, explained it as a relationship that moved with the economic tides. Most recently, Angolan investors saved several floundering Portuguese companies.

“(Engineering firm) Efacec was bankrupt, Isabel (Dos Santos) saved it. It employs 2,700 families – that makes it a huge employer in the north of Portugal,” he said.

MOZAMBIQUE :

Chinese doctors teach Mozambicans how to tackle Covid-19

<https://macaueh.com.mo/2020/05/26/20200526004/>

26 May 2020 | China | Mozambique

Chinese paediatricians and obstetricians have given their Mozambican counterparts instruction on treating children and pregnant women infected with the Covid-19 virus , and on saving them from becoming infected in the first place, Xinhua reports.

The Chinese government-run news agency says that in a two-hour teleconference doctors at the Sichuan University of China West China Women’s and Children’s Hospital passed on lessons they have learned from experience to doctors at Maputo Central Hospital.

The report says the teleconference was one of a series of training sessions for Mozambican health professionals given by their Chinese counterparts.

The teleconference taught Mozambican doctors how to manage patients and render treatment better in the context of the pandemic, the report quotes Maputo Central Hospital Director Mouzinho Saíde as saying.

Among those attending were members of the 22nd Chinese medical mission to Mozambique which helped HCM make a plan to respond to the pandemic, Xinhua quotes a Chinese diplomat in Maputo, Liu Xiaoguang, as saying.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinapl.org.mo/chinese-doctors-teach-mozambicans-how-to-tackle-covid-19/>

StarTimes brings digital television to northern Mozambicans

<https://macaueh.com.mo/2020/05/22/20200522006/>

22 May 2020 | China | Mozambique

StarTimes of China has finished a project to bring digital television broadcasts via satellite to 20,000 households in 1,000 villages in the northern Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado, Xinhua reports.

The Chinese government-run news agency quotes Mozambican Minister of Transport and Communication Janfar Abdulai as saying after inspecting the outcome that the project created about 2,000 jobs, and entailed the training of young people to maintain the system and assist the viewing public.

The project is part of a scheme funded in part by China and put into effect by StarTimes to bring digital television broadcasts via satellite to all of Mozambique, Xinhua says.

In May 2018 the Portuguese news agency, Lusa, reported that Mozambique would be the first lusophone country to benefit from a Chinese endeavour to bring satellite television broadcasts to 10,000 villages in 25 African countries.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinaplp.org.mo/startimes-brings-digital-television-to-northern-mozambicans/>

Chinese bank finances Mozambican infrastructure

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/05/15/20200515002/>

15 May 2020 | China | Mozambique

The Export–Import Bank of China provided 7.8 billion meticaís (about US\$114.3 million) in 2018 for the construction or repair of roads and ports in Mozambique, O País reports.

The Mozambican newspaper says the country’s 2018 General State Account shows 6.8 billion meticaís went to Empresa de Desenvolvimento de Maputo Sul EP to pay for construction of the Maputo-Catembe Bridge, built by China Road and Bridge Corp., and of the road between Boa Vista and Ponta de Ouro.

The report says the road authority in Mozambique spent 625 million meticaís on repairing the road from the port city of Beira to Machipanda on the Zimbabwean border, work done by China State Construction Engineering Corp. Ltd.

The other 344.3 million meticaís was spent on repairing the fishing port in Beira, O País says.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinaplp.org.mo/chinese-bank-finances-mozambican-infrastructure/>

GUINEA BISSAU :

Envoy says China helping Guiné-Bissau keep Covid-19 at bay

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/05/18/20200518002/>

18 May 2020 | China | Guinea-Bissau

Chinese Ambassador to Guiné-Bissau Jin Hongjun has said China is helping Guiné-Bissau counter the Covid-19 pandemic, Agência de Notícias da Guiné (ANG) reports.

The Guinéan state-run news agency quotes Mr Jin as saying he met Guinéan President Umaro Sissoco Embaló last week and told him about the Chinese experience of countering the pandemic.

Mr Jin said he and Mr Embaló also talked about present and future Sino-Guinéan cooperation projects, ANG says.

Last month ANG reported that 500 infrared thermometers, 20,000 sets of disposable gloves and shoe covers, 10,000 surgical masks, 4,000 other types of mask and coveralls to go with them, all donated by China, had arrived in Guiné-Bissau.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinaplp.org.mo/envoy-says-china-helping-guine-bissau-keep-covid-19-at-bay/>

Greater role for Macao in international engagement envisaged

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/05/19/20200519003/>

19 May 2020 - A new reference document says economic engagement by China and the Portuguese-speaking world can help develop the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the People’s Daily reports.

The Chinese Communist Party newspaper says the document is the Sino-Lusophone Economic and Trade Cooperation Blue Book, published jointly by the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, and the Macao University of Science Technology Institute for Social and Cultural Research.

The document released last week calls for companies in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to invest in lusophone countries.

Development of the area gives Macao a big opportunity to perform its function as a place where China and the Portuguese-speaking world can do business, the document says.

Macao can help promote the use of the renminbi in such business by doing more clearing and settlement in the currency, the People's Daily quotes the document as saying.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinapl.org.mo/greater-role-for-macao-in-international-engagement-envisaged/>

CABO VERDE / CAPE VERT :

Chinese companies helping Cabo Verde keep Covid-19 at bay

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/05/14/20200514003/>

14 May 2020 | Cabo Verde | China

The Association of Chinese Companies in Cabo Verde has contributed 6.5 million escudos (about US\$63,800) to the Cabo Verdean government's emergency fund for countering the Covid-19 pandemic, Xinhua reports.

The Chinese government-run news agency quotes the head of the association, Zhang Dengquan, as saying: "Our companies are also part of Cape Verdean society, and have the responsibility to participate in the prevention of this disease."

The report quotes Chinese Ambassador to Cabo Verde Du Xiacong as saying the donation of the money is a vivid sign of Sino-Cabo Verdean friendship.

Cabo Verdeans welcome and appreciate Chinese help, Xinhua quotes Cabo Verde's National Director of Political, Economic and Cultural Affairs Júlio Morais as saying.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinapl.org.mo/chinese-companies-helping-cabo-verde-keep-covid-19-at-bay/>

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE :

China gives São Toméan legislature computers and other gear

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/05/21/20200521003/>

21 May 2020 | China | São Tomé and Príncipe

China gave São Tomé e Príncipe's National Assembly a batch of electrical and electronic equipment on Monday, STP-Press reports.

The São Toméan state-run news agency says Chinese Ambassador to São Tomé Wang Wei presented the legislature with 30 desktop computers, 20 laptop computers, 20 printers, 10 flat-screen television sets, five photocopying machines and two 250-kva generators.

The report says the gift stems from a visit to São Tomé e Príncipe by Wang Chen, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's legislature, last year, and would have been handed over sooner had it not been for the Covid-19 pandemic.

China has been a serious, honest partner of São Tomé e Príncipe, STP-Press quotes the president of the São Toméan legislature, Delfim Neves, as saying.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinapl.org.mo/china-gives-sao-tomean-legislature-computers-and-other-gear/>

TIMOR - LESTE :

Chinese foundations give Timor-Leste medical paraphernalia

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/05/28/20200528004/>

28 May 2020 | China | Timor-Leste

Two Chinese charitable foundations, the Jack Ma Foundation and the Alibaba Foundation, have given Timor-Leste several tonnes of medical equipment and supplies, Lusa reports.

The Portuguese news agency, citing a written announcement by the Chinese Embassy in Dili, says the medical paraphernalia arrived in Dili on a charter flight from Singapore.

The announcement says the shipment includes 130,000 face masks, 20,000 pairs of gloves, 5,000 sets of personal protective equipment, 5,000 face shields, 5,000 kits for detecting the Covid-19 virus, 39 thermometers and 10 ventilators.

China will continue to closely monitor the Covid-19 pandemic in Timor-Leste and give the country more help, if needed, Lusa quotes the Chinese Embassy in Dili as saying.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinaplp.org.mo/chinese-foundations-give-timor-leste-medical-paraphernalia/>

Chinese contractor to repair damaged bridge in Timor-Leste

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/05/27/20200527002/>

27 May 2020 | China | Timor-Leste

China Building Material Tangshan Installation Co. (CBMI) will repair the Weru-Locho bridge in southeastern Timor-Leste's Lautém district, which was damaged by floods caused by heavy rain, ANTIL reports.

The Timorese state-run news agency quotes Rui Hernâni, Director-General at Timor-Leste's Public Works Ministry, as saying representatives of the Ministry's Project Management Unit and the Chinese State-owned contractor are already on site to see what has to be done.

Mr Hernâni hopes CBMI can repair the Weru-Locho bridge quickly so that traffic can pass between Timorese capital Díli and the city of Lospalos as it did before, ANTIL says.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinaplp.org.mo/chinese-contractor-to-repair-damaged-bridge-in-timor-leste/>

****** AFRIQUE DU NORD ******

EGYPT :

Ethiopia and Egypt are pushing each other to the brink in a battle for control on the river Nile
<https://qz.com/africa/1862962/ethiopia-egypt-battle-for-river-nile-grand-dam-without-trump/>
Addis Ababa May 31, 2020 By Zecharias Zelalem

When Ethiopia, this week, criticized the Egyptian government for its “unprincipled” stand on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) it raised the stakes on one of the Africa’s most contentious diplomatic negotiations in recent decades.

The comments came even though both states have expressed a willingness to return to tripartite talks with Sudan, over the dam. The key source of the tension with Egypt is that Ethiopia remains adamant to start filling the dam’s reservoir by July.

“Instead of earnest discussion, Egypt has used the negotiation platform to demand that the dam be smaller, carry a lower volume of water, and be turned into something that wouldn’t fulfill our needs,” said Gedu Andargachew, Ethiopia’s foreign minister speaking at a press conference with political party representatives at Addis Ababa’s African Union Conference Hall on Wednesday. “It’s up to them to leave this obstructive approach and instead cooperate with the parties involved.”

Ethiopia’s insistence on filling the reservoir without an agreement on technicalities is a major sticking point for Egypt. The dam’s reservoir has a capacity of 74 billion cubic meters, and Ethiopia plans on storing around 18.4 million cubic liters of water in it in the coming two years.

Egypt says doing so without a signed agreement is a breach of international law and would dangerously impact its own water supply downstream. Ethiopia has reiterated that it doesn’t need Egyptian approval to fill the dam. US officials, who Egypt had called in to help mediate, had insinuated that progress had been made, but the pair’s differences were many and eventually led to Ethiopia’s pulling out from a final round of scheduled roundtable talks in late February. Ethiopian officials accused the Trump administration of pressuring the Horn of Africa country to make unreasonable concessions.

“Ethiopia will never sign on an agreement that will surrender its right to us the Nile River,” Ethiopia’s ambassador to the US, Fitsum Arega wrote on Twitter at the time.

The diplomatic spat starts with Africa’s longest river, the Nile, which runs through 11 countries. Ethiopia contributes about 85% of the Nile water flowing to Sudan and Egypt. The 11 nations are hoping that the massive Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam will open up many new opportunities from electric power supply, agricultural irrigation to reducing evaporation losses.

When completed, the dam will have installed capacity to generate 6,000 MW electricity to relieve Ethiopia’s acute energy shortage and also export to Sudan and possibly Egypt. The dam’s 74 billion cubic meters of water is about half the volume of the Aswan High Dam in Egypt.

Tripartite effort

Months into the deadlock, Sudan has lobbied to reinstate the stagnated tripartite effort and has gotten a positive response from Cairo and Addis Ababa, despite the open bickering between the two.

US mediation had been sought by Egyptian president Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, after Ethiopia’s prime minister Abiy Ahmed agreed to the involvement of a third-party mediator. From November to February, diplomats from Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan shuttled between Washington DC, Khartoum, Cairo and Addis Ababa. World Bank representatives were also brought in as additional arbitrators.

In November, Ethiopia agreed in principle to an Egyptian request that the dam filling process be carried out in stages over seven years. But the nitty gritty of how it would be carried out, including the speed with which the reservoir would be filled, left the two at odds.

In this regard, the US has done little to bring the opposing sides together, and Ethiopia eventually decided not to attend a final round of negotiations in late February, where the sides were supposed to sign a legal and binding agreement. Ethiopia rejected terms of a deal it deemed favorable for Egypt, which led to accusations by Ethiopians that the US was trying to coerce Ethiopia into compromising on its dam aspirations. Ethiopians in the US took to the streets to protest “US pressuring of Ethiopia.”

Egypt meanwhile, took issue with Ethiopia’s absence from the final round of talks, and of its refusal to sign the agreement which had actually been drafted by US and World Bank mediators. In a letter penned to the United Nations Security Council earlier this month, Egypt’s foreign minister Sameh Shoukry decried Ethiopia’s “unilateralism, its lack of willingness to cooperate and its desire to fill the GERD regardless of the impact on downstream riparians.”

While the text of the treaty that American mediators hashed out isn’t publicly available, Shoukry gave a briefing of what it entailed in his letter to the UNSC. Among the clauses Ethiopia found unacceptable according to Shoukry, a compromise which included “mitigations measures,” which would be implemented even beyond the first stage filling period, if Egypt were to experience drought.

Ethiopia brands this as nefarious. “On the Egyptian side, negotiations until now were hindered by Egypt’s desire to maintain its historical hegemony,” said Dr. Seleshi Bekele, Ethiopia’s minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy. According to the minister, dam construction progress currently stands at 73.7%

Sudan has shown a determination to de-escalate tensions, with prime minister Abdullah Hamdok believed to have arranged the continuation of tripartite talks by communicating with his Ethiopian and Egyptian counterparts in recent weeks. China has also lobbied the two to put an end to the spat and work towards peaceful resolution. Beijing’s interest likely stems from its financial support for the GERD project. Two Chinese state companies were awarded \$150 million in GERD construction contracts last year.

But with Ethiopia’s Abiy telling Ethiopians that “not even the coronavirus” would hamper dam plans, and Egypt’s heavy-worded message to the UNSC, it would seem the impasse could be on the brink of deteriorating even further, come July.

Egypt orders the wearing of face masks in public
<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1682171/middle-east>

CAIRO: Egypt on Saturday ordered its people to wear face masks in public, when taking private transportation, and inside government offices as it eases the partial lockdown imposed during the weeklong Muslim holiday of Eid- Al-Fitr.

Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouly said violators will be fined. He said the nationwide curfew will be 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. for another two weeks.

Infections in Egypt rose this week during Eid Al-Fitr celebrations, at the end of the holy month of Ramadan. The country of 100 million people has the highest announced deaths from COVID-19 in the Arab World.

On Friday, Egypt registered 1,289 new coronavirus cases and 34 deaths, marking another record of daily increases on both counts despite stricter curfew rules.

That brought the total number of fatalities to 879 and confirmed cases to 22,082, of which 5,511 people have recovered.

19 militants killed in Egypt

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/19-militants-killed-in-egypt/1859390>

Army spokesperson says five army members wounded, killed amid operations in Sinai region / Hamdi Yildiz | 31.05.2020

ISTANBUL - Nineteen armed militants were killed in the northern Sinai region of Egypt, a military spokesperson said Sunday.

Tamir er-Rifai said the militants were killed in recently held operations by security authorities but acknowledged five Egyptian army members were killed or wounded.

He said the army confiscated explosives, automatic rifles, and RPG rocket launchers.

Airforces struck militants during the operations, he said.

*Writing by Ali Murat Alhas

ALGERIE :

Tebboune préside dimanche une réunion du Conseil des ministres

Par Rédaction AE - 30 mai 2020 / 13 :32

<https://www.algerie-eco.com/2020/05/30/tebboune-preside-dimanche-une-reunion-du-conseil-des-ministres/>

Le Conseil des ministres tiendra dimanche sa réunion périodique, par visioconférence, sous la présidence de M. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Président de la République, Chef suprême des forces armées, ministre de la Défense nationale, a indiqué ce samedi un communiqué de la Présidence de la République.

L'ordre du jour de cette réunion prévoit l'examen d'un certain nombre de présentations ministérielles liées à la mémoire nationale, le plan de relance de l'industrie nationale, la promotion des investissements agricoles dans le sud et la numérisation de l'administration.

La situation sanitaire du pays sera également à l'ordre du jour, notamment la réponse à la pandémie du coronavirus et à l'industrie pharmaceutique, ainsi que les perspectives de l'Agence nationale de soutien à l'emploi des jeunes (Ansej) et l'écosystème des start-up.

LFC 2020 : Pour le RCD, l'exécutif « acte le transfert des effets de la crise sur les populations »

<https://www.algerie-eco.com/2020/05/31/lfc-2020-pour-le-rcd-lexecutif-acte-le-transfert-des-effets-de-la-crise-sur-les-populations/>

Par Ouramdane Mehenni - 31 mai 2020 / 11 :59

Le rassemblement pour la Culture et la Démocratie (RCD) a critiqué, le dimanche 31 mai, le projet de loi de finances complémentaire 2020, qui doit être voté aujourd'hui par l'Assemblée populaire nationale (APN), estimant qu'il risque d'aggraver la situation sociale et financière du pays.

Le RCD estime, dans un communiqué publié dimanche sur sa page Facebook, qu'avec ce texte, l'exécutif « acte le transfert des effets de la crise sur les populations », précisant qu'il « pénalise doublement les citoyens pour permettre au gouvernement de boucler l'exercice budgétaire avec moins de déficit financier ».

Le RCD explique que la baisse de 50% des dépenses de fonctionnement « aura pour première conséquence un manque de ressources pour encadrer les difficultés sociales et de services générées (et/ou) aggravées par la crise sanitofinanciere du covid 19. C'est la principale mesure de baisse des dépenses ».

Évoquant la hausse des prix des carburants, le RCD précise que cette mesure « aura pour effet de générer des augmentations en cascades des produits agricoles, de services et manufacturiers », soulignant que la hausse du SNMG « est largement récupéré ».

« L'instauration d'un impôt sur la fortune ne trompe personne quant à son caractère populiste du moment qu'aucun fichier sérieux n'existe pour taxer les riches », estime le RCD qui indique que « la forte taxation sur les véhicules neufs, en plus de son iniquité, aura peu d'effet avant que le nouveau dispositif d'importation voit le jour ».

Le parti a indiqué que « l'autre grande escroquerie de cette LFC est qu'au lieu de la mise en place d'un plan pour sauver les entreprises et les commerces touchés de plein fouet, le gouvernement se contente de ressasser de simples mesures prises dans l'urgence pour différer le paiement des impôts ».

« On est passé d'un court terme reconduit 20 ans durant à un très court terme enclenché par le nouveau pouvoir de fait. Une situation qui ne peut durer longtemps », a conclu le communiqué.

FLN : Baadji Abou El Fadhel plébiscité secrétaire général du parti

<https://www.algerie-eco.com/2020/05/30/fln-baadji-abou-el-fadhel-plebiscite-secretaire-general-du-parti/>

Par Khelifa Litamine - 30 mai 2020 / 19 :40

FLN : Baadji Abou El Fadhel plébiscité secrétaire général du parti

C'est dans un climat tendu que le parti du front de libération nationale, FLN, a plébiscité ce samedi Baadji Abou El Fadhel, député de la wilaya de M'sila au poste de nouveau secrétaire général du parti.

Baadji, a été plébiscité par la grande majorité des membres du comité central qui ont tenu leur session ordinaire au Centre international des congrès, à Alger.

Au début des travaux, trois autres candidats espérés remplacer, Ali Sediki, qui assuré l'intérim du poste du Sg, suite à la mise en détention de l'ancien SG du parti, Mohamed Djemai, pour des affaires de Corruption, mais enfin de compte, ils ont retiré leur candidature, laissant le champ libre à Baadji.

Par ailleurs, Djamel Benhamouda, ex-député de Bordj Bouararidj, qui souhaité aussi se porter candidat, a été empêché d'accéder à la salle de la réunion, pour motif de contamination au virus covid-19, affirme plusieurs source médiatiques, et cela malgré qu'il ait présenté un certificat prouvant le contraire.

Selon, des sources internes, les congressistes ont réussi difficilement à convaincre les autres candidats, qui étaient Kaheliche Mustapha membre du Bureau politique Djelfa, Bachir Chara , ex-député d'Alger, et Slougha Mohamed Salah, Membre du PB, Alger de retirer leur candidature afin de directement plébisciter Baadji comme ça été le cas pour Tayeb Zitouni au RND, mais cela a provoqué quelques affrontements entre les congressistes.

MAROC :

66 new COVID-19 cases confirmed in Morocco, 7,780 in total

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-05/31/c_139101544.htm

Source: Xinhua| 2020-05-31 04:04:56|Editor: huaxia

RABAT, May 30 (Xinhua) -- A total of 66 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed in Morocco on Saturday, bringing the total number of cases to 7,780.

The number of recovered people has increased to 5,401 with 130 new recoveries, Mouad Mrabet, coordinator of the Moroccan Centre for Public Health said at a press briefing.

He added that 204 deaths from COVID-19 have been reported so far, after two new death cases were reported in the past 24 hours. Enditem

ETHIOPIA-MOROCCO: Fostering partnerships in the renewable energy sector

<https://www.afrik21.africa/en/ethiopia-morocco-fostering-partnerships-in-the-renewable-energy-sector/>

By Inès Magoum - Published on May 29 2020 / Modified on May 28 2020

Ethiopia's Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy, Sileshi Bekele, and Morocco's Minister of Energy, Minerals and Environment, Aziz Rabbah, recently discussed perspectives for bilateral cooperation between their two countries in the field of renewable energy.

Ethiopia, an East African country, and Morocco, a North African country, plan to strengthen their partnership in the field of renewable energy. To this end, Ethiopia's Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy, Sileshi Bekele, and Morocco's Minister of Energy, Minerals and the Environment, Aziz Rabbah, have scheduled a virtual meeting on May 22, 2020.

The authorities of the two countries discussed the possibilities of accelerating the implementation of the Coalition for Sustainable Energy Access, in order to improve the capacity of the electricity sector. Ethiopia and Morocco formed the coalition at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019 in New York, United States. The initiative aims to ensure 100 percent access to electricity in least developed and developing countries by 2030.

Ethiopia and Morocco have recently made great strides in the renewable energy sector. Currently, several projects are under way in both countries. In Ethiopia, the latest is an ongoing project to install 25 mini-hybrid mini-grids financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB). This project aims to provide access to electricity to all Ethiopians by 2025.

Morocco, for its part, aims to increase the share of renewable energies in the energy mix to 52%. The country has the necessary resources to meet this challenge. According to a recent report on emerging offshore wind markets, carried out by the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme, Morocco has – in addition to its solar resources – a “fantastic” offshore wind resource “too attractive to ignore”. The analysis was carried out in partnership with the International Finance Corporation. Inès Magou

TUNISIA :

US considers sending 'training' unit to Tunisia amid North Africa tensions

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20200530-us-considers-sending-training-unit-to-tunisia-amid-north-africa-tensions/>

May 30, 2020 at 6:30 pm | Published in: Africa, Asia & Americas, Libya, News, Tunisia, US

The United States said it is considering deploying a Security Force Assistance Brigade in Tunisia for training, as part of its assistance program with the North Africa country, amid concern over Russian activity in Libya, Reuters reports.

Libya's civil war has drawn in regional and global powers, prompting what the United Nations has called a huge influx of weapons and fighters into the region, in violation of an arms embargo.

“As Russia continues to fan the flames of the Libyan conflict, regional security in North Africa is a heightened concern,” the US Africa Command said in a statement on Friday.

“We're looking at new ways to address mutual security concerns with Tunisia, including the use of our Security Force Assistance Brigade.”

READ: Omar Al-Mukhtar's Libya is now fighting a global proxy war

It later said the Brigade refers to a small training unit as part of military assistance and no way implies combat military forces.

Russian military personnel have delivered 14 MiG 29 and Su-24 fighter jets to the Libyan National Army's (LNA) Jufra air base, the US military said on Wednesday, despite denials by the LNA and a Russian member of parliament.

Egypt, Russia and the United Arab Emirates support the eastern-based Khalifa Haftar's LNA, which launched an offensive last year to seize the capital Tripoli.

In a statement, Tunisia's defense ministry said the US was a main partner in the effort to build its army's operational capability.

Tunisia protesters demand jobs

<https://middle-east-online.com/en/tunisia-protesters-demand-jobs>

Hundreds of Tunisians take to streets of several cities to demand jobs worst economic crisis in more than 60 years due to coronavirus pandemic.

Friday 29/05/2020

TUNIS - Hundreds of Tunisians protested on Thursday in at least seven cities to demand jobs, heaping pressure on a government facing the worst economic crisis in more than 60 years due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In the southern city of Gafsa, witnesses said hundreds of university graduates gathered in front of the state headquarters, chanting slogans such as "we need jobs".

Hundreds more protested in Hajeb El Ayoun and Sidi Bouzid, witnesses said. Smaller protests by unemployed people also broke out in the cities of Beja, Kasserine, Tozeur and Sfax, state news agency TAP said.

Even before outbreak hammered Tunisia's tourism sector, which accounts for nearly 10% of gross domestic product, successive governments since the uprising of 2011 have failed to resolve stubbornly high inflation and unemployment that has bred discontent especially among young people.

On Wednesday, a company official told Reuters said protesters calling for jobs brought Tunisia's phosphate output to a halt by staging sit-ins at state-run Gafsa Phosphate (CPG), the country's sole producer. Phosphate is a key source of foreign currency.

The official unemployment rate is 15.3% but looks certain to rise.

Tunisia started relaxing restrictions on movement and businesses this month, allowing 75% of government employees to return to work - but the authorities expect the economy to shrink by 4.3% this year, which would be its steepest contraction in more than 60 years.

The country has so far recorded 1,068 confirmed cases of the coronavirus and 48 deaths.

The birthplace of the Arab Spring, Tunisia is the only country to achieve a peaceful transition to democracy following the 2011 revolts that swept autocrats from power across North Africa and the Middle East.

LYBIA :

Haftar in Libya not flexible for cease-fire talks: US

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/haftar-in-libya-not-flexible-for-cess-fire-talks-us/1858218>

Libyan government ready to sit down to reach cease-fire, but not warlord Haftar, says senior US diplomat

By Vakkas Dogantekin | 29.05.2020

ANKARA After over a year of attacks on Libya's government, warlord Khalifa Haftar is not showing any flexibility towards reaching a cease-fire, according to a senior US diplomat.

In an interview with France 24 on Thursday, David Schenker, the US assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, said the Libyan government has demonstrated some flexibility toward returning to the negotiating table, but Haftar's side has not.

Saying that the US supports an immediate cease-fire, Schenker added that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spoke last Friday with Fayez al-Sarraj, the prime minister of Libya's government, also known as the Government of National Accord (GNA).

Pompeo "expressed to him the need to return to negotiations as quickly as possible to accept the cease-fire. We believe that the GNA is demonstrating some flexibility, but not so for the LNA [so-called Libyan National Army] and Haftar," Schenker said.

He added that what is going on in Libya is a regional conflict far beyond a proxy war and that an arms embargo should be implemented to restart the negotiation process.

Schenker warned that the Libyan conflict "could spin out of control if the Russians choose to escalate further," adding that the US is extremely concerned with the deployment of advanced Russian jets to the country.

Similar dynamics in Libya, Syria

Comparing developments in Libya to Syria's decade-long civil war which has killed, injured, or displaced millions of civilians, Schenker said what Russia and the Syrian regime have done in Syria "resembles a genocide" and "similar dynamics are playing out" now in Libya.

He said the US has adopted the Berlin plan for Libya and is still committed, despite its poor implementation to date. He added that the US is helping Libya by sending it funds for battling COVID-19 and engaging in diplomacy among regional actors.

The Berlin plan, reached at a conference this January in the German capital, agreed to new steps to support the cease-fire and observe the arms embargo.

Speaking at the end of the conference that brought together world powers and regional actors, including Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said all the participants agreed that there could be no military solution to the Libyan conflict.

The Libyan government has been under attack by Haftar's forces since April 2019.

While France, Egypt, Russia, and UAE support Haftar, directly or indirectly, Turkey has shown solidarity with the UN-recognized, legitimate government representing the will of the Libyan people.

Following the ouster of late ruler Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, Libya's new government was founded in 2015 under a UN-led political agreement.

Haftar's illegal forces in eastern Libya have launched numerous attacks to capture Tripoli, the nation's capital, with more than 1,000 killed in the violence.

The United Nations' Libya mission has frequently expressed concern over the civilian casualties caused by Haftar's forces.

In early May, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) said it was "very concerned by the continued indiscriminate attacks and targeting of civilians in civilian populated areas and the increase in civilian casualties from the use of rockets and artillery, as well as from targeted killings by forces affiliated to the 'Libyan National Army' (LNA)."

Turkey and Russia Are at War, and Libya's the Loser

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2020-05-29/turkey-and-russia-are-at-war-but-libya-s-the-loser>

The failed siege of Tripoli is an opening for peace, but only if the outside players end their proxy war.

By James Stavridis 29 mai 2020 à 07:00 UTC+2

The long-running Libyan civil war appears to be staggering toward a finale. In recent days, the forces of General Khalifa Haftar, who controls the marginalized east and south of the country, have been forced to withdraw from their stalled offensive against the capital, Tripoli. It is a triumph for the internationally recognized Government of National Unity, led by the elected prime minister, Fayez al-Sarraj.

But the fighting is not simply a domestic issue — Libya’s civil war has become a proxy for regional and global power geopolitics. It is also a legacy of the way in which the West abandoned the country a decade ago.

The Tripoli government is supported strongly by Turkey, while Haftar’s coalition is backed by Russia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, France and a smattering of other nations operating clandestinely. Haftar’s defeat may be an opening for a negotiated settlement, but it will require those outside nations to push the warring sides to the table. The U.S. and European Union also have a role to play.

Libya has Africa’s largest oil reserves, but production has cratered to almost nothing from over 1.6 million barrels daily before the fall of the dictator Moammar Al Qaddafi a decade ago. All of this could have been avoided. Libya also has gorgeous beaches and an educated, middle-class population; it could have become a kind of “Dubai on the Mediterranean.” But it all fell apart in 2011. As supreme allied commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, I oversaw a significant Western intervention following Qaddafi’s threats to destroy the eastern city of Benghazi and create “a river of blood,” as his son Saif put it. The United Nations Security Council passed resolutions calling on NATO to set up an arms embargo from the sea, a no-fly zone in the air, and to take all necessary combat measures to stop the dictator under the international legal doctrine of “responsibility to protect.”

The NATO coalition I led was joined by many Arab nations in close support, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the U.A.E. Our mission was not to overthrow Qaddafi per se. But his regime was weakened by NATO efforts, including a precise bombing campaign. The rebellious population eventually overthrew him, and he was brutally killed by a mob.

At that moment, unfortunately, the resolve of the West was weak. NATO, its military mission complete, withdrew. I looked with disappointment at the EU and the rest of the global community refusing to remain and stabilize the situation. Libya descended into the chaos it still suffers today. The ancient animosities inside the country are largely tribal at heart, and rooted in resentments between the relatively wealthier west and the oil-poor east and south.

In the aftermath of the NATO intervention, I met with Haftar, a dual Libyan-U.S. citizen who lived near Washington for years. I was impressed with his energy and drive, and hoped he could be part of resolving the tensions in the country after the NATO mission departed.

But as the civil war has dragged on since 2014, Haftar has led a campaign to dominate the country militarily, leading nations from across the region to intervene either for or against him. Turkey has been particularly engaged, throwing its support behind the Tripoli government. Russia joined the Arab states supporting Haftar, sending in a comically inept mercenary force, the Wagner Group, to try and swing events in the general’s favor. The mercenaries were ignominiously airlifted out this week, but Russian air power is reportedly being deployed in support of Haftar’s troops.

Nonetheless, the Tripoli government sounds increasingly confident in its ground game, and Turkish air power (including sophisticated drones) is having strong effect. The whole thing is an echo of the so-called Great Game the British and Russians waged in Central Asia in the 19th century, but now playing out in North Africa.

All of this occurs as the coronavirus spreads across the region and many global powers, including the U.S., are highly distracted. Yet there have been thousands of deaths and more than 200,000 people displaced from their homes in the last year alone. More fighting will also mean more illegal migration north to Europe over dangerous sea routes.

The U.S. hasn’t been totally AWOL. In late January, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo attended an international conference in Berlin that sought to push the warring sides toward negotiations. But Turkey and Russia, motivated by oil wealth and regional leverage, never reached a deal. Now, perhaps, the setbacks to Haftar’s forces will reopen a chance for peace.

For the U.S., the best course is to partner with the EU to restart talks somewhere in Western Europe. They should press Turkey, a NATO ally, to negotiate with Russia on each reducing military support; aim to get agreement from the Gulf Arabs (who no longer have teeming oil wealth allowing them to

intervene abroad) and Egypt to let the Libyans sort it out internally; help build a cease-fire that could restart the oil production; and provide humanitarian assistance in containing the coronavirus. Losing a brutal dictator only to fall into a decade of war has been a sad outcome for the 6 million Libyans. For the U.S. and Europe, helping them find a path to peace is not just a humanitarian imperative — it is a direct responsibility, given the dire way in which the 2011 NATO intervention turned out.

This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

The European Union (EU) Delegation and EU Member State Heads of Mission to Libya on Saturday condemned the killing of dozens of migrants in western Libya.

<https://africa.cgtn.com/2020/05/31/eu-condemns-killing-of-migrants-in-libya/>

“The European Union Delegation and EU Member State Heads of Mission condemn the murder of 30 trafficked migrants, mostly Bangladeshi nationals, on May 27 in Mezda which also resulted in others wounded,” a joint statement said.

The attack, which occurred at the town of Mezda, some 180 km southwest of the capital Tripoli, was reportedly a revenge by the family of a Libyan smuggler who has been murdered by migrants.

“We remain committed to continuing our support to the authorities in strengthening their rule of law capacities so to allow them to counter criminal networks such as the one responsible for this crime and to maximize our assistance to Libyan communities impacted by the trafficking and smuggling of migrants,” the statement said.

****** AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST ******

CÔTE D'IVOIRE :

Côte d'Ivoire-AIP/ CPI : Le FPI salue la levée des restrictions de Laurent Gbagbo et Blé Goudé
<https://aip.ci/cote-divoire-aip-cpi-le-fpi-salue-la-levée-des-restrictions-de-laurent-gbagbo-et-ble-goude/>

Abidjan, 29 mai (AIP)- Le Front populaire ivoirien (FPI), par la voix de son secrétaire général, Assoa Adou, a salué au cours d'un point-presse qui s'est tenu, vendredi, à Abidjan-cocody, la levée des restrictions de l'ancien président Laurent Gbagbo et de Charles Blé Goudé, par la Cour pénale internationale (CPI). "Le Front populaire ivoirien salue cette décision importante qui marque un tournant dans la lutte pour la réconciliation nationale dans laquelle le parti s'est toujours engagé", a-t-il indiqué. Aussi, Assoa Adou, appelle le Gouvernement, à saisir "cette opportunité historique", pour "créer les conditions d'un véritable dialogue républicain en vue de la paix et de la cohésion nationale". "Le signal que...

Côte d'Ivoire-AIP/Le club des amis d'Amadou Gon Coulibaly rassure sur l'état de santé du Premier ministre à Abobo

<https://aip.ci/cote-divoire-aip-le-club-des-amis-damadou-gon-coulibaly-rassure-sur-letat-de-sante-du-premier-ministre-a-abobo/>

Anyama, 31 mai (AIP)-Le club des amis d'Amadou Gon Coulibaly d'Abobo-Agbékoi a rassuré ses membres sur l'état de santé du chef du gouvernement ivoirien, lors d'une rencontre d'échanges tenue samedi, dans ce village de la commune d'Abobo. Le président Issa Sana s'est dit heureux de cette rencontre qui a permis aux membres de s'informer de la vie du parti à l'approche des échéances électorales d'octobre 2020. « Nous avons invité ces émissaires afin de s'enquérir des nouvelles fraîches de notre modèle. Nous sommes maintenant rassurés au vu de tout ce qu'il s'est dit », a déclaré Issa Sana. Dans son message, l'émissaire du parrain, Ben Kayala, par ailleurs président du mouvement "Tous en marche...

Communiqué du Conseil National de Sécurité

<https://aip.ci/communiqué/communiqué-du-conseil-national-de-securite-du-jeudi-28-mai-2020/>

Le Président de la République, S.E.M. Alassane OUATTARA, a présidé, ce jeudi 28 mai 2020, une réunion du Conseil National de Sécurité qui a examiné la situation sécuritaire nationale et fait le point de la mise en œuvre des diligences du Plan de riposte et de soutien économique.

A cette occasion, le Conseil National de Sécurité a procédé, en outre, à la revue des mesures concernant la maladie à coronavirus (COVID-19). Au terme de cette revue, il a été, notamment, décidé de la prorogation des mesures suivantes jusqu'au dimanche 14 Juin 2020 :

- le maintien de l'état d'urgence,
- le maintien de l'isolement du Grand Abidjan,
- le maintien de la fermeture des bars, boîtes de nuit, cinémas et lieux de spectacle,
- le maintien de la fermeture des frontières terrestres, maritimes et aériennes.

Fait à Abidjan, le jeudi 28 mai 2020

Pour le Conseil National de Sécurité,

Le Ministre, Secrétaire Général de la Présidence de la République :
Patrick ACHI

SENEGAL :

Senegal reports 71 new confirmed cases of COVID-19

<https://africa.cgtn.com/2020/05/24/senegal-reports-71-new-confirmed-cases-of-covid-19/>

By Sarah Mukabana - May 24, 2020

Senegalese Ministry of Health and Social Action reported on Sunday 71 new confirmed cases of COVID-19, bringing the total number of cases to 3,047 in the country.

These 71 new infections came from 889 tests done in the past 24 hours, health ministry Abdoulaye Diouf Sarr said.

For the second consecutive days, there is an imported case detected by the ministry, while the number of new community transmission cases are dropping to 4.

He also announced that 40 more patients were cured, bringing the total number of recovery cases to 1,456.

The ministry also confirmed the death toll rose to 35 in the country.

Senegal is celebrating the end of the Ramadan month this weekend. The government and some spiritual leaders have invited the population to unite with their families through phones and internet in order to avoid travelling between regions, given the serious situation of community transmission spreading.

Senegal is in state of emergency until June 2, with a curfew imposed from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. It is also mandatory to wear masks at all public places.

Senegal to re-open mosques, ease restrictions as coronavirus cases jump

<https://africa.cgtn.com/2020/05/12/senegal-to-re-open-mosques-ease-restrictions-as-coronavirus-cases-jump/>

By CGTN Africa - May 12, 2020

Senegalese President Macky Sall announced the re-opening of mosques and churches and the easing of other restrictions imposed to contain the coronavirus, even as the largest one-day jump in cases was recorded on Monday.

Sall ordered places of worship closed in March and imposed a dawn-to-dusk curfew. Since then, the daily pace of new cases has picked up, 177 on Monday from a previous high of 104, with increasing community transmission in hotspots such as the holy city of Touba.

Senegal has recorded 1,886 coronavirus cases in total, including 19 deaths.

Sall, like other leaders in West Africa, has confronted public pressure to find more sustainable ways to balance public health with economic realities in the face of an epidemic that the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned could drag on across Africa for years.

“In the best of cases, COVID-19 will continue to circulate in the country until the month of August, or even September,” Sall said in an address to the nation. “In this new phase that will last not a few weeks but three or four months, we need to learn to live in the presence of the virus.”

Sall also said the 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew would be shortened by one hour in the morning and one hour in the evening and that weekly markets could re-open.

Several other West African governments, including Burkina Faso and Ghana, have announced a similar easing of restrictions this month, while calling on their citizens to wear masks and practice social distancing.

BURKINA FASO :

Attack in northern Burkina Faso kills at least 15

<https://africa.cgtn.com/2020/05/30/attack-in-northern-burkina-faso-kills-at-least-15/>

By Nyawira Mwangi - May 30, 2020 - At least 15 people were killed following an attack on a convoy transporting traders in a town in northern Burkina Faso on Friday, the government said on Saturday.

The attack, carried out by an unidentified group of assailants, left several others wounded. Many more were still unaccounted for, the government said in a statement.

Burkina Faso has been battling armed combatants with links to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State since 2017.

Hundreds have been killed in the past year in the Sahel nation, and over half a million people have fled their homes due to attacks which have also fuelled ethnic and religious tensions.

On Thursday, Burkina Faso's armed forces said troops destroyed a militant camp in another province in the north of the country. It said 10 assailants and a soldier died during the operation.

Ivory Coast army joins Burkina Faso in anti-jihadist operation

By Nyawira Mwangi - May 25, 2020 - <https://africa.cgtn.com/2020/05/25/ivory-coast-army-joins-burkina-faso-in-anti-jihadist-operation/>

Soldiers from Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso conducted their first joint operation against active jihadists near their shared border, killing eight suspected militants and arresting 14 others, Ivory Coast's army said on Sunday.

Burkina Faso and its neighbours Mali and Niger in West Africa's semi-arid Sahel zone are battling Islamist insurgencies with links to al-Qaeda and Islamic State.

Those groups have been strengthening and expanding their range of operations, leaving coastal countries like Ivory Coast fearful the violence will spill onto their territories.

The joint operation was launched on May 11 with about 1,000 Ivorian soldiers participating from their side of the 580-kilometre (360-mile) border with Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast's army said in a statement.

The suspected militants were killed in Burkina Faso, the army said, adding that the operation is ongoing.

Jihadist attacks in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger have escalated dramatically over the past year despite significant military support from former colonial ruler France.

While Ivory Coast has mostly been spared the violence affecting its neighbours, it was the victim in 2016 of an attack claimed by al-Qaeda in which gunmen killed 19 people at a beach resort.

BENIN :

Benin holds local elections despite COVID-19 threat

By Jerry Omondi - May 17, 2020 <https://africa.cgtn.com/2020/05/17/benin-holds-local-elections-despite-covid-19-threat/>

Benin held its local elections on Sunday minus some opposition parties amid the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The West African nation earlier this week lifted a raft of restrictions aimed at curbing the spread of the disease.

The country has registered 339 infections and two deaths, according to the U.S.-based Johns Hopkins University.

The national election authority (CENA) made face masks mandatory for voters and enforced social distancing at the polling stations.

Campaigns leading to the vote were limited to posters and media appearances as candidates were forced to cancel their rallies due to a ban on gatherings of more than 50 people.

Critics however warned that the health risks of holding the election were too high.

Benin, seen as one of the region's most stable democracies, has been in political crisis since a disputed parliamentary poll last April sparked protests.

Opponents of President Patrice Talon called on their supporters to boycott the polls over the COVID19 outbreak and the political situation.

Reports indicate a low voter turnout.

Final results from the election are expected within a week.

Bénin – Communales 2020: déjà 26 maires ont reçu leur ticket

<https://beninwebtv.com/2020/05/benin-communales-2020-deja-26-maires-ont-recu-leur-ticket/>

Par Romain TOUPE le 31 Mai 2020 à 11:30

L'élection des maires et de leurs adjoints démarrée le jeudi 28 mai, n'a pu aboutir dans toutes les communes ayant reçu les autorités préfectorales. Sur 43 communes, seulement 26 ont pu élire leurs maires, adjoints au maire et chefs d'arrondissement. La rédaction de Bénin Web Tv, vous livre les noms.

Au départ et pour trois jours d'affilé, soit du jeudi 28 au samedi 30 mai 2020, 43 communes devaient voir élire leur bureau exécutif, conformément au calendrier établi par les 12 préfets, pour amorcer le développement de leur commune. Mais les clivages politiques n'ont pas permis l'aboutissement heureux de ces élections dans toutes ces communes.

Seulement 26 maires ont reçu leur ticket, dont en voici la liste :

- 1- ABOMEY : Antoine D'Édouard (Up)
- 2- AGUEGUES : Marc Gandonou (Up)
- 3- APLAHOUE : Maxime Allosogbé (Up)
- 4- ATHIEME : Saturnin Dansou (Up)
- 5- AVRANKOU : Gabriel Ganhoutodé
- 6- BEMBEREKE : Garba Yaya (Fcbe)
- 7- BOUKOUMBE : Aldo N'Da Kouagou (Up)
- 8- COME : Bernard Adanhokpè (Br)
- 9- COPARGO : Ignace Ouorou (Fcbe)
- 10- COVE : Auguste Aïhunhin (UP)
- 11- DJAKOTOMEY : Bruno Fangnigbé (Up)
- 12- DOGBO : Magloire Agossou
- 13- GLAZOUE : Gilles Houndolo (Br)
- 14- KALALE : Tidjani Chabi Bani (Up)
- 15- KANDI : Zinatou Saka Osseni Alazi (Fcbe)
- 16- KLOUEKANME: Dieu-donné Gbédjekan (Br)
- 17- KPOMASSE : Kénan Mensah (Up)
- 18- OUAKE : Ouolo Dramane (Br)
- 19- OUIDAH : Christian Houétchénou (UP)
- 20- PERERE : Abdoulaye Nouhoum Alassane
- 21- SEGBANA : Orou Zimé Bio Thiam (Up)
- 22- SINENDE : Bio Kouri Sanni (Up)
- 23- TORI-BOSSITO : Rogatien Akouakou (UP)
- 24- TOUCOUNTOUNA : Tchou-Touya Blaise Békakoua (Up)
- 25- Zagnanado : Justin Kanninkpo
- 26- ZE : Amadé Moussa (UP)

Actuellement, quatre communes retiennent l'attention de tous au regard des polémiques autour de l'élection du chef de l'exécutif au sein de ces partis politiques, quand bien même ils ont la majorité.

Il s'agit de : Cotonou, Abomey-Calavi, Parakou et Bohicon.

NIGERIA :

How oil companies evade over N258b gas flare penalty yearly

<https://guardian.ng/news/how-oil-companies-evade-over-n258b-gas-flare-penalty-yearly/>

There are indications that oil companies operating in the country may be evading gas flare penalty, and this development has led the country to losing as much as N258b yearly, which would have accrued after a review of fiscal penalty, fine of \$3.50 per 1, 000 standard cubic feet (scf) of gas flared.

This development is fueled by growing under-reporting of flared gas across fields, as evidenced by discrepancies in figures reported by different agencies and independent bodies, which are monitoring the menace in the Niger Delta.

Facility for Oil Sector Transparency and Reform in Nigeria (FOSTER) and the African Initiative for Transparency, Accountability and Responsible Leadership (AfriTal), recently alleged that oil producers since 2018 have been deliberately under-reporting the level of gas flare.

Indeed, figures from the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), which operates joint venture deals with most of the oil companies were also under-reported, as a World Bank-supported Gas Flare Tracker (GFT) reported figures almost double of what the state-owned oil company currently reports.

While GFT has been handed over to the National Oil Spill Detection Response Agency (NOSDRA), its satellite-generated data is reportedly safe from manipulation as it collects information on gas flare in oil fields across Nigeria every 24 hours, and sums them up every month.

For instance, the NNPC's data in 2018 showed that Nigeria flared 282 billion standard cubic feet (scf) of gas, a 10 percent of the total gas produced in the country within the period under review, but GFT reported 472.4bcf of gas for the same year.

Similarly, while the Nigerian Gas Flare Commercialisation Programme (NGFCP) showed that Nigeria flared 325bscf of associated gas in 2019, representing 11 percent of gas produced in the country, GFT recorded 475bscf as gas flared for the same year.

The implication is that about 190 bscf was not reported in 2018, while 150bscf was under-reported in 2018. With a fine of \$3.50 per 1, 000 scf, as much as \$665m (N257.9b) would have been paid in 2018, if the guidelines for the 2018 reviewed fiscal penalty, which moved payment from 50 cent to \$3.50 per 1, 000 standard cubic feet (scf) were applied. A development counted as tax evasion by some stakeholders.

While the situation is projected to worsen challenges faced by the Federal Government's attempt to ensure zero gas flaring latest by 2020, the Associated Gas Re-Injection Amendment Decree Seven of 1985 introduced a two kobo per million standard cubic feet (mscf) as punishment for gas flaring, which was later increased to 50 kobo in 1990. It was N10 per Mscf in 1998 as a Ministerial Directive in 2011 proposed \$3.50 per 1000 scf, but became effective in 2018.

Coming at a time that the Federal Government said that gas flare penalty payment by oil and gas companies in would increase to N103.51bn this year, little did the government know that it was allegedly being swindled by producers operating in the country.

An expert with the Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN), Jesse Martins Manufor had said: "Since 2013 when the GFT was launched, data from the tracker significantly matched that of the volumes declared by the oil and gas companies in the records of NNPC up until 2017. However, there has been a significant variation in volumes in the NNPC's 2018 and 2019 data as compared to the GTF.

"This might be as a result of gas flare regulations introduced in 2018, which impose an increase in the fines to be paid for gas flaring. Prior to 2018, it made more sense to flare and pay a penalty of 50 Cent because there was no stringent enforcement. However, with the increase in the penalty to \$3.50 for companies producing more than 10, 000bpd, the new regulation might be responsible for the discrepancies," he suggested.

An energy expert, Madaki Ameh, who said the development amounts to tax evasion by the IOCs, noted that the companies were deliberately adopting environmental standards different from what obtains in their countries, or elsewhere in the world where they operate. This, he said, was due to the country's lax and compromised regulatory environment.

He insisted that losses by the government from the crime remains huge, adding that, "tax evasion has always been a crime. The Federal Internal Revenue Services (FIRS) must set up an oil and gas industry-specific crack team to monitor infractions and bring perpetrators to book in line with extant laws."

While a series of reports by Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) had in the same vein alleged discrepancies in extracted crude oil, as well as revenue remittances by oil firms, a foremost environmental activist and Director of Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Nnimmo Bassey, insisted that the poor reporting of gas flare was more of an unwillingness to measure the amount of gas being flared, rather than an inability.

Bassey stressed that there were perverse factors inhibiting the measurement of the amount of oil and gas produced, and the amount of gas flared as well, adding that it was regrettable that the NNPC holds the biggest shares in the various JV agreements, yet the oil majors are the operators and they determine the production cost of oil in Nigeria.

"Is it surprising that production cost of a barrel of oil in Nigeria is one of the highest in the world? The production costs go to the producers. The JV shares the profit. Gas flaring fines are paid by the JV partners. Do you see the perversity in the arrangement? It is impossible for the government to come down hard on the companies. They are inextricably connected in the business.

"That incestuous relationship has to be dissolved and reorganised through appropriate legislation. Making such a law has so far been impossible, possibly due to vested interests. The law must determine that the producer will pay such fines outside any regime that affects the revenue accruing to the other JV partners," he said.

For the National Coordinator, National Coalition on Gas Flaring and Oil Spills in the Niger Delta (NACGOND), Dr. Edward Obi, the reason why there are discrepancies in the figure of gas flare is because oil companies perhaps, are unwilling to pay the new penalty rate.

He said: "Now we noticed a huge drop in the amount of gas flare in the data that is supplied from the time that government reviewed this penalty to now. And the discrepancies is so much that they are reporting just about half of what they are flaring, which is unfortunate. I think they are trying to avoid the penalty cost. But the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), which should be on the side of government should not accept those figures and present them to government like that," he said.

Obi observed that whereas human beings can be influenced by their personal interest in the oil company, reports from a satellite that is completely detribalised, depoliticised, dissocialised, and that is as abstract and objective as possible should be the best method to measure data of gas flared from the Niger Delta.

"The government should question the DPR, which is not giving it accurate figures of the gas flare. The government should ask, 'why are you accepting what the oil companies present to you? Why are you not confirming if this is same as what an independent satellite is confirming or not? There should be somebody independent in government who should be able to raise those questions,'" he said.

He wondered why the DPR (if it is really working independently for the Federal Government), has not deemed it appropriate to investigate discrepancies in the Gas Flare Tracker data and those now being provided by the oil companies.

With the drop in the global price of oil due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Obi urged the Federal Government and the Ministry of Finance and everybody else that wants money into the federation's coffers to demand that oil companies pay government what is due to her.

Kaduna police denies fresh attack, killings in Southern Kaduna

By Saxone Akhaine, Kaduna 31 May 2020 | <https://guardian.ng/news/kaduna-police-denies-fresh-attack-killings-in-southern-kaduna/>

The Kaduna Police Command has urged media houses to seek clarifications from appropriate authorities on reports regarding purported attacks and killings in Southern Kaduna by armed herdsmen, saying the full weight of the law would be brought down on fake news in the state.

A statement by the state Police spokesman, ASP Muhammed Jalige, yesterday, said journalists who promote fake news would be arrested and prosecuted. The statement came on the heels of comments attributed recently to the National President of Adara Development Association, Dio Maisamari, over attacks and killings by armed men in Southern Kaduna communities.

Jalige Said: “The attention of the Kaduna State Police Command has been drawn to a fake and maliciously fabricated story being circulated on social media, purportedly issued by the National President of Adara Development Association dated May 28, 2020 captioned, ‘Again, Fulani Herdsmen Attacked Southern Kaduna Communities,’ in which the writer reported that there were fresh attacks on some communities in Kajuru Local Government, where he claimed that from January to May, 2020 people were killed, with many injured and displaced from their homes.”

Jalige recalled that the Command had confirmed two unfortunate incidents of attack on Gonar Rogo and Unguwan Arha communities in Kajuru area of Kaduna State on May 12 and 13, 2020 by unknown gunmen, which regrettably led to the unjustified killing of 27 innocent persons.

He said: “The Command, therefore, wishes to categorically debunk the story in its entirety as fake and deliberately disseminated to create fear and apprehension in the minds of peace loving people of Kaduna State and Kajuru in particular.

“The authority is saddened by the recent attacks on some communities in Kajuru, although relative peace has been restored. It would not fold its hands to watch certain individuals, whose aims and objectives (yet unknown), are tantamount to truncating efforts of the Police, other sister security agencies and Kaduna State Government in ensuring that lasting peace returns to the affected areas, by making unnecessary inflammatory statements and raising frayed nerves...”

Can President Buhari fight corruption without support of judiciary?

<https://guardian.ng/politics/can-president-buhari-fight-corruption-without-support-of-judiciary/>

Under the miasma of Covid-19, the Nigerian Supreme Court managed to dish out another questionable judgement. If their justices reached their recent decision in UDE JONES UDEOGU V. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA & others, SC/622c/2019 under the impression that Nigerians have been discombobulated by Covid-19, they have mistaken. Majority of Nigerians are unaffected by the disease and a number have protested their latest controversial decision. Their justices’ skilled sleight of hand is fast gaining them notoriety in the country, they need to put them in check. Their reputation and integrity are now in disrepute.

On 8 May 2020 in the case mentioned above, otherwise known as the ORJI UZO KALU’S case, the Supreme Court quashed the conviction of Orji and his co-accused for monumental corruption and gross abuse of power. The Supreme Court in its judgement read by Justice Ejembi Eko, held that the lower High Court and trial judge Justice Mohammed Idris that convicted Orji lacked jurisdiction, at the time the conviction was secured. In the Supreme Court’s opinion, the trial judge having been elevated to the position of Justice of the Court of Appeal before concluding the trial, ought not have returned to complete the case he had almost completed which had dragged on far too long due to the theatrical artifice of the accused. Perhaps, at this point it is important to state three key features of the case that incensed those criticising this judgement. First, it was the appellant, Orji’s co-accused who requested that the trial judge be given the permission to complete the case. Second, the trial judge was given the expressed permission by the president of the Court Appeal to return and conclude the case. Third, and of huge significance, the President of the Court of Appeal gave the permission to Justice Idris in reliance and in accordance with Section 396 (7) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015. S.396 (7) of ACJA as has been copiously quoted and states “

Notwithstanding the provision of any other law to the contrary, a Judge of the High Court who has been elevated to the Court of Appeal shall have dispensation to continue to sit as a High Court Judge only for the purpose of concluding any part-heard criminal matter pending before him at the time of his elevation and shall conclude the same within a reasonable time: Provided that this subsection shall not prevent him from assuming duty as a Justice of the Court of Appeal ‘ ‘.

Even for a lay mind, S.396(7) of ACJA could not have been expressed in a more succinct ordinary English language. Due to its clarity in word and intent, I urge a reader to underline every sentence in S.396(7) ACJA, 2015 to appreciate it. Yet, despite the wording and the clear purpose of that Legislative Act, the Supreme Court in its wisdom in the instant case nullified the Act. This is because of its apparent inconsistency with the Ss. 290, 252 and 253 of the Nigerian constitution 1999.

The Supreme Court said that by going back to finalise the case in the High Court, Judge Idris was wearing two hats simultaneously; that is being a Judge of the High Court and Justice of the Appeal Court to which he had been elevated to, at the same time. This assertion would be correct if, a) he was hearing two new cases at the same time – a trial in the High Court and an appeal in the Court of Appeal and/or, b) if the Orji’s case in the High Court was not almost concluded. The fact, which the Supreme Court ignored is that in Nigeria, in corruption cases the accused regularly deployed dubious tactics to frustrate their trials, often with the consent of judges. It is a known fact that cases, particularly those connected to political officer holders involving huge sums of money drag on painfully slow and in most instances aborted.

The duty of the Supreme Court to strike down a legislative law that conflicts with the Constitution is an established legal principle. This is to be found in an earlier case in United States of America from where Nigeria borrowed its current Constitution and system of government. In the landmark case – MURBERY V. MADISON (1803), the USA Supreme Court held, that it has not only the duty to interpret the Constitution but also the power to review and strike down any contrary section of a legislative/administrative law to the Constitution. Therefore, stating the supremacy of the Constitution over other national laws. This is what the Nigerian Supreme Court has reinforced in Orji’s case. However, what is worth noting and more relevant for this discussion is the comment of the same American Supreme Court in McCULLOCH V. MARYLAND (1819), where the Chief Justice said, ‘ ‘ a constitution that attempted to detail every aspect of its own application would partake of the prolixity of a legal code, and could scarcely be embraced by the human mind, its nature, therefore requires that only its great outlines should be marked, its important objects designated, and the minor ingredients which compose those objects be deduced from the nature of the objects themselves’’. Simply put, judges should not expect that the constitution should have foreseen and captured all eventualities. The legislature has implied powers to do that which the constitution failed to do. The judges are themselves not expected to be slavish to the Constitution. ETC ...

GHANA :

Ghana: up enforcement to avoid EU money-laundering blacklist

By David Whitehouse Posted on Thursday, 14 May 2020
<https://www.theafricareport.com/27921/ghana-up-enforcement-to-avoid-eu-money-laundering-blacklist/>

Raising the game on enforcement is the only way for Ghana to escape the EU’s money-laundering blacklist.

The EU Commission said on 7 May that Ghana is among 12 countries which now pose “significant threats” to the EU’s financial system, due to deficiencies in anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing strategy.

“The key challenge, as with most legal matters in Ghana, is enforcement,” says Elikem Nutifafa Kuenyehia, a Ghanaian lawyer and entrepreneur in Accra. Kuenyehia says that while lawyers are supposed to file suspicious transaction reports, he has not come across a single report showing this has ever happened.

READ MORE: Former Goldman Sachs banker accused by US of bribery in Ghana

The same applies to estate agents, he says. “It does not seem that there is any motivation for such persons to report possible money-laundering activities.”

Blacklisting is subject to approval by the European Parliament and would come into force in October.

Being on the blacklist won't make it impossible to do business with these countries. But it will make it harder and more time-consuming.

Banks and other financial institutions will have to apply extra checks, leading to delays in transactions.

Botswana, Mauritius and Zimbabwe were the other African countries added to the list.

Kuenyehia fears a significant reputational impact for Ghana.

“A lot of businesses and governments in the EU would be uncomfortable dealing with businesses from countries which may create future complications for them under EU law,” he says. “There are some investors who will not look at any country that feature on any kind of blacklist.”

Regulatory bodies need to do more to compel compliance, which may require enhancing their capacity, Kuenyehia says. The Bank of Ghana and the Financial Intelligence Centre are the two main institutions that are leading the fight, but more regulatory institutions should be empowered to assist, he argues.

Ghana's daily infection rate slightly decreasing - Dr Badu Sarkodie

Source: GNA <https://www.businessghana.com/site/news/General/214207/Ghana%27s-daily-infection-rate-slightly-decreasing-Dr-Badu-Sarkodie>

Dr Badu Sarkodie, the Director of Public Health, Ghana Health Service (GHS), on Thursday said although the country's daily rate of new COVID-19 infections are decreasing, the curve is not sharp enough.

He said while some earlier hotspot areas such as Tema, Lower Manya and Obuasi districts have not record new cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the past week, three other hotspots have sprang up within the same period, pushing the infection curve slightly upward.

He attributed this to the fact that people were still not adhering to the preventive etiquettes and safety protocols, and advised the public to be more responsible and supportive in their behavior towards the fight against the spread of the virus in their communities.

Dr Sarkodie, who was giving Ghana's situational update of the COVID-19 pandemic at the Minister's press briefing in Accra, said official data by the GHS as at May 26, 2020 indicates that there has been 186 new infections from 31 districts in four regions since its last update on Tuesday, May 25.

He said the country's current test positivity rate is 3.56 per cent, with a cumulative total of 7,303 positive cases, 2,412 recoveries and 34 deaths.

He said this leaves the total number of active cases at 4, 857 persons, who are being managed in treatment sites, isolation centres and other home management situations; and out of these 14 were severe, but not on ventilators and three were also critically ill.

Giving details on the district update of the new cases recorded, he said, although in the Greater Accra Region 18 districts new cases, those with significant numbers were Ablekuma -47, Ayawaso East-36, Ayawaso North-11, Korle Klottey-13, and Okaikoi-six, with the remaining districts contributed about five cases or less each, while Tema metropolis also recorded four new cases.

He explained that all of them were districts who had already recorded cases and were being managed by health authorities through the existing measures, including aggressive contact tracing,

treatment, isolation and intensive public education on the hygiene and safety protocols among others.

Dr Sarkodie said districts in the Eastern Region including the Akuapem North and South respectively recorded new cases, while in the Central Region, Cape Coast, Mfantseman, Abora Dunkwa and Upper Denkyira also had new record of infections.

In the case of the Ashanti Region six districts recorded new cases and these were made up of the Kumasi Metropolis-four, Amansie West- one; Kwabre East- one; Effigya Kwabre South-one; Ejisu-one and Oforikrom-one, but Obuasi metro did not record any new cases.

He said the three new hotspots involving Obuasi, Lower Manya Krobo and Tema districts which previously spiked the number of new infections did not record any cases this time, meaning the various measures including aggressive tracing, testing, isolating, and managing cases were working. Dr Sarkodie said ongoing actions included engagements with all stakeholders including religious organisations, Ministry of Education, Ghana Football Association and providing them with the technical support needed for to develop their own risk communication guidelines for education.

Again, enhanced surveillance, contact tracing, testing and treatment were also ongoing.

He appealed to all citizens to remain committed and disciplined in enforcing the various hygiene and safety protocols which included social distancing, wearing of face masks and regular handwashing with soap under running water, or use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

GAMBIA :

Nigerian military Company NIGCOY 4 supports Gambians with over D50, 000

<https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/national-news/nigerian-military-company-nigcoy-4-supports-gambians-with-over-d50-000>

May 29, 2020, 12:08 PM | Article By: Fatou Dem

A Nigerian military company, NIGCOY 4 of the Ecomig Military Intervention in The Gambia (ECOMIG) has assisted Yundum Barrack Upper Basic School and Fajara Barrack Nursery School and installed an overhead water tank and provided palliatives to vulnerable communities affected by covid-19 pandemic.

The NIGCOY Mission arrived in The Gambia on 23 March 2019 under ECOWAS with the mandate to assist the country's defence and security forces in providing peace and security.

ECOWAS Mission mandates contingents to strengthen civil-military relations through quick impact community projects, sensitisation programmes, sporting activities, medical outreaches and providing other humanitarian services.

In compliance with the ECOWAS mandate, the NIGCOY 4 ECOMIG had within the first and second quarter of 2020 carried out some notable civil-military activities in The Gambia which included donation of fund and food stuff, amongst others.

It gave a financial assistance of D10, 000 to Fajara Barrack Lower Basic School to enable them conduct educational tour for students of Grade 3 and 4.

Additionally, on 10 February 2020, the contingent granted a financial assistance of D10, 000 to Yundum Barrack Upper Basic School to cater for refreshment during the inauguration ceremony of a new structure within the school premises.

Similarly, on 14 March 2020, the Unit granted financial assistance of D10,000 to Fajara Barrack Nursery School to enable them take part in the Nursery Schools' Independence Anniversary play-let at the McCarthy Square.

Similarly, on 28 April 2020, the Unit granted financial assistance of D20, 000 for the installation of an overhead water tank at the Regional Health Directorate office complex in Lower River Region Mansakonko.

In an effort to support Gambia government in providing palliatives to vulnerable communities affected by covid-9 pandemic lockdown measures, the Unit on May 18, donated food items to Al-Jawuhri Orphanage Home in Wullinkama and Shiek Ousaiman Quranic School in Farato.

The food items donated included rice, spaghetti, vegetable oil, sugar, milk and tins of tomato paste amongst others.

Commanding officer of NIGCOY 4, Lt. Col. Muhammed Tijjani Nagudu solicits for the cooperation of the general public in the discharge of the ECOWAS Mandate so as to pave way for peace, security and development in The Gambia.

****** AFRIQUE CENTRAL ******

CAMEROUN :

Cameroon urges citizens to take part in COVID-19 battle

Central African country cancels national day festivities in respect to coronavirus preventive measure
Felix Tih | 20.05.2020 <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/cameroon-urges-citizens-to-take-part-in-covid-19-battle/1846932>

Cameroon's president on Tuesday called on all citizens to get involved in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic that has killed 140 people in the Central African country.

"I strongly urge all political, religious and opinion leaders, all officials of associations, all traditional rulers and all dignitaries to fully participate in the fight against COVID-19," Paul Biya said.

"I, therefore, call on each and every one of you to get involved," Biya said in a televised speech ahead of the country's national day celebrated on May 20 each year.

He said that it was important to observe coronavirus preventive measures such as wearing face masks, social distancing, and frequent hand washing.

"Under these circumstances, it was not possible to maintain the festivities marking the celebration of our national day due to the gatherings it entails," he said.

"This is crucial for the health of everyone," he emphasized.

"I also wish to hail the courage of the Cameroonian health professionals and those assisting them," Biya said. "With the resources available to us, they are doing the utmost best to treat those infected with the virus."

The Central African country has so far confirmed 3,529 coronavirus cases, with 140 death and 1,567 recoveries, according to data from the US-based John Hopkins University.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the need to respect social distancing measures, the president of the republic has decided to cancel the public celebrations of the 2020 edition of the national day, Victor Tchatchouwo, Cameroon's ambassador to Turkey, said in a statement on Tuesday.

The ambassador also wished "a pleasant national day to all the members of the Cameroon community in Turkey."

Cameroon Military Acknowledges Soldiers Arrested in Togo

By Moki Edwin Kindzeka May 31, 2020 <https://www.voanews.com/africa/cameroon-military-acknowledges-soldiers-arrested-togo>

YAOUNDE - Cameroon's military says three of five men recently arrested by Togolese police and portrayed by Togolese media as notorious criminals who committed serious offenses against Togolese citizens are Cameroonian soldiers, while the other two are former convicts. The three military men stole weapons from the military headquarters in Yaoundé and went to Togo's capital, Lomé, where they used the weapons to harass Togolese, according to Togolese police.

Cameroonian military spokesperson Atonfack Guemo says investigations by the military indicate that Ntanga Clement Didier Mogo, Oumarou Abdou Fadil and Ewoundjo Elle Serge Hubert, who were arrested in Lomé for robbery and harassment of civilians, are notorious, dangerous and dishonest members of the Cameroon military.

He says Cameroon has started disciplinary and administrative proceedings against the men as provided for by military regulations and that Togo should punish them as its law provides. He says Cameroon's Defense Ministry denies responsibility for their crimes and atrocities because the men in question have broken off links with Cameroon's military.

Guemo said the other two men arrested in Lomé are civilians with criminal records and were wanted. He said the five arrested in Togo were helped by another military officer, Essimbi Francis, who has been arrested for his role in other crimes and is being held in Yaoundé.

Togo media reported May 20 that the five Cameroonians had been arrested in Lomé after using weapons to rob a Togolese businessman of his car and money.

Cameroonian media reported that Yendoube Douiti, head of the Lomé research and criminal investigation unit of the Togolese police, said the five men confessed they were using weapons they obtained from the Cameroon defense headquarters in Yaoundé.

He says investigations carried out by Togolese police indicate that the brain behind the group of robbers is Ntanga Clement Didier Mogo, known as Tony, a member of the Cameroon military. He says Tony convinced his colleague, Oumarou Abo Fadil, who was in charge of weapons at Cameroon's defense headquarters in Yaoundé, to steal automatic pistols and go with him to Togo, where they could make a better living stealing and selling vehicles.

Mogo, speaking on the state broadcaster Television Togolese said he and his group traveled to Lomé to buy cars for a senior military official he refused to name, but that they were tempted to steal when their stay was extended by COVID-19 travel restrictions.

He says that he did not plan to steal when he left Yaoundé for Lomé but that he asked his colleagues who control weapons at the defense headquarters to accompany him with pistols for security against possible attacks by highway robbers. He says after they got to Lomé, both Cameroon and Togo sealed their borders and they could not return.

Mogo acknowledged that Togolese police arrested them after they stole money and a car from a rich Togolese businessman and were trying to escape. He said it was the only act of robbery they committed.

Cameroon's military says whenever they return after facing justice in Togo, they will answer charges for the crimes committed in Cameroon and for damaging Cameroon's image in a foreign country and that for now, they are no longer members of the Cameroonian military.

CONGO BRAZZA :

Two offshore workers deaths revealed in Congo-Brazzaville

<https://www.upstreamonline.com/safety/two-offshore-workers-deaths-revealed-in-congo-brazzaville/2-1-816412>

Both men had been working on Eni's Awa platform when they succumbed to illness

Two Congolese oil workers died last month after being evacuated from one of Eni's platforms off Congo-Brazzaville, although it is unclear if their deaths were as a result of the Covid-19 virus.

According to a letter sent by Eni Congo's director general Marco Rotindi to Teresa Goma, head of the government's Hydrocarbons Directorate, the Eni employee who died on 22 April was Yaba Gouassi, a health, safety and environment superintendent.

The letter said Gouassi had his annual medical check-up six months ago and was declared fit for work, but at another check-up in the week prior to his death, was found to have a cold, which improved after treatment.

Perenco lands Congo block days after authorities cancel bid process

However, in the week of his death, Stanislas reported feeling poorly, had lost his appetite and, after a further check-up on 22 April, was evacuated from the platform by boat.

However, an hour into the voyage to Pointe Noire, Gouassi died, despite attempts to resuscitate him using a defibrillator.

The same Eni letter reported the death of a maintenance technician — Moussanda Bouka — employed by a sub-contractor to Saipem, and who was also working on the Awa platform.

According to the letter, Bouka also had symptoms of fatigue and loss of appetite, and on arriving ashore was put in the care of his company, but subsequently died. ETC.

UNION AFRICAINE :

L'Union africaine s'insurge contre le « meurtre » de George Floyd par des policiers blancs aux Etats-Unis

<https://www.agenceecofin.com/international/2905-77066-lunion-africaine-sinsurge-contre-le-meurtre-de-george-floyd-par-des-policiers-blancs-aux-etats-unis>

(Agence Ecofin) - Dans une déclaration publique faite par le président de sa Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat (photo) l'Union africaine (UA) s'est insurgée cette semaine contre les conditions de décès de George Floyd, un Américain de race noire tué au cours d'une banale arrestation policière. Ce vendredi 29 mai, l'institution a qualifié de « meurtre » la mort de l'homme de 46 ans qui était simplement soupçonné d'avoir tenté d'utiliser un faux billet de 20 \$ pour effectuer un achat.

« Le président de la Commission de l'Union africaine, Moussa Faki Mahamat, condamne fermement le meurtre de George Floyd qui s'est produit aux Etats-Unis d'Amérique aux mains des forces de l'ordre, et souhaite présenter ses plus sincères condoléances à sa famille et à ses proches », peut-on lire dans un communiqué publié ce 29 mai sur le site de l'Union africaine. « Il exhorte en outre les autorités des Etats-Unis à intensifier leurs efforts pour garantir l'élimination totale de toutes les formes de discrimination fondées sur la race ou l'origine ethnique », ajoute le document.

La déclaration intervient alors que cet énième décès d'un Noir américain suite à des violences policières, déclenche depuis plusieurs jours des émeutes aux Etats-Unis. La vidéo de George Floyd, non armé, menotté et plaqué au sol a suscité une vive émotion sur la toile. On peut y voir un policier blanc agenouillé sur le cou de la victime pendant plusieurs minutes, alors que celle-ci agonisant ne cessait de se plaindre de ne pas pouvoir respirer.

Ni les passants qui filmaient la scène en s'insurgeant contre le drame en cours, ni les plaintes de la victime n'ont ébranlé les forces de l'ordre impassibles même après que George Floyd a subitement cessé de gémir, inanimé. D'autres vidéos suggèrent la présence de trois autres policiers, immobilisant complètement la victime.

Des violences policières répétitives

La phrase « I can't breathe » (je ne peux pas respirer), prononcée par George Floyd et rappelant le meurtre en 2014 d'Eric Garner, (un autre Noir américain tué dans des conditions similaires par des policiers blancs), est devenue le slogan de la contestation contre le racisme aux USA. Jeudi soir, des manifestants ont incendié un commissariat de Minneapolis dans le nord du pays, lors d'une troisième nuit consécutive d'émeutes populaires.

Malgré la fin théorique des discriminations aux Etats-Unis selon la loi, le pays reste profondément marqué par le racisme contre la population noire. Ces dernières années, les cas de personnes noires tuées lors de violences policières n'ont cessé de se répéter. Selon une étude publiée en 2019, les Noirs ont 2,5 fois plus de chance que les Blancs d'être tués par la police au pays de l'Oncle Sam.

La déclaration de l'UA rappelle la résolution historique de l'Organisation de l'unité africaine (OUA) sur la discrimination raciale aux Etats-Unis, adoptée par les chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement africains lors de la première réunion de l'Assemblée de l'OUA au Caire, en Egypte, du 17 au 24 juillet 1964. Se basant sur cette résolution, « le président de la Commission de l'Union africaine réaffirme fermement et réitère le rejet par l'Union africaine de la poursuite des pratiques discriminatoires à l'encontre des citoyens noirs des Etats-Unis d'Amérique ».

Moutiou Adjibi Nourou

Communiqué du Président suite au meurtre de George Floyd aux USA

<https://au.int/fr/pressreleases/20200529/communique-du-president-suite-au-meurtre-de-george-floyd-aux-usa>

mai 29, 2020

29 mai 2020, Addis Abeba: Le Président de la Commission de l'Union africaine, Moussa Faki Mahamat, condamne fermement le meurtre de George Floyd, survenu aux États-Unis d'Amérique, aux mains d'agents des forces de l'ordre et présente ses plus sincères condoléances à la famille du défunt ainsi qu'à tous ses proches.

Rappelant la résolution historique de l'Organisation de l'unité africaine (OUA) sur la discrimination raciale aux États-Unis d'Amérique, prise par les Chefs d'État et de gouvernement africains, lors de la Première Conférence de l'OUA, tenue au Caire (Égypte), du 17 au 24 juillet 1964, le Président de la Commission de l'Union africaine réaffirme et réitère fermement le rejet par l'Union africaine des pratiques discriminatoires persistantes à l'encontre des citoyens noirs des États-Unis d'Amérique.

En outre, Il exhorte les autorités des États-Unis d'Amérique à intensifier leurs efforts en vue d'assurer l'élimination totale de toutes les formes de discrimination fondées sur la race ou l'origine ethnique.

L'Union africaine prend note du déroulement des élections générales en République de Burundi
mai 30, 2020 <https://au.int/fr/pressreleases/20200530/lunion-africaine-prend-note-du-deroulement-des-elections-generales-en>

Addis Abéba, le 30 mai 2020: Le Président de la Commission de l'Union africaine, Son Excellence Moussa Faki Mahamat, suit avec une grande attention la situation au Burundi et prend note du déroulement des élections générales du 20 mai 2020.

Le Président de la Commission se réjouit du climat de paix qui a prévalu tout au long des opérations électorales et félicite le gouvernement et l'ensemble des acteurs politiques Burundais pour l'esprit de responsabilité qu'ils ont observé à cette occasion.

Le Président de la Commission invite toutes les parties prenantes à faire preuve de la plus grande retenue en vue de préserver la paix sociale, à privilégier le dialogue démocratique et à recourir en toutes circonstances aux voies légales pour la solution de contentieux électoraux, loin de tout recours à la violence.

Le Président de la Commission réitère enfin, la solidarité de l'Union Africaine avec le Peuple Burundais ainsi que sa disponibilité à œuvrer conjointement avec les organisations régionales concernées en vue de préserver la paix et la stabilité au Burundi.

La Chine signe 2 accords avec l'Union africaine

<https://www.africardv.com/paix-et-securite/la-chine-signe-2-accords-avec-lunion-africaine/>

By Sylvio Combey - 11/05/2020

La Commission Paix et Sécurité de l'Union Africaine s'est accordée à signer deux accords de partenariat avec la République populaire de Chine. Ces deux accords, selon l'Ambassadeur Smail Chergui, rentrent dans la suite des efforts de paix de la Commission, en Afrique.

Ces deux (2) accords concernent la fourniture par la Chine d'équipements pour soutenir le renforcement de la Force africaine en attente (FAA), le Groupe des 5 pays combattant les groupes terroristes armés au Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritanie, Niger et Tchad), ainsi que le Mozambique, le Soudan du Sud et la Tanzanie.

Les accords comprennent la livraison de l'équipement, ainsi que des services de formation et après livraison à fournir par la Chine.

Ces accords ont été signés au siège de l'UA entre l'ambassadeur Smail Chergui et le chef de mission de la République populaire de Chine auprès de l'UA, l'Ambassadeur Liu Yuxi.

Selon la Commission paix et sécurité, cet appui matériel constitue le deuxième don de la Chine.

Le premier don pour ASF a commencé en juillet 2018 et devrait être suivi par le deuxième lot. L'UA et la Chine ont convenu de poursuivre leur collaboration pour la livraison rapide de l'équipement et son utilisation efficace dans les opérations actuelles de l'UA et du Sahel.

Devra-t-on le rappeler, le siège de l'Union africaine est aussi un don de la Chine, en 2012.

CHINA :

Huawei set-up to let Angolan students attend classes online

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/05/29/20200529001/>

29 May 2020 | Angola | China

Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd of China has come up with a way to teach Angolan students online while the Covid-19 pandemic confines them to their homes, Angop reports.

The Angolan state-run news agency says Huawei has begun testing the set-up last month.

The report says the arrangement will let students at seven Angolan institutions of higher education attend classes virtually for six months.

Angop quotes Ermelinda Cândido, head of Cinfotec, one of the institutions, as praising Huawei's initiative.

It quotes a representative of Huawei in Angola, Luís Gonçalves, as saying the arrangement may be extended this year to serve seven other institutions, with the certification process ongoing for several of them.

One of the purposes of the set-up is to keep up "TIC Talent," the Huawei programme of training people in information communication technology so they can obtain internationally recognised qualifications, which about 70 Angolan students have availed of since 2015, Angop says.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinapl.org.mo/huawei-set-up-to-let-angolan-students-attend-classes-online/>

USA :

Protests, anger over police killings sparked by George Floyd's death sweep U.S.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/minneapolis-george-floyd-protest-may31-1.5592200>

Americans began cleaning up charred and glass-strewn streets Sunday after another night of unrest fuelled by rage over police mistreatment of black Americans destroyed businesses, damaged landmarks and raised tensions across a divided nation to the boiling point.

The chaos reached into every corner of the country, and the scars extended even to buildings near the White House. Some elected officials prepared to deploy additional National Guard troops in anticipation of more turmoil.

Tens of thousands of people marched peacefully to protest the death of George Floyd, a black man who died Monday after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee on his neck until he stopped breathing. But many demonstrations sank into violence as night fell: Cars and stores were torched. The words "I can't breathe" were spray-painted all over buildings. Police responded with tear gas and rubber bullets.

The scale of the protests, sweeping from coast to coast and unfolding on a single night, rivaled the historic demonstrations of the civil rights and Vietnam eras. And by Sunday morning, the fury had spread to Europe, where thousands gathered in London's Trafalgar Square, clapping and waving placards despite government rules barring crowds because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're sick of it. The cops are out of control," protester Olga Hall said in Washington, D.C.

"They're wild. There's just been too many dead boys."

ONU / UN :

Just hoping coronavirus will bypass Africa, would be a deadly mistake: Bachelet

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/05/1064552>

20 May 2020

Human Rights

Tens of millions of people in Africa could become destitute as a result of COVID-19 and its catastrophic impact on fragile economies and health systems across the continent, human rights chiefs from the United Nations and the African Commission warned on Wednesday.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, and Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Solomon Dersso, issued a joint call for urgent measures to mitigate the ripple effects of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable.

"We cannot afford to stand idly by and hope this most viral and deadly of diseases bypasses Africa, which is home to many of the world's poorest countries who are simply not in position to handle such a pandemic", Bachelet and Dersso said.

Cases in every country

As of 19 May, COVID-19 had reached all 54 African States, infecting 88,172 people – 16,433 of them in South Africa, which recorded the highest number of cases. The continent had lost a total 2,834 people to the virus.

Poverty, lack of social protection, limited access to water, poor sanitation infrastructure, pre-existing disease burden, conflict and overstretched health systems, have created heightened risk for spreading the disease.

Ms. Bachelet and Mr. Dersso called for equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines, urging creditors of African countries to freeze, restructure or relieve debt.

"This health crisis - along with the debt burden of the continent and its already fragile economies - threaten to further drain reserves, cripple nascent job creation schemes and annihilate gains made in social development," they said.

Potential poverty explosion

Such losses could "throw millions more people into want and poverty," they said, pointing out that the costs of water and basic commodities have already spiked in many countries. People are facing hunger due to disrupted access to food and cooking fuel. Recession in the region now looms large for the first time in more than 25 years.

"It is a matter of human rights necessity that there must be international solidarity with the people of Africa and African Governments," they said. Priority investments are needed in health, water and sanitation, social protection, employment and sustainable infrastructure.

Acknowledging the economic pain

The pair said that while measures to restrict movement and increase physical distancing were essential in the fight against the virus, they are now having a dramatic impact, in particular, on those who rely on informal daily work for their survival.

In addition, the human rights experts underlined the importance of preserving freedom of association, opinion and expression, as well as access to information during this critical time. They called on Governments and businesses operating in Africa to consider making Internet tariffs more affordable so that information can reach broader audiences.

Learning from Ebola, malaria

More broadly, the rights chiefs said Africa has learned from its experiences with Ebola and malaria about the need to take swift action in countering disease spread. They reminded African Governments that it is a legal imperative - and a pre-requisite for success – that they protect the most vulnerable and stamp out any violations that emerge during the pandemic, including

discrimination in all its forms, violence against women, food insecurity, excessive use of force and extrajudicial killings.

Guterres encourages Member States to reach agreement over Ethiopian Nile dam project

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/05/1064452>

19 May 2020

Economic Development

UN chief António Guterres is encouraging Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan to persevere with efforts to overcome their differences and reach agreement on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

Through his spokesperson, the Secretary-General noted on Tuesday that “good progress” is being made in negotiations between the three countries in hopes of achieving a mutually beneficial agreement.

Going up along the Blue Nile near the border with Sudan, and under construction since 2011, the \$4.5 billion dam – also known by its acronym GERD - will be Africa’s biggest hydroelectric power plant once completed.

Negotiations centre on the pace at which Ethiopia fills the 74 billion cubic metre reservoir behind the dam and the impact that could have on water supplies downstream in Sudan and Egypt.

Ethiopia is keen to start filling the reservoir in July.

“The Secretary-General underscores the importance of the 2015 Declaration of Principles on the GERD, which emphasizes cooperation based on common understanding, mutual benefit, good faith, win-win, and the principles of international law,” the spokesman said.

“The Secretary-General encourages progress towards an amicable agreement in accordance with the spirit of these Principles,” he added.

Resolving differences

Cairo, Addis Ababa and Khartoum have all indicated their willingness to resume discussions, but differences linger over the appropriate mechanism for such talks.

UN experts say that Egypt wants to put international pressure on Ethiopia to agree to a proposal - put forward by the United States and World Bank - on the dam’s first filling and annual operation.

But Ethiopia is rejecting that idea as severely limiting the dam’s capacity to generate electricity and curtailing rights to future upstream development, among other reasons.

Egypt also insists that Ethiopia must not start filling the reservoir until an agreement is reached, in line with its interpretation of the Declaration that Ethiopia is contesting.

The Secretary-General encourages progress towards an amicable agreement -- UN Spokesperson The Declaration, signed in March 2015, outlines the parties’ commitment to cooperation and to resolve differences through negotiations. It also states that if a dispute cannot be resolved, the matter can be referred to the heads of State and Government with an option for a joint request for mediation.

Ethiopia favours resolving the dispute at the trilateral level and has historically been against internationalizing the issue, seeing no mediation role for the United Nations.

On 13 May, Sudan’s Ministry of Irrigation said that the country could not agree to an Ethiopian proposal on the initial filling as it failed to address longer-term technical, legal and environmental issues.

According to news reports, Egypt also dismissed the Ethiopian proposal on the initial filling, writing a letter to the Security Council on 1 May calling on Ethiopia to respect its obligations and resume talks.

AU and UN appeal for ‘stable and peaceful environment’ for Burundi elections

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/05/1064242>

17 May 2020

Peace and Security

Ahead of presidential and local elections in Burundi on Wednesday, the African Union (AU) Commission and the United Nations (UN) urged the authorities to provide a safe and secure environment for citizens to cast their votes.

In a joint statement issued on Sunday, the partners said they have been following the electoral campaign and remain concerned about reports of intimidation and violent clashes between supporters of opposing sides.

"The two Organizations encourage all entities involved in organizing the 20 May 2020 elections, the defense and security forces and state-owned media to fully contribute to preserving a stable and peaceful environment, pre-requisite for free, inclusive, fair, transparent and credible elections in Burundi," the statement said.

"They urge all political actors to refrain from all acts of violence and hate speech, and resort to dialogue, to enable the holding of consensual and peaceful elections. They also encourage the Burundian authorities to ensure and facilitate the full participation of women during this electoral process."

The AU Commission and the UN Secretariat also called on political parties to abide by the Code of Conduct which they had signed last December.

Authorities in the East African country were also urged to implement preventive measures to protect citizens from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last week, a UN Commission of Inquiry also expressed alarm over violence and human rights abuses in the run-up to the vote.

Members also deeply regretted the government's decision to expel four staff members of the World Health Organization (WHO) from the country.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Dimanche 31 mai 2020