

[Du 12 au 14 octobre, la capitale congolaise accueille le 14e sommet de la francophonie. François Hollande, attendu à Kinshasa après une étape aujourd'hui à Dakar, effectue son premier déplacement officiel en Afrique. Jusqu'au dernier moment, la ville s'est préparée à cet événement, diversement accueilli par les Congolais. Des semaines que Kinshasa, la capitale de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC), se prépare à recevoir le 14e sommet de la francophonie. Hier encore, malgré la pluie, on pouvait voir les Kinois donner un dernier coup de peinture blanche aux façades noircies des établissements publics et des maisons bordant les principales artères de la ville.]

BURUNDI:

Les Burundais appelés à laver les mains au savon pour réduire les risques de diarrhée

2012-10-12/ xinhua

Le chef du Programme Santé- Nutrition à la représentation du Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'Enfance au Burundi (UNICEF-Burundi), Célestin Traoré, invite les Burundais à laver les mains au savon de façon régulière et rigoureuse, une pratique qui, selon lui, permet de réduire jusqu'à 45% les risques de diarrhée.

S'exprimant à l'approche de la Journée mondiale de lavage des mains avec du savon célébrée le 15 octobre, le dr Traoré a révélé qu'au Burundi, plus de 80% des maladies diarrhéiques sont dues aux mauvaises conditions d'hygiène, combinées à l'insuffisance d'installations sanitaires adéquates et correctement utilisées au niveau familial. Citant les résultats de la dernière enquête sur les connaissances, attitudes et pratiques pour la survie et le développement de l'enfant au Burundi menée en 2010, le dr Traoré a fait remarquer que seulement 38% des femmes burundaises se lavent les mains au savon avant de préparer le repas, 40% avant de s'occuper du bébé et 50% après avoir utilisé les toilettes.

De son côté, la ministre burundaise de la Santé publique et de la Lutte contre le sida, Sabine Ntakarutimana, a annoncé que le Burundi va célébrer la Journée mondiale de lavage des mains le 24 octobre à l'Ecole Primaire de Mivo en commune Mabanda de la province de Makamba.

Elle a fait remarquer que suite à la diarrhée consécutive aux mains sales, "environ 8.000 enfants décèdent chaque année au Burundi avant leur cinquième anniversaire".

En cette période où l'épidémie de choléra est déclarée au Burundi dans la Mairie de Bujumbura et le District sanitaire de Kabezi depuis le 30 septembre, avec respectivement 21 cas et 17 cas, la célébration de la Journée mondiale de lavage des mains avec du savon sera une bonne opportunité pour rappeler l'importance de ce geste pour la santé, notamment chez les enfants, en sensibilisant toute la population burundaise sur les bénéfices et bienfaits de cette simple pratique, afin de l'encourager au quotidien, a-t-elle indiqué.

Grands Lacs: Agriculteurs, la majorité silencieuse oubliée

Posté le Jeudi, 11 Octobre 2012 /Par Guinee7 dans: Tribune

Pourquoi les agriculteurs qui représentent 80 à 90 % de la population du Burundi, de la RD Congo et du Rwanda, qui pèsent parfois presque autant dans l'économie, qui produisent souvent l'essentiel des produits exportés sont-ils toujours aussi négligés par leurs gouvernements ? Est-ce parce qu'ils sont des ruraux considérés comme peu "évolués" par les citadins qui les dirigent, comme peu dangereux car isolés dans leurs campagnes ? Peu importe alors qu'ils vivent dans la misère, ne mangent pas à leur faim, ne puissent pas se soigner...

Comme si cette majorité silencieuse n'avait pas les mêmes droits que les autres, mais seulement le devoir de nourrir au moindre coût leurs concitoyens. En témoignent les budgets dérisoires dévolus au secteur agricole par les États qui sont loin, sauf depuis peu au Burundi, d'atteindre les 10% du budget national préconisés par les accords de Maputo de 2009. Pour l'instant, surtout en RD Congo, ils n'en ont que des miettes bien insuffisantes pour améliorer leur sort. Confrontés à l'exiguïté des terres et à leur baisse de fertilité au Nord Kivu comme au Burundi, les familles de paysans s'enfoncent dans une spirale de pauvreté dont ils ne peuvent sortir seuls. Certains subissent en outre régulièrement les exactions des bandes armées qui dévastent leurs champs, pillent leurs récoltes ou les poussent à fuir.

Tous sont confrontés aux changements climatiques qui perturbent les cycles culturaux et réduisent les rendements. Ils doivent aussi faire face, en particulier en RD Congo, à la concurrence des produits importés qui dévalorise encore un peu plus leurs produits dont les prix sont bien loin de couvrir leurs frais et surtout leur travail. Seul le Rwanda mène aujourd'hui une politique vigoureuse pour intensifier la production et passer d'une agriculture d'autosubsistance à des productions commerciales. Pour ce faire, le gouvernement mène des réformes à marche forcée et offre des facilités aux agriculteurs, mais à condition qu'ils respectent les mesures souvent contraignantes et parfois inadaptées qui leur sont imposées.

Le Burundi, poussé par la communauté internationale, montre aujourd'hui un peu plus d'intérêt pour ce secteur en perdition qui n'arrive plus à nourrir sa population, ni même souvent ceux qui produisent. Il est plus que temps et les efforts à fournir sont considérables pour inverser la tendance.

En RD Congo, les agriculteurs ne comptent pas sur l'État. Au Sud Kivu, le développement rural ne vient-il pas au tout dernier rang des préoccupations du gouvernement provincial. Seules des initiatives individuelles ou d'associations permettent ici et là quelques avancées intéressantes. La mise en œuvre de la nouvelle loi agricole marquera-t-elle un tournant pour les ruraux de ce pays ? Aujourd'hui dans tous ces pays, les temps sont durs, très durs pour ces "braves" paysans, comme les appellent souvent les gens des villes, avec beaucoup de condescendance. Pourtant la bravoure de ces agriculteurs force l'admiration.

Marie-Agnès Leplaideur

RWANDA:

RDC CONGO:

Philippe Hugon: «Françafrique: jeu d'équilibre pour François Hollande»
12/10/2012/jolpress.com

Le président français démarre sa tournée africaine, vendredi 12 octobre. Il est attendu à Dakar, au Sénégal, pour un discours qui introduira son mandat présidentiel sur le continent africain. Après avoir affirmé durant sa campagne présidentielle qu'il mettrait un terme au concept de « Françafrique », François Hollande devra jouer un jeu diplomatique sensible. Pour Philippe Hugon, spécialiste de l'Afrique pour l'Institut des relations internationales et stratégiques (IRIS), si le concept de « Françafrique » a évolué, la France a toujours les mêmes responsabilités.

François Hollande entame la première tournée africaine de son mandat, vendredi 12 octobre. Une tournée pleine de symboles durant laquelle il se rendra au Sénégal, afin de rencontrer le président Macky Sall, élu démocratiquement au printemps dernier, avant de se rendre au Sommet de la Francophonie, à Kinshasa, en République démocratique du Congo.

Il y a cinq ans, Nicolas Sarkozy effectuait également sa première tournée africaine et donnait une conférence dans la capitale sénégalaise. Le « discours de Dakar » est, depuis, rentré dans les annales comme participant à une politique « francafricaine ». Durant sa campagne électorale, le candidat François Hollande a pour sa part affirmé qu'il mettrait un terme à cette politique. Pourtant, la France a un rôle à préserver en Afrique et c'est un jeu de diplomatie et d'équilibre bien subtil auquel le président français devra se prêter durant ses trois jours sur le continent africain.

Philippe Hugon est directeur de recherche à l'Institut des relations internationales et stratégiques (IRIS), en charge de l'Afrique. Selon lui, si le concept de « Françafrique » a évolué, la responsabilité de la France auprès de ses alliés africains doit être préservée.

François Hollande a affirmé durant sa campagne présidentielle qu'il mettrait fin au concept de « Françafrique ». Ce concept a été inventé après la décolonisation. A-t-il le même sens aujourd'hui qu'hier ?

Le terme de « Françafrique » a bien évolué. Dans le mot « Françafrique », on entend souvent diplomatie, réseaux de personnalités, influences. On sous-entend également une forte non-transparence des relations. Mais depuis quelques années, le concept tend à évoluer et les gouvernants essaient d'assainir cette relation privilégiée qu'entretiennent les anciennes colonies françaises avec leur ancienne métropole.

Cette remise en question se traduit par une refonte de la cellule élyséenne en charge de l'Afrique, la transformation du ministère chargé du développement avec le continent africain et un choix différent des responsables du secteur africain.

Après ces transformations, quelles sont alors les relations que construit la France avec le continent africain ?

La France a des intérêts en Afrique et elle ne peut pas rester indifférente à leur préservation. Les intérêts français sont confrontés à la realpolitik. À la défense des droits de l'Homme et aux valeurs

de démocratie, la France doit mener une politique de mesure dans la pratique. En République démocratique du Congo, le président François Hollande doit mesurer ses paroles car la France doit conserver son soutien en faveur du président Joseph Kabila, malgré toutes les exactions connues du régime.

Récemment, des accords de défense ont été signés, la France est au cœur de l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, elle a conclu plusieurs alliances avec certains pays.

Même si l'Afrique ne représente que 4% de notre commerce extérieure, la France ne peut pas mettre un terme à ses relations privilégiées avec l'Afrique.

C'est pour cette raison que la France a d'ores et déjà annoncé qu'elle soutiendrait techniquement une opération militaire au nord du Mali ?

La France a un devoir vis-à-vis de certains pays d'Afrique. Le Mali est dans la zone Franc, il a signé plusieurs accords de coopération avec la France. Il y a une grande communauté malienne en France, notamment à Montreuil, en région parisienne, où les Maliens sont environ 20 000. Il y a également de nombreux Français au Mali. Tous ces éléments font que les deux pays cultivent une grande relation et la France ne peut être indifférente à l'invasion islamiste au nord du pays.

Néanmoins, la France ne peut pas être en première ligne et c'est pourquoi une intervention sur le terrain est impossible.

Si la relation de la France avec l'Afrique doit être privilégiée, la déclaration de François Hollande, selon laquelle « la situation (en RDC) est tout à fait inacceptable sur le plan des droits, de la démocratie et de la reconnaissance de l'opposition », n'est-elle pas déplacée à quelques jours du Sommet de la Francophonie à Kinshasa ?

François Hollande est en plein jeu d'équilibre diplomatique et le programme de son voyage en Afrique en témoigne. Bien qu'ils soient nombreux à lui avoir demandé de boycotter le Sommet, le Président se devait de se rendre à Kinshasa.

Il y a donc un jeu diplomatique qui se jouera en Afrique durant ces trois jours de voyage. François Hollande se rendra tout d'abord au Sénégal, qui est une sorte d'emblème de la démocratie, avant d'aller en République démocratique du Congo. Il rencontrera Joseph Kabila en privé, mais dans le même temps, fera l'apologie des droits de l'Homme et de la démocratie lors de son discours.

François Hollande a un service à minima à faire et c'est ce qu'il fera lors de sa tournée en Afrique.

Lors de ce Sommet de la francophonie, le conflit dans la région du Kivu, en RDC, et la rébellion islamiste au Nord-Mali seront abordés. Quel peut-être le rôle de la Francophonie dans le règlement de ces conflits ?

Si la Francophonie n'a aucun pouvoir militaire, elle a en revanche un véritable rôle à jouer dans la régulation post-conflit. Elle a également une mission diplomatique, et en ce sens, Abdou Diouf, président de la francophonie et ancien président du Bénin, exerce son pouvoir de négociations entre les différentes puissances.

Dans le cas du Mali, l'intervention militaire sera décidée et organisée par la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'ouest (Cédéao), mais l'Organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF) a une mission en tant que négociateur.

L'OIF a également un rôle à jouer dans le conflit qui oppose les forces congolaises aux rebelles tutsis dans la région du Kivu, notamment en servant de médiateur entre Joseph Kabila pour la RDC et Paul Kagamé pour le Rwanda.

La RD-Congo se mobilise pour le « grand sommet » de Kinshasa
11/10/12/la-croix.com

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François Hollande, attendu à Kinshasa après une étape aujourd'hui à Dakar, effectue son premier déplacement officiel en Afrique.

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Des semaines que Kinshasa, la capitale de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC), se prépare à recevoir le 14^e sommet de la francophonie. Hier encore, malgré la pluie, on pouvait voir les Kininois donner un dernier coup de peinture blanche aux façades noircies des établissements publics et des maisons bordant les principales artères de la ville.

Le long des rues conduisant au centre-ville, des ouvriers peignaient le drapeau national congolais sur les tôles ondulées protégeant les innombrables chantiers en cours. Sans compter tous ceux qui arrachaient encore les mauvaises herbes, plantaient des parterres de fleurs, balayaient les rues et les trottoirs. La route principale qui relie l'aéroport international au Palais du Peuple, le bâtiment où se tient le sommet de la francophonie, soit 25 km, a été refaite à neuf. Encore cette nuit, des ouvriers peignaient sur l'asphalte les bandes de signalisation.

Les commerçants ambulants chassés par la police

Propre, nette, reluisante : la capitale congolaise a changé d'apparence en quelques mois. Cet effort n'a pas été sans conséquences pour les Kininois, en particulier pour les plus fragiles comme les petits commerçants ambulants, chassés par la police du centre-ville depuis août.

Rasés, les marchés spontanés, les cabanons, les petits « maquis » (restaurants de rue), les modestes comptoirs qui encombrant carrefours, places et rues de Kinshasa. Même dans les quartiers populaires où aucune délégation officielle ne viendra se perdre.

Ainsi, à Kingabwa, dans l'ouest de la capitale, le long du chemin de fer : «Après avoir chassé ces marchés, la police patrouille tous les jours pour les dissuader de revenir», constate Rosette, une habitante de Kingabwa, professeur de couture. «Les autorités ont obligé les habitants des maisons et des immeubles qui bordent la rue conduisant au Palais du Peuple à les repeindre à leur propre frais», témoigne Faustin, un Kinois d'une vingtaine d'années.

Une population indifférente au « sommet »

Sur Radio-Télévision nationale congolaise, la télévision et la radio publiques, on ne compte plus les émissions, flashes spéciaux et sujets qui célèbrent cette réunion internationale. À regarder ces programmes, on pourrait croire que tout ce pays de 70 millions d'habitants célèbre d'un seul cœur l'événement.

Sur le terrain, il n'en est rien. Dans un pays où plus de 71 % des habitants vivent avec moins d'un dollar par jour (selon le Programme des Nations unies pour le développement), cette manifestation ne soulève pas grand intérêt (lire ci-dessous).

Chômage et faim, les préoccupations du jour

Plus on s'éloigne de la capitale, plus cette indifférence est nette. Ainsi, à Goma, à 2200 km au nord-est de Kinshasa. Chômeur comme la presque totalité des habitants de ce chef-lieu d'un million d'habitants de la province du Nord-Kivu, Félicien confie : «La seule chose que je guette, c'est l'attitude du président français. Pour le reste, je pense d'abord à mes enfants à qui je ne vais donner, comme tout le monde ici, qu'un repas aujourd'hui.»

Parmi les déplacés de la région – plus de 700000 sur les deux millions que compte le pays –, le désintérêt est total. Ainsi, à une vingtaine de kilomètres de Goma, dans le camp de déplacés de Mungunga, où presque personne ne parle français, Malira, une femme de 53 ans, lance en swahili, la seule question qui préoccupe cette population : «Ce grand sommet va-t-il nous aider à retourner dans notre village?»

Paroles d'un diplomate étranger en poste en RD-Congo

« 90 % de la population ne se sent pas concernée par ce sommet. Elle se lève le matin la faim au ventre. Plongée dans une logique de survie, elle n'a pas le loisir de s'intéresser à cette réunion internationale. L'opposition et la société civile sont partagées. Il y a ceux qui pensent que c'est l'occasion de faire parler des problèmes du Congo. Pour les autres, cette opération ne servira que les intérêts de Joseph Kabila, le président dont l'élection l'année dernière a été entachée d'une fraude massive. Enfin, j'ajouterai que si la majorité n'est pas intéressée par cette rencontre, elle ressent quand même une forme de fierté à la voir se tenir chez eux : elle a l'impression que le Congo retrouve, pour quelques jours, son audience d'antan. »

Laurent LARCHER (à Kinshasa) ----- Recueilli par L. L.

UGANDA:

SOUTH AFRICA:

Striking South Africa truckers agree wage deal: RFA

Wendell Roelf/ Reuters/October 12, 2012

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - South African truck drivers have agreed a wage deal with employers to end a three-week strike that has hit deliveries of fuel, cash and consumer goods in Africa's biggest economy, the Road Freight Employers Association (RFA) said on Friday.

More than 20,000 truck drivers have taken to the streets in often violent protests since late September, demanding higher wages. At least one person was killed and dozens of trucks were torched by demonstrators.

"The parties have signed an undertaking that they agree to a three-year industry wage agreement which is to be signed at approximately 10 a.m. (4 a.m. EDT) on Friday," the RFA said in a statement.

All four transport unions were part of the agreement, RFA spokeswoman Magretia Brown-Engelbrecht said, although she did not reveal details of the deal.

The rand, which fell to a 3-1/2 year low on Monday due to concerns about transport and mining strikes, firmed to a session high of 8.61 against the dollar shortly after the news.

Moody's also cut South Africa's government credit rating last month, citing the government's failure to tackle the industrial unrest that has swept from the platinum and gold sectors into other parts of the economy.

The South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (SATAWU), which represents the majority of truck drivers, said it was still consulting its members on the proposal and would communicate its decision at the meeting with employers.

Petrol stations have been experiencing delays of up to a day in getting fuel and some have run completely dry, the South African Petroleum Industry Association said on Thursday.

Other affected companies include logistics groups Imperial Holding, Super Group, Grindrod, Barloworld and Bidvest.

Since August, almost 100,000 workers across South Africa, including 75,000 in the mining sector, have downed tools in often illegal and violent strikes that undermined investor confidence and already shaky economic growth.

More than 50 people have been killed in labor-related protests in the last two months, including 34 shot dead by police at Lonmin's Marikana platinum mine on August 16.

South Africa is home to 80 percent of known reserves of platinum and the price of the precious metal has risen more than 20 percent since the Marikana shootings, the bloodiest security incident since the end of apartheid in 1994.

Striking gold miners rejected the industry's latest wage offer on Thursday. Africa's top three bullion producers - AngloGold Ashanti, Gold Fields and Harmony Gold - have given them until Monday to reconsider.

South Africa: Peace Corp Volunteer Gets 15 Years

11 October 2012/SAnews.gov.za (Tshwane)

Pretoria — A United States man has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for sexually abusing four minor girls while he was a US Peace Corp volunteer in South Africa.

This was announced by officials from the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) on Thursday.

Jesse Osmun, 33, was sentenced on Wednesday in a US court in the State of Connecticut to 15 years in prison, followed by 10 years of supervised release.

According to court documents, Osmun was sworn in as a Peace Corps volunteer in early 2010 and began his service at a non-governmental organisation in South Africa that provides education, food and other services to children, many of whom are orphans.

In May 2011, Osmun resigned from the Peace Corps after being confronted by the program director of the NGO with allegations of sexual abuse and he returned to the US in June 2011.

However, HSI special agents, working with members of the South African Police Service (SAPS), Directorate for Priority Crime Investigations (DPCI), began investigating the allegations of abuse.

The investigation revealed that, while volunteering at the NGO, Osmun enticed four young girls, all of whom were under the age of six, to engage in illicit sexual acts with him.

"Osmun persuaded the children to engage in this conduct by playing games with them and providing them with candy. Osmun sexually abused one of the victims approximately two times a week over the course of approximately five months," said a statement.

In August 2011, he was arrested at his home in Milford, Connecticut. He later pleaded guilty to one count of traveling from the US to South Africa to engage in illicit sexual conduct with children.

Peter Vincent, director of HSI's Office of International Affairs said: "Thanks to the close collaboration of HSI's attach, at the US Embassy in Pretoria, the National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa and the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigations, a US citizen has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for crimes he committed here in South Africa."

He said there would be no refuge for US citizens who believe that they may victimize children

outside the US.

"No place is too distant or too remote to escape the attention of law enforcement. Thanks to an extensive investigation we worked jointly with our South African counterparts," Jesse Osmun will now spend a considerable amount of time in a US jail," he said.

Carrie Hessler-Radelet, acting director of the Peace Corps said that the Peace Corps had no tolerance for abuse of any kind. "Our deepest sympathies are with all the victims involved."

South Africa: Best Wishes for Matrics

11 October 2012/SAnews.gov.za (Tshwane)

Pretoria — As the final exams draw nearer for this year's matrics, top ranking officials have wished the class of 2012 well ahead of the arduous task.

"Cabinet wishes the class of 2012 well with the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations, which will be written from 22 October until 28 November 2012," said Acting Minister for Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, Richard Baloyi, on Thursday during a post Cabinet briefing.

Baloyi was confident that matrics in Limpopo would also do well, as the delay in the delivery of textbooks affected grades 1, 2, 3 and 10. Teachers in that province had also given officials the assurance that despite the delay, learning and teaching had continued.

"We've pronounced more than once as Cabinet our dissatisfaction about the ... delay in the delivery of school books in Limpopo; but our expectation, as we wish our matric students well [for the final examinations], is to see good results."

Meanwhile, Cabinet also noted that President Jacob Zuma handed over new schools to villages in Libode and Lusikisiki in the Eastern Cape as part of the replacement programme for mud schools.

TANZANIA:

Tanzania: Fake ARVs Not Ours, Says TPI

By Abdulwakil Saiboko and Anthony Tambwe/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/ 12 October 2012

THE fake Anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs saga yesterday took a new twist as the owners of Arusha-based Tanzania Pharmaceutical Industry (TPI) have distanced themselves from manufacturing and selling fake drugs.

"We would like to categorically distance ourselves from the allegations. The said drugs did not emanate from TPI and are made using technology which we do not have in our factory," said the TPI Executive Director, Mrs Zarina Madabida.

Ms Madabida who was addressing a news conference in Dar es Salaam, noted that TPI produces TT-VIR 30 with oval shaped tablets whereas the fake drugs are round shaped TT-VR 30.

She said that while the TT-VIR 30 tablets are white in colour and marked TPI on one side and T 30 on the other side, the TT-VR 30 are white on one side and yellow on the other.

"We do not have the technology that can produce tablets in a round shape and in two colours, the product is simply not ours," she said. When asked over the package, Ms Madabida said that the TPI does not manufacture packages, but orders the same from Nairobi, Kenya.

"Our bottles are special with slender and longer neck but bottles that contained the fake drugs have a different shape altogether. Those bottles are not ours," she said.

The reaction comes a day after the Minister for Health and Social Welfare, Dr Hussein Mwinyi, suspended three top officials at the Medical Stores Department (MSD) and halted production at the TPI over the allegations of producing and distributing fake ARVs.

Dr Mwinyi said on Wednesday that the government has also stopped distribution of all drugs manufactured by TPI, including those stored by pharmacists and other outlets. Those suspended pending investigations at the MSD are the Director General, Mr Joseph Mgaya, the Quality Assurance Manager, Mr Sadick Materu and the Quality Assurance Officer, Mr David Masero.

Dr Mwinyi said investigations conducted in August by his ministry through the Tanzania Food and Drug Authority (TFDA), established the presence of fake ARV drug type TT-VIR 30; batch no OC.01.85 at Tarime District Hospital.

After laboratory tests were conducted, Dr Hussein noted that the ARV drugs, manufactured in March, 2011 with an expiry date of February 2013, were counterfeit with documentations showing that TPI had sold it to MSD.

He also admitted that the fake ARVs batch number OC.01.85 came in two colours yellow and white and noted that the yellow drug had a combination of Efavirenz instead of Niverapine, Lamivudine and Stavudine that are the actual combination of the real ARV drug.

However, Ms Madabida denounced the allegations, saying: "We had our products submitted to MSD and all quality assurance tests were done and it is about 15 months now since we distributed the drugs and in between, two inspections have been conducted and no fake drugs were found."

Mrs Madabida wondered as to why it took so long to discover the fake drugs, suspecting that there was a syndicate aimed at tarnishing the company's image.

"The timing of this scandal brings lots of questions because we have just finished construction of a state of the art factory in Arusha worth 5m Euros and we were expecting to have it launched next month. "We were also expecting to receive a certification from WHO to enable us sell our drugs in international markets," she said.

Ms Madabida who is the Special Seats MP (CCM), noted further that the matter being brought up at

the time when CCM was in internal elections may have aimed at tarnishing her image and that of her husband who were both vying for various posts in the ruling party.

The factory has since 2007 produced over 2.3 million doses of ARVs and has since been a sole producer of the ARVs in the country with its sole customer being MSD.

On Wednesday, Dr Mwinyi admitted that the white tablets which emanate from the same factory had required combination of Niverapine and that the fake ones were in a different package to those that were registered at the TFDA.

Ms Madabida also denied to have received any formal communication from the ministry informing her over the closure of the factory. Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Committee for HIV/Aids has strongly condemned the act of one company to distribute fake ARV drugs in the country.

Speaking to reporters at Parliament offices in Dar es Salaam, the committee chairperson Lediania Mun'gon'go said that soon after news of the circulation of fake drugs became public, they summoned the government in efforts of looking for a way forward.

The committee also summoned representatives from TFDA and MSD. The committee chair also said that on the 10th of October, this year, they also summoned representatives of people who use ARVs through their organization and assured them that the situation is under control.

Tanzania: U.S. Pledges Anti-Poaching Support

By Paschal Shelutete/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/12 October 2012

Washington — THE US has assured Tanzania of its full support in war against poaching.

Deputy Secretary of the US Department of the Interior, Mr David Hayes said his government will work hard in helping Tanzania fight poaching incidences in the country by offering moral and technical support.

He said his government was ready to work closely with Tanzania because issues of natural resources are now global challenges which need to be addressed immediately and jointly.

Mr Hayes made the commitment before a visiting Tanzanian delegation led by the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Ambassador Khamis Kagasheki, at the Department's Headquarters in Washington yesterday.

"US has a responsibility of fostering cordial relationship with Tanzania so as to ensure sustainability of natural resources in the country," said Secretary Hayes.

Minister Kagasheki who had earlier said that Tanzania has taken deliberate efforts to fight poaching in the country but still US support is highly needed because it is very challenging, involving some stable financial muscles network globally.

Amb. Kagasheki said that the requested support from US includes technical assistance by providing some expertise on the suppliers of best intelligence surveillance devices and skills as well as

coming up with new approaches and strategies to tackle the existing organized poaching crimes.

In a more positive and promising move, a decision was reached between the visiting Tanzanian delegation and the United States to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two countries which will be signed in December, this year in Tanzania.

The MoU will basically act as a baseline of cooperation between the two countries and will focus on how best the two countries can work together in ensuring existence of sustainability of conservation sector for the betterment of the current and future generations.

"I appeal to the United States that we have to conserve, we need to preserve so as to protect our wildlife from extinction and that conservation should be the number one priority to Tanzania and the world," said Amb. Kagasheki.

Minister Kagasheki and his delegation had earlier visited and held discussions with officials from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Council on Environmental Quality from the Department of Environment.

Others were National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations, whereby the threat of poaching as an organized crime was discussed as a threat to conservation sector in the country and the way forward was reached.

Tanzania Signs Border Treaty With Kenya

By Raphael Mwadime/The Star (Nairobi)/11 October 2012

Kenya and Tanzania have agreed to boost their cross border trade. The two countries reached an agreement on open border operations that will see traders move freely as one of the measures to strengthen the East African Community.

The agreement will allow the traders to run their businesses on a 24-hour basis.

A joint border meeting between the Kenyan minister for East African Community Musa Sirma and his Tanzanian counterpart, Samuel Sitta on Tuesday announced the two governments had laid out strategies to ease the traders' movement.

The the two ministers signed a treaty that provides for the removal of all existing non-tariff barriers on the importation of goods from other partner states.

"I have directed the provincial administration to convene monthly meetings to discuss how small-scale traders including bodaboda operators will carry out their activities across the border without any interruptions," said Sitta.

The news comes at a time when Kenyan traders have been lamenting over harassment whenever they go to trade in Tanzania.

The traders told the meeting that Tanzanian authorities put up many trade barriers which are resulting to heavy loses on their businesses.

"Small scale traders from Taveta incur heavy losses whenever they go to trade in Tanzania due to the many trade barriers they impose on us. They impose several illegal taxes and sometimes confiscate our passports," lamented Victoria Bili a trader from Taveta.

Sitta said that plans are being mooted to ensure smooth trade between the two countries. "Now traders will no longer be required to produce yellow fever immunization certificates. Traders will be free to trade not only up to Holili border point but they can go as far as the Himo market," he said.

Tanzania: Overloading Blamed for Ill-Fated Boat

By Issa Yussuf/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/12 October 2012

Zanzibar — A FERRY boat that capsized and sank near Zanzibar on July 18, this year, was overloaded with passengers and cargo, a commission formed to probe the disaster said. The commission said that it has found out that the vessel, MV Skagit, had 447 passengers on board and not 290 as earlier reported.

Presenting the report to Zanzibar President Ali Mohamed Shein, the Commission's Chairman, Judge Abdulhakim Ameir Issa, said they found out that the vessel had 447 passengers before it capsized and sank at around 1.30 pm while on its way to Zanzibar from Dar es Salaam.

According to the commission's findings, 154 passengers were rescued, 81 drowned while 212 went missing. Earlier, reports presented to the Disaster Relief Department in the Second Vice-President's Office had it that the vessel had 290 passengers before it capsized, where 142 people died and 146 rescued, while two were still missing.

The commission presented its report to President Shein, almost three months since the disaster occurred. The president said he was happy with the investigation's speed. "I will make sure that the report is made public while the government will study and consider the recommendations in the report," said Dr Shein.

The ten-member commission was formed on July 23, this year and carried out the assignment from August 1 to September 15, 2012. Other members of the commission were Mr Salum Toufiq Ali, Captain Hatib Katandula, Ms Mkakili Fausta Mbowi, Mr Hassan Mussa Mzee, Major General S.S. Omar, Captain Abdalla Yussuf Jumbe, Captain Juma Abdalla, Mr Omar Chengo and Mr Shaaban Ramadhan Abdalla, who was the secretary.

Meanwhile, Dr Shein launched the laying of a new 100 megawatts undersea power cable. The event was held at Fumba in Unguja West District and witnessed by several residents and leaders, including vice-presidents Ambassador Seif Alli Iddi and Mr Seif Sharif Hamad and the US Ambassador to Tanzania, Mr Alfonso Lenhardt.

According to the Zanzibar Electricity Corporation (ZECO) Mr Hassan Mbarouk, the laying of 37-kms undersea cable between Fumba (Zanzibar) and Rasikiromoni (Dar es Salaam) would take about 12 days. "The government is committed to bring change to its people by improving infrastructure; the power cable will benefit us all," said Dr Shein.

The cable, with the life span of about 30 years, landed at the Malindi Port here last Friday. It replaces the current 40-megawatts dilapidated wire. The United States Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is funding the 72.1 US dollars project.

The Zanzibar government was responsible for the compensation of about 1.4 million US dollars to all the people whose property was demolished during the clearance of land to pave way for the construction of the sub-station.

Tanzania: NHC Housing Project to Benefit Low Income Earners

By Finnigan Wa Simbeye/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/12 October 2012

LOW income earners who are struggling to secure bank loans to buy decent houses will have a fair share of the stake in National Housing Corporation's targeted 5,000 homes to be built in the next five years.

This, however, will only be possible if the government addresses some bottleneck choking the sensitive housing sector which include a hostile tax regime, rising inflation and massive investment in infrastructure.

NHC Director General, Nehemiah Mchechu whose banking background has earned him a good number of enemies among existing tenants of the organisation, said the future is in building and selling houses rather than renting them out.

Mr Mchechu argued that it is unrealistic to expect the corporation to offer low income bracket people decent houses at affordable rates while its operations are influenced by prevailing market conditions including payment of value added tax for new residential housing units.

"We are paying VAT for all new housing units that we build in addition to high taxes paid on construction materials -, but we are also getting loans from banks at prevailing market interest rates which makes it difficult for us to sell houses at low rates," Mchechu argued while delivering a paper on, "Opportunities and Challenges of Investing in Affordable Housing" at a two-day African conference which ended yesterday.

The youthful NHC chief who is at loggerheads with almost all existing tenants in urban centres countrywide due to hiked monthly renting rates and attempts to evict old tenants from the largely dilapidated aged blocks and replace them with modern apartments, argued that poor infrastructure also affects housing prices.

"Access roads, sanitation, electricity and water supply contribute between 15 and 20 per cent of the increase in housing costs because often it's NHC that does it because they are non existent," he argued saying if Tanzania Electric Supply Company and water authorities provided such infrastructure, prices would go down and allow low income earners get such houses.

NHC targets to construct 5,000 housing units within the next five years much of which will target middle income earners fetching a market price of between 50,000 to 140,000 US dollars (approx. 78.6m/- and 220.2m/-) each. Low houses fetch between 15,000 and 40,000 US dollars.

With interest rate hovering at between 18 and 24 per cent thanks to inflation which fell to 14.1 per cent last August, low income earners accuse Mchechu of being pro-rich.

Ethel Mathenge from Mauritius-based Home Finance Guarantors Africa Reinsurance said it's prohibitive to charge borrowers up to 18 per cent to acquire decent houses. "Our institution works with insurance companies to address this problem of home financing and we would like to see interest rates fall," Ms Mathenge told over 100 delegates to the conference.

In the country, HFGAR works with Tanzania Housing Corporation and Azania Bank. Azania is one of the founders and shareholders of Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company Limited which is a 40 million US dollar World Bank funded project to develop mortgage financing in the country.

During an inaugural address of the two-day conference, Land Housing and Urban Development Minister Professor Anna Tibaijuka pledged government's commitment to address taxation, legal and regulatory problems suffocating the country's housing industry as demand is projected to peak 3.7 million houses by 2015.

KENYA:

Kenya: Unrest in Parts of Kenya Threat to Polls - Annan

By Judie Kaberia/Capital FM (Nairobi)/11 October 2012

Nairobi — The Panel of Eminent African Personalities on Thursday urged Kenya to deal with the rising cases of violence in parts of the country before elections are held in March next year.

Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan who heads the panel told a news conference in Nairobi it was worrying that the violence was occurring a few months before the elections and cautioned the government to contain the situation and avoid a repeat of the 2008 violence.

"The panel is deeply concerned by an increase in tensions and violence in the run-up to the elections. The violence in Northern Kenya, the Tan River Delta and the Coast regions are a cause of great concern. Reports of militia groups re-organising or being created are equally worrying," Annan who mediated Kenya's peace following the post election violence of 2008 asserted.

Annan urged the government to address the new challenges to peace and unity to ensure it does not spill over to next year.

He further asked the government to expedite police reforms by urgently recruiting an Inspector General as required by the new Constitution to help the country maintain law and order.

In the company of former Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa, Annan centered his points on the importance of Kenya holding free, fair and peaceful elections in which he also called on politicians to desist from incitement.

He also advised the legislators to ensure all crucial laws are passed and warned that if certain laws

are not passed as required by the Constitution, the country may land into a legal crisis.

"The Constitution demands the implementations of the gender provision. Parliamentarians have an urgent responsibility to agree the mechanism for this implementation. Indeed it could lead to a constitutional crisis and leaders must do everything necessary to avoid this outcome," Annan advised.

Annan said he was impressed by many of the reforms undertaken in the country, but insisted that much more needs to be done.

Concerning the 2008 post election violence, he said there was progress but urged the Truth Justice and Reconciliation and other relevant institutions to work on giving justice to victims.

He also warned Kenyans against viewing the cases at the International Criminal Court to be targeting any group.

"In every discussion that the panel has had, the cases before the ICC have been raised. There is only one way ahead. These cases are against individuals and not against any tribe or group," he asserted.

Their tour of the country came to an end on Thursday afternoon without meeting President Mwai Kibaki as State House did not confirm their meeting as scheduled.

Since he arrived in the country, Annan has held meetings with Prime Minister Raila Odinga, Chief Justice Willy Mutunga, Speaker Kenneth Marende, officials of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, religious leaders, diplomats and members of the civil society.

He said his visits to Kenya will be frequent as the country gets ready to hold the first election under the new Constitution.

Kenya: Annan Expresses Concerns Over Polls

By Lydia Matata/The Star (Nairobi)/11 October 2012

Kenya's foreign relations are set for a rocky time if Uhuru and Ruto win in the upcoming general elections, Kofi Annan has said. Speaking at a press conference at the Serena Hotel earlier today, Annan warned Kenyans that electing Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta and William Ruto would affect relations with other countries.

"There are implications that each and every one needs to ponder particularly when you are dealing with leadership...that also involves relationships with countries outside and beyond Africa." he said Annan urged Kenyans to respect the courts and to assist the ICC in accordance with the Rome Statute.

President Kibaki did not meet with Kofi Annan as scheduled during the press conference. Annan revealed that efforts to meet the President during the three day tour have been futile. He did however meet Prime Minister Raila Odinga, Chief Justice Willy Mutunga, Speaker Kenneth Marende and other groups.

Nine MPs allied to The National Alliance party had asked the Panel of Eminent persons to hold talks with all political parties. The MPs asked Annan to also meet with Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, William Ruto, Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka and Martha Karua. "It will be unfair if they do not," said the MPs in a statement read by Igemebe South MP Mithika Linturi.

The MPs said that Koffi Annan and William Mpaka are only engaging with ODM and civil society groups. Annan is the chairman of the Panel of Eminent persons that spearheaded mediations between political parties during the post poll chaos in 2007 and 2008. He is on a four day visit of Kenya which began on Monday.

Kenya: A Chance for Future African Nobel Laureates.

By Collins Mabinda/The Star (Nairobi)/ 11 October 2012

opinion

Apart from the Nobel Prize in Literature, practically no African has ever scooped a 'professional' Nobel Prize. In literature, great writers like Chinua Achebe and Wole Soyinka carried the continent's flag high, although in recent times, the stream of budding young African writers seems to have dried up. The Nobel Prize in Peace, which has had many worthy African winners like Wangari Maathai, Kofi Annan, and Nelson Mandela, is different. It rewards one for their contributions to humanity, in fostering peace. It has a different presentation ceremony, usually slated for December. The fame, sense of fulfillment and future opportunities for the winners of the Nobel Prize is far much more than the prize money of a million dollars.

This week, the 'Professional' Nobel Prizes of Medicine, Physics, Chemistry, Literature and Economics are being awarded, and I don't expect any African to win these major prizes either. Though there are many reasons to explain why there are so few African winners in this category, ranging from the sorry state of the universities in the continent, to unhealthy governments that are keen to muzzle African intellectuals, the major problem is actually quite simple. 'You cannot become what you cannot see'. Simply, there aren't many first class scientists, and projects, based in the continent, to inspire the budding young African scientists.

Perhaps, all is not bleak. The recent decision to award the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) project jointly to South Africa and Australia/New Zealand offers great opportunities for African science. It's a gigantic project by any measure. The project is aimed to construct several radio telescopes that will mimic the conditions of when the earth was formed, and find crucial clues to the early times when the earth was formed. The project will probe answers that have tickled the minds of astronomers from the very early on. The total collecting area of the radio telescopes will be roughly the size of 200 soccer fields, spread across the desert parts of South Africa.

It is not just a win for South Africa; it's a win for the entire continent. In fact, parts of the radio telescope will be built in eight African countries, including Kenya, and as far away as Mauritius. Interest in the space sciences and astronomy has increased in Kenya's leading universities such as the University of Nairobi, where some of the lecturers and students will assist in building parts of the telescope.

In effect, the enthusiasm for the SKA project will be nothing to do with the money from the project-

though no less a significant incentive. It will be a chance to see a real science project in motion, rather than through movies or documentaries. This is the dilemma that faces Africa's most promising science and engineering graduates. They don't have a chance, and they might never in their real life, get to take part in a real science project. The most promising African science graduates are usually lured into the Finance industry.

For those that get to be employed by technology companies, it is largely in non engineering jobs. For instance, many end up as sales managers of technical products, selling pumps and telecom equipment. Even when there is an opportunity to apply their professional skills, their own companies wouldn't trust them, as the companies prefer to hire expensive expatriates from abroad to jet in for a few days, troubleshoot the machines and eventually fly back.

The Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree is popular to science graduates for no other reason than the need for the science graduates to suit more in a business and managerial role than in a technical role. Many graduates have realized that the science taught in College has no use anymore; they need to adapt to the new reality.

The SKA project will create interest, and build momentum, as Africa's best science students would actually take part in real projects that pay handsomely; offer opportunities for skills buildup and professional advancement. Most of all, those who will take part in the project will have a sense of inner fulfillment of seeing their projects come to fruition. It's one more reason why the SKA is a plus for African Science, and perhaps, the nascent seeds of future 'professional' Nobel winners will be inspired, and nurtured.

ANGOLA:

Angola: Non-Communicable Disease Fight Among Govt Top Priorities - Minister

11 October 2012/AngolaPress

Luanda — Angola's minister of Health, José Van-Dúnem Thursday in Luanda said that the National Non-Communicable Chronic Diseases will be one of the key priorities of the Executive in its new government programming cycle in the country.

José Van-Dúnem, who was speaking at the opening session of the Angola's First Congress of Cardiology, said that the government has already outlined, in its national health development, the objectives, goals, and operational strategies of this programme.

Firstly, he said, the essential drug for the prevention, early detection and treatment of cardiovascular disease will be progressively made available in the integrated package of services at municipal level as well as provincial and central hospitals.

This will allow services of references to diagnose, treat and rehabilitate these cases of the most complex diseases, he said.

The minister also pledged to step up awareness campaigns bearing messages of prevention,

education and warning within population, specially youth.

Angola: International Mining Fair Starts

11 October 2012/AngolaPress

Luanda — The four-day fourth edition of the International fair of Mining (FIMA) was opened Thursday in Luanda, by the Minister of Geology and Mining, Francisco Queirós, Angop has learnt.

The event aims at promoting the country's mining potentialities, stimulating and fomenting the investment in the sector, launching new products, as well as presenting new technological solutions.

Namibia, Portugal, Argentina, Holland, Germany, The United Arab Emirates and the host, Angola are participating in the fair that totalizes 120 firms.

AU/AFRICA:

Un rapport expose "les violations flagrantes et généralisées" des droits des immigrés en Libye 2012-10-11 /APS

Dakar, 11 oct (APS) – Un rapport de la Fédération internationale des droits de l'homme (FIDH), de Migreurop et Justice sans frontières pour les migrants (JSFM) expose "les violations flagrantes et généralisées des droits humains fondamentaux dont sont victimes les immigrés, pris au piège de milices incontrôlées".

Publié jeudi, ce rapport "accablant" concerne la situation des migrants, réfugiés et demandeurs d'asile en Libye, en particulier ceux originaires d'Afrique subsaharienne.

Intitulé "En finir avec la traque des migrants", il dresse également "un examen critique du rôle de l'Union européenne (UE) et de ses États membres dans la définition et la mise en œuvre des politiques migratoires en Libye, alors même que de nouveaux accords de coopération se négocient".

"Ces constats résultent d'une mission d'enquête, réalisée en juin 2012, durant laquelle nos organisations se sont rendues dans 7 camps de détention à Tripoli, à Benghazi et dans la région de Djebel Nafoussa", indiquent les auteurs du rapport.

"Avant la guerre en Libye, les travailleurs migrants et leurs familles constituaient près d'un tiers de la population", indiqué les auteurs de l'étude, soulignant que "le conflit a provoqué un exode massif, dans des conditions documentées dans un précédent rapport de la FIDH".

"Pour les migrants d'Afrique subsaharienne qui entrent en Libye par le Sud, le voyage est particulièrement dangereux : ils sont souvent victimes de réseaux de passeurs, d'extorsions de fonds et de violences, abandonnés dans le désert ou refoulés aux frontières", mentionne le rapport.

Le document ajoute : "En Libye, les étrangers considérés comme « illégaux » risquent d'être

capturés au passage de check points ou arrêtés à leur domicile ou sur leur lieu de travail par des groupes d'ex-rebelles (Katiba), hors de tout contrôle des autorités gouvernementales”.

Selon le rapport, “les arrestations se font +au faciès+ et les migrants d’Afrique subsaharienne sont les premiers visés, sur un fond de racisme très prégnant”.

“Des milliers de migrants sont aujourd’hui détenus dans des camps gérés par des Katibas, sans perspective de solution légale ou de possibilité de recourir à des instances nationales ou internationales pour en sortir”, relèvent la FIDH, Migreurop et JSFM.

Les trois structures rappellent la “co-responsabilité” de la Libye, de l’Union européenne et de ses États membres, ainsi que des États dont sont originaires les migrants.

Elles demandent aux autorités libyennes de “mettre fin immédiatement aux pratiques d’arrestation et de détention arbitraire perpétrées par les groupes d’ex-rebelles et de reprendre le contrôle des questions liées à l’immigration”.

La FIDH, Migreurop et JSFM invitent la Libye à “fermer immédiatement les camps de détention pour migrants qui sont des lieux où les conditions de vie constituent une violation de la dignité humaine” et à “régulariser la situation administrative des migrants détenus qui souhaitent travailler” dans le pays.

Les trois ONG demandent aussi aux autorités “d’interdire immédiatement les pratiques de +travail forcé+, d’élaborer une politique migratoire qui s’inscrive dans le cadre d’un État de droit et dans le respect du droit international, en rupture avec les politiques répressives, meurtrières et illégales de la période précédente”.

Elles invitent les États membres de l’UE à “suspendre toutes les activités de coopération en matière migratoire avec la Libye en l’absence de mesures garantissant la protection des droits humains dans ce pays” et à “mettre fin à la politique d’externalisation du contrôle des frontières européennes dans les pays voisins, et tout particulièrement en Libye”.

A cela s’ajoutent la renégociation des accords de coopération “dans le plein respect du droit international et européen relatif aux droits humains” et leur publication, la renonciation “à toute mesure qui viserait ou aurait pour effet d’empêcher le plein exercice de leurs droits par les migrants, les demandeurs d’asile et les réfugiés présents sur le territoire libyen”.

Pour la FIDH, Migreurop et JSFM, les Etats africains, dont sont originaires les migrants, doivent “veiller au respect des droits fondamentaux de leurs ressortissants immigrés en Libye et d’assurer leur défense et leur protection en cas de violation de ces droits”.

Le rapport les invite “dans l’immédiat, d’exiger des autorités libyennes la libération de leurs ressortissants des camps d’enfermement où ils subissent des traitements inhumains et dégradants, ainsi que la condamnation de toutes les pratiques et attitudes xénophobes qui stigmatisent les ressortissants de l’Afrique subsaharienne”.

OID/AD/DND

Egypte: démis de ses fonctions, le procureur général refuse la sentence

Par RFI/vendredi 12 octobre 2012

Le président égyptien Mohamed Morsi a démis de ses fonctions, jeudi 11 octobre, le procureur général Abdel Meguid Mahmoud. Le chef de l'Etat, issu de la confrérie des Frères musulmans, a décidé de le nommer ambassadeur d'Egypte au Vatican. « Je reste à mon poste », a déclaré Abdel Meguid Mahmoud. Une décision qui intervient au lendemain de l'acquittement de figures du régime déchu.

Avec notre correspondant au Caire, Alexandre Buccianti

Les premiers à applaudir la décision de leur raïs ont été les Frères musulmans qui avaient commencé à manifester jeudi soir contre le verdict dans l'affaire dite du dromadaire. La cour d'assises avait prononcé un non-lieu dans cette affaire où des hauts responsables du régime Moubarak étaient accusés d'avoir ordonné une charge de dromadaires contre les manifestants de la place Tahrir en février 2011.

Les forces libérales qui avaient appelé à une manifestation vendredi pour protester contre le gouvernement et la manière dont les islamistes contrôlent la rédaction de la Constitution, ont de leur côté qualifié la décision de « cadeau du jeudi soir ». Une « mesurette » visant à neutraliser leur manifestation contre le président et la Confrérie des Frères musulmans.

Quant au principal intéressé, le procureur général, il a déclaré qu'il n'avait pas démissionné et qu'il restait à son poste. Il est soutenu par la majorité des magistrats qui dénoncent une agression de l'exécutif contre le judiciaire. Sauf démission, incapacité ou mort, le procureur est inamovible conformément à la loi égyptienne.

Pauvreté : le sort des jeunes filles privées d'éducation

11 octobre 2012 h/lci.tf1.fr

Un nouveau rapport a été publié par Plan International présentant l'importance de l'éducation des filles. Il a été présenté à New York jeudi, lors de la première Journée Internationale des jeunes filles.

Des millions de jeunes filles dans le monde sont privées d'école, un handicap qui les condamne à vivre dans la détresse et renforce la pauvreté en général, selon un rapport présenté jeudi à New York. Le document intitulé "Parce que je suis une fille - les filles dans le monde en 2012" a été publié par l'organisation Plan International à l'occasion de la première Journée internationale des jeunes filles des Nations unies. Plan International est une ONG œuvrant pour la protection des droits de l'enfant principalement en Afrique, en Asie et en Amérique latine.

"Les 75 millions de filles qui selon les estimations sont privées de salles de classe à travers le monde constituent une violation majeure des droits (de l'homme) et un énorme gâchis de potentiel", souligne l'ONG. Selon les chiffres de l'UNESCO, environ 1 fille sur 3 n'a pas accès à l'éducation dans le monde et si les filles sont globalement aussi nombreuses que les garçons à entrer à l'école primaire, elles sont beaucoup moins nombreuses à terminer leur cycle scolaire.

"Une fille éduquée est moins vulnérable face à la violence, moins susceptible de se marier et d'avoir des enfants alors qu'elle n'est encore elle-même qu'une enfant, et plus à même de savoir lire et écrire et d'entrer en pleine santé dans l'âge adulte", a assuré Nigel Chapman, à la tête de Plan International. « La cause principale de mortalité chez les filles âgées de 15 à 19 ans dans les pays en développement est la grossesse. » précise l'organisation.

L'éducation des filles : un gain perceptible sur le long terme

L'organisation ajoute en outre qu'à plus long terme, "une éducation secondaire protège les filles contre le VIH, le harcèlement sexuel, et le trafic d'êtres humains". Cependant même si l'éducation des filles est considérée comme étant un « remède » pour combattre la pauvreté, il est difficile de la mettre en place puisque son gain se présente essentiellement sur le long terme. Avec ceci vient s'ajouter les difficultés économiques actuelles qui font que la tendance politique est de favoriser les gains à court terme.

Cette étude est présentée alors qu'une Pakistanaise de 14 ans, connue pour son combat contre les talibans et pour le droit des femmes à l'éducation, a survécu miraculeusement mardi à une tentative d'assassinat perpétrée par les talibans à la sortie de son école dans le nord-ouest du pays.

Pour la première édition de la Journée internationale des filles, approuvée par les Nations Unies l'année dernière, des mobilisations sont organisées dans 70 pays. A Paris sur le parvis de l'Hôtel de Ville, une fresque géante représentant des jeunes filles contraintes de travailler au lieu d'aller à l'école sera peinte.

Thousands march in Mali's Bamako

2012-10-12/SAPA

Bamako - Several thousand people marched in Mali's capital Bamako on Thursday to call for armed intervention by a West African regional force to help wrest back the vast north of the country from armed Islamist groups.

The demonstrators carried banners and placards supporting the Malian army, Prime Minister Cheick Modibo Diarra and the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), which is preparing to send troops if it gets the backing of the United Nations and Western countries.

The rally in the city centre came as France and its United Nations partners pressed Ecowas and the African Union to come up within 30 days with proposals to reconquer Mali's north, an area the size of Texas or France.

Additionally, according to European Union sources and a document obtained by AFP on Thursday, the EU is working on plans to help Mali's army, including the dispatch of 150 trainers.

"We have an ungoverned space under the control of terrorists, with narco-trafficking and smuggling of all kinds," an EU official said. "A credible threat of force - that is what is lacking."

At the Bamako rally, protesters urged Captain Amadou Haya Sanogo and other troops to the front lines. Sanogo led the 22 March coup that toppled president Amadou Toumani Toure and caused

chaos, opening the way for the Islamists, including al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (Aqim), who are applying hardline Islamic sharia law in northern cities under their control.

Sanogo ceded power in April, but remains influential in Bamako, where his men are accused of many human rights abuses.

"The place of the soldiers is at the front, all the military must go there," one demonstrator said.

Another said, "I back the Malian army, the arrival of Ecowas troops, I want intervention".

Danger

Many marchers emphasised the secular nature of the sub-Saharan country, criticising Islamists for their radical stance and for punishments they have meted out to civilians, such as death by stoning for an unwed couple and amputations for theft.

Other slogans and banners targeted Tuareg rebels of the separatist National Movement for the Liberation of the Azawad (MNLA), which launched an offensive in the north in January.

At first allied to the Islamists, the MNLA was swiftly overpowered and sidelined by them.

Some banners said there should be "No independence, no self-determination" for the Tuaregs, after the MNLA initially proclaimed independence in northern Mali before the Islamists took over. Demonstrators stressed the unity of the country.

"If nothing is done in coming days, the existence of our country will be in danger," said a statement by march organisers.

"To fail to help Mali will be a serious error on the part of the African and international community in the face of history ... a crime of non-assistance to a people in danger," the text added.

A draft resolution proposed by France aims to bring about "detailed recommendations" and an "operational concept" ahead of any military operation in a sensitive part of Africa, amid fears that Mali could become a base for Aqim and traffickers of various kinds.

French President Francois Hollande said on Thursday that diplomatic solutions had come up short, a day after UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon urged for dialogue.

Great struggle

"Dialogue with whom? With Aqim? Can you imagine there ever being any conversations that would be useful?" Hollande said in televised comments.

As France calls for military intervention to return the north to government control, EU nations are considering proposals that include sending scores of military trainers to whip the Malian military into offensive mode.

Bamako has officially called on the United Nations to hand down a mandate for an international

force in Mali.

Canada's Foreign Minister John Baird meanwhile told reporters in Paris that he was worried Mali could go the way of Afghanistan.

"Terrorism is the great struggle of our generation," Baird said after meeting his French counterpart Laurent Fabius.

"We must not allow the same problems that the world allowed to happen in Afghanistan to show their face in the Saharan region and Mali," he said.

– SAPA

Tunisie : le double langage de Ghannouchi

Par Thibaut Cavaillès/le Figaro/ le 12/10/2012

Le chef d'Ennahda encourage les salafistes au détriment des laïcs.

Les interviews qu'il donnera aux médias étrangers ne pourront plus désormais être les mêmes. Rached Ghannouchi, leader du parti majoritaire au pouvoir en Tunisie, Ennahda, se voulait à chaque fois rassurant sur l'islam prôné par son mouvement. Mais hier et mardi, deux vidéos vraisemblablement filmées par des téléphones portables ont fait tomber les masques, révélant ce que beaucoup savaient ou craignaient déjà. Ainsi, celui que l'on appelle ici le «Cheikh» n'y cache pas ses aspirations à voir une Tunisie islamisée. «Nous sommes passés en un an de sous-terre au pouvoir, dit-il à l'un de ses interlocuteurs dans la première des deux vidéos. Nous devons compléter ce capital en envahissant le pays avec des associations, des écoles (coraniques, NDLR). Partout! Il faut que les gens connaissent mieux leur religion.»

Sur l'image, deux interlocuteurs, mais le visage d'un seul apparaît. Une longue barbe, on devine qu'il s'agit d'un salafiste, ce que confirme un dirigeant d'Ennahda. «Maintenant on n'a pas une mosquée, on a le ministère des Affaires religieuses! poursuit Ghannouchi. On n'a pas une boutique, on a l'État! Donc, il faut attendre, ça n'est qu'une question de temps. Aujourd'hui vous, les frères salafistes, vous avez le contrôle des mosquées. Celui qui veut créer une radio, une télé, une école (coranique) qu'il le fasse! Mais pourquoi êtes-vous pressés? Il faut être patient.»

Sur la seconde des captations, c'est une conversation téléphonique avec le cheikh Béchir Ben Hassen, leader salafiste, qui est enregistrée et dans laquelle Rached Ghannouchi se veut rassurant sur l'instauration future de la charia en Tunisie.

Contacté par Le Figaro, Abdelhamid Jelassi, numéro 2 d'Ennahda, confirme, évoquant la première des vidéos, qu'une «rencontre a eu lieu, en mars ou avril, avec la jeunesse salafiste. C'était pour discuter de la place de la charia au sein de la Constitution. Le but était de convaincre les jeunes salafistes d'intégrer la société civile. En renonçant à l'extrémisme et à la violence.» Mais Jelassi dénonce par ailleurs une vidéo trafiquée.

Manipulation

C'est vrai que la voix et l'image ne sont pas synchronisées et que des coupes réduisent

l'enregistrement à 8'. L'hypothèse d'une vengeance de la part des salafistes? Jelassi la rejette immédiatement. Après l'attaque de l'ambassade américaine à Tunis, le 14 septembre dernier, Rached Ghannouchi avait dû se montrer ferme à l'encontre de ceux qu'il considérait jusque-là comme ses «enfants».

La manipulation semble donc privilégiée au sein du mouvement. Mossab Ben Amar, membre des jeunesses nahdaouis, s'étonnait hier du timing de l'apparition de la première vidéo alors qu'elle est, assure-t-il, en ligne depuis au moins six mois. «Ça n'est pas très surprenant de la voir ressurgir aujourd'hui à deux semaines du 23 octobre (date de la fin prévue de la légitimité de l'Assemblée nationale constituante qui n'aura pas livré la Constitution à temps, NDLR). Ceux qui sont derrière cela sont ceux qui veulent voir l'ANC et le gouvernement dissous, notamment l'Appel de Tunis.»

L'opposition a qualifié mercredi de «très grave» le contenu de la vidéo illustrant «le double discours d'Ennahda». L'ex-premier ministre Béji Caid Essebsi s'est dit ne pas être étonné par une telle vidéo. «On connaissait déjà le fond de la pensée de Rached Ghannouchi.» Pour le parti Ettakatol, démocrate et allié d'Ennahda à la tête du pouvoir, les propos de Ghannouchi sont «dangereux». «C'est un choc», a déclaré son porte-parole, Mohammed Bennour.

UN/AFRICA:

Africa: On World's First International Day of the Girl Child, UN Calls for End to Child Marriage
11 October 2012/UN News Service

The United Nations today marked the first International Day of the Girl Child by calling for an end to child marriage, and stressing education as one of the best strategies for protecting girls against this harmful practice.

"Education for girls is one of the best strategies for protecting girls against child marriage," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his message for the Day. "When they are able to stay in school and avoid being married early, girls can build a foundation for a better life for themselves and their families."

"Let us do our part to let girls be girls, not brides," he stated, urging governments, community and religious leaders, civil society, the private sector, and families - especially men and boys - to promote the rights of girls.

The International Day of the Girl Child was designated as 11 October by a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2011, to recognize girls' rights and highlight the unique challenges girls face worldwide. The theme of this year's observance is 'Ending Child Marriage.'

Approximately 70 million young women today were married before age 18, according to the UN, which notes that child marriage denies a girl her childhood, disrupts her education, limits her opportunities, increases her risk of being a victim of violence and abuse, and jeopardizes her health.

Girls with low levels of schooling are more likely to be married early, and child marriage has been

shown to almost always end a girl's education, the world body adds. Conversely, girls with secondary schooling are up to six times less likely to marry as children, making education one of the most effective ways of combating child marriage.

Numerous events are taking place around the globe on the theme of the Day, including a parliamentary debate in Malawi on child marriage and special debates on television and radio in South Sudan. In Uganda, SMS technology is being used by young people to discuss child marriage.

Among the events taking place at UN Headquarters in New York is a high-level panel discussion, featuring Archbishop Desmond Tutu and representatives from the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). In addition, UNFPA will be launching a new report on child marriage and a photo exhibition entitled "Too Young to Wed" will open this evening at UN Headquarters.

UNICEF says that experiences in a number of countries show how combining legal measures with support to communities, providing viable alternatives - especially schooling - and enabling communities to discuss and reach the explicit, collective decision to end child marriage, yields positive results, the agency noted in a news release.

"Through global commitments, civil society movements, legislation and individual initiatives girls will flourish in a safe and productive environment," said Anju Malhotra, of the Gender and Rights Section in UNICEF. "We must accelerate progress and dedicate resources for girls to claim their rights and realize their full potential."

Globally, around one in three young women aged 20-24 years were first married before they reached age 18, according to UNICEF. One third of them entered into marriage before they turned 15.

Child marriage, the agency notes, often results in early and unwanted pregnancies, posing life-threatening risks for girls. In developing countries, 90 per cent of births to adolescents aged 15-19 are to married girls, and pregnancy-related complications are the leading cause of death for girls in this age group.

Building on its ongoing work to promote adolescent sexual and reproductive health, UNFPA has announced that it will invest an additional \$20 million over the next five years to reach the most marginalized adolescent girls in 12 countries with high rates of child marriage. The countries to be focused on include Guatemala, India, Niger and Zambia.

"Investing in young girls is a smart investment, and UNFPA is committed to supporting vulnerable girls to expand their life choices, protect their rights, and help them contribute to their own as well as their communities' development," said the population agency's Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin.

A group of independent UN human rights experts issued a joint statement to mark the Day, in which they state that child marriage is a violation of all the rights of the child, and forces children, particularly girls, to assume responsibilities for which they are often physically and psychologically not prepared for.

"Girls who are forced to marry are committed to being in slavery-like marriages for the rest of their lives. Girls who are victims of servile marriages experience domestic servitude, sexual slavery and suffer from violations to their right to health, education, non-discrimination and freedom from physical, psychological and sexual violence," they said.

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Fatou Bensouda, used the occasion of the Day to call for an end to the suffering of girls in armed conflicts all over the world. "Girls are among the most vulnerable members of society: they should not be made to serve as sex slaves and soldiers. They should not be subjected to rape and sexual violence, nor made to witness brutal sexual attacks," she said.

"The women of the future, the young girls of the world, should not be deprived of their fundamental human right to play and learn and enjoy being children," she added.

Also to mark the Day, the UN International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and its partners have launched the Tech Needs Girls Prize to inspire more girls to embrace technology and spark creativity.

UN envoy calls on Ivory Coast to release probe

11102012 / Associated Press

A senior United Nations human rights envoy is calling on Ivory Coast to release the full version of a national probe into last year's post-election violence.

Doudou Diene, the U.N.'s independent expert on human rights in the West African nation, said in an interview with The Associated Press on Thursday that publication of the report completed earlier this year by the National Commission of Inquiry was "a condition of reconciliation."

Ivory Coast headed to the brink of civil war after former President Laurent Gbagbo refused to concede defeat in the November 2010 presidential runoff vote to now-President Alassane Ouattara. The resulting violence, which ended in May 2011, claimed at least 3,000 lives, according to the U.N.

Despite evidence that supporters of both men committed grave crimes during the six-month conflict, only Gbagbo supporters have been charged, sparking allegations of victor's justice.

Gbagbo was transferred late last year to the International Criminal Court in The Hague, where he awaits trial on charges of crimes against humanity, and in Ivory Coast, more than 100 Gbagbo loyalists have been detained, accused of post-election crimes.

Human rights groups including New York-based Human Rights Watch have accused Ouattara's administration of biased justice. In response to that criticism, government officials had said they were waiting on the report from the National Commission of Inquiry before launching further judicial proceedings.

The report was handed over to Ouattara in August, but a summary version that was made public contained little new information and no names of suspected perpetrators.

In the interview Thursday, Diene, who is wrapping up a 19-day mission focused on impunity for gross human rights violations, said the commission's work would be of little consequence if its complete findings weren't made public.

"For that report to have an impact, it has to be publicized. It has to be part of the national debate of reconciliation, of truth and reconciliation," he said. "The Ivorian population has to know what happened, and to know it from a commission established by the state."

Justice Ministry officials were not available for comment Thursday. But in an interview when the report was released, Human Rights Minister Gnenema Coulibaly expressed reservations about making the full version of the report public, citing concerns about witness protection.

"It will not be totally made public," he said at the time. "We must take into account the security of the people that intervened as witnesses. It won't be a good thing for these persons to be exposed like this."

Matt Wells, West Africa researcher for Human Rights Watch, said Thursday that the protection of witnesses who testified before the commission was "paramount," but added that this could be "achieved through the specific redaction of names and identifying information."

"It does not require a public report devoid of all detail about particular events, many of which still divide Ivorians," Wells said. "The Independent Expert is absolutely right that the release of a more comprehensive report would contribute significantly toward victims' right to truth and justice."

Ivory Coast's military tribunal launched the first case stemming from the post-election violence last week, trying five men _ including Gen. Bruno Dogbo Ble, the feared former head of Gbagbo's Republican Guard _ with the kidnapping and murder of a colonel at the height of the violence in March 2011. Cases brought by the civilian prosecutor have yet to begin.

Diene criticized the slow pace of that process, calling for speedy trials of the post-election violence suspects, which include Gbagbo's wife and son and former high-level officials.

"The delay to prosecute them, to judge them, is not normal," Diene said.

US/AFRICA:

U.S. may step in to help in Mali

By The Washington Post/Published: Thursday, October 11, 2012

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is contemplating broad military, political and humanitarian intervention to stop a slide toward chaos and Islamic extremism in Mali, the top State Department diplomat for Africa said on Thursday.

The international but largely U.S.-funded effort to expunge al-Qaida-linked militants and restore

political order in Somalia could present a model for Mali, Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Johnnie Carson said.

Since 2007, the United States has spent more than \$550 million to help train and supply an African proxy force of about 18,000 soldiers in Somalia, which has brought a measure of stability to the war-torn country for the first time in two decades.

Although the United States has not committed to replicating that approach in Mali, Carson and others are holding up the routing of the al-Shabab militia and conducting of elections in Somalia as a template for actions elsewhere.

“It’s a model that should be reviewed and looked at as an element for what might be effective in that part of the world,” Carson said in an interview, “but it’s not there yet.”

The Somalia comparison offers the clearest view yet of U.S. thinking about the growing terrorism threat from Mali, a landlocked West African country the size of Texas that has imploded politically since a military coup in March.

As in Somalia, the threat to the United States and other countries from Mali is wrapped in a larger problem of lawlessness, poverty, tribal friction and weak governance.

Somalia adopted a provisional constitution in August, and a new federal government was formed after years of chaos that had fueled terrorism, piracy and famine. Security has slowly improved under the proxy force, which is led by the African Union but bankrolled and trained by the United States, European Union and United Nations.

Carson said the internationally backed plan for Somalia’s political reconstruction was working because the country’s neighbors, the United States, E.U. and United Nations had subscribed to a common set of goals.

He cautioned that a regional and international consensus would be required..

Veteran US diplomat takes charge in Libya

By AFP/Posted Friday, October 12 2012

A month after the killing of US ambassador Chris Stevens, Washington said Thursday it has brought a veteran diplomat out of retirement to head up its Libya team vowing to help build the new democracy.

Arabic speaker Laurence Pope, who left the Foreign Service in 2000, arrived Wednesday in Tripoli to join staff there still shocked by the loss of Stevens, who was killed in the September 11 militant attack on the US consulate in Benghazi.

Stevens, killed along with three other diplomatic staff when armed men invaded and torched the Benghazi building, was the first US diplomat to be killed on active duty since 1979.

Pope will have a tricky job, taking over at a time when staffing at the Tripoli embassy has been

reduced for security reasons, and the US administration has yet to decide whether to reopen a consulate in Benghazi.

His every move is likely to face scrutiny at home too, with Republicans having seized on the attack to slam US President Barack Obama's administration, accusing it of huge security failures.

Two security officers told a heated House of Representatives hearing on Wednesday that the consulate was a sitting target with weak security as requests for extra staffing were denied despite a rising Al-Qaeda threat.

Less than four weeks from the November 6 presidential elections, Libya and the administration's response to the upheavals caused by the Arab Spring wave of pro-democracy movements have become fodder in the bitter White House race.

But despite last month's brutal attack, the United States has vowed to stay the course in Libya as it seeks to build a new government following the ousting of longtime autocratic leader Moamer Kadhafi last year.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had asked Pope to come out of retirement to take up the post as charge d'affaires in Libya pending a decision on who to nominate as the next ambassador, officials said.

"As you can imagine, we wanted to have somebody with significant experience in the region, a very seasoned diplomat, at this complex time and as we continue to work with the Libyans," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland told journalists.

She said Pope had been given a warm welcome by the Libyan government, which appreciated "his seniority and deep background" knowledge.

In an earlier statement, Nuland said the appointment "emphasizes the commitment of the United States to the relationship between our two countries and to the people of Libya as they move forward in their transition to a democratic government."

"We will continue to assist as Libya builds democratic institutions and broad respect for the rule of law -- the goals that ambassador Stevens worked hard to achieve," she added.

She said that it was up to the White House whether to nominate a new ambassador, but suggested that Pope's initial appointment could be for up to a year.

His role as the top American diplomat in Libya will be "conducting relations with the government of Libya, reaching out to civil society," as well as being "responsible for ensuring that our various programs with the government of Libya are operating," Nuland told reporters.

Pope retired from the Foreign Service in 2000 after 31 years, during which he notably served as ambassador to Chad from 1993-1996.

He was also director for Northern Gulf Affairs from 1987-1990, associate director for counterterrorism 1991-1993 and political adviser to the head of US Central Command from 1997 to

2000.

He was also nominated as ambassador to Kuwait by then president Bill Clinton in 2000, but his appointment was never confirmed by Congress, and he retired shortly afterward.

"Pope looks forward to working with the Libyan government and the Libyan people during this historic and challenging time, as we build strong economic, social, political and educational bridges between our two people," Nuland added in her statement.

Under Secretary of State Patrick Kennedy told reporters late Wednesday: "We're reassessing whether or not and when we could return to Benghazi. We still regard it as a very, very critical location in our overall engagement with the government of Libya."

CANADA/AFRICA:

Stephen Harper in Senegal as Canada boosts food aid

Thursday October 11, 2012 / Tonda MacCharles Ottawa Bureau/thestar.com

DAKAR, SENEGAL—Prime Minister Stephen Harper touts the Libyan mission — authorized by the United Nations and led by NATO — as a success.

But UN officials in West Africa acknowledged Thursday it has had a significant and worrying ripple effect.

Libyan fighters are the source of well-armed militants to a conflict in Mali that threatens now to “spill over” throughout the region.

Three years after the release of two Canadian diplomats who were kidnapped in nearby Niger, the security situation in West Africa — in particular the Sahel region, a seven-country swath of arid land between the Mediterranean and sub-Saharan Africa — has deteriorated.

Reporters were given a glimpse of a high-level briefing at the UN’s regional headquarters, where the prime minister heard that Mali was destabilized by returning Libyan fighters, with a majority of weapons coming from the Libyan conflict.

Mali was site of a military coup last March with the north now controlled by radical Islamist factions. The UN and other international organizations are trying to broker a deal to return the rule of law to the region.

Drought in the Sahel, last year’s crop failures, high food prices, widespread malnutrition, and historically porous borders that make it impossible to control territory are compounding the danger, the UN says.

“This is a serious challenge, a serious threat to security for Mali, but it goes beyond Mali, because indeed it’s a serious threat to security in West Africa with serious risks of spillover over the region,”

said Said Djinnit, special representative and head of the UN's office in West Africa.

Al Qaeda-linked terrorist factions are establishing a growing base, financed by lucrative kidnappings and criminal trafficking in everything from guns, and drugs to human smuggling, said Pierre LaPaque, of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

"Terrorist activity in the Sahel is largely financed by criminal activity, and we can't separate terrorism from crime in this region," he said.

Addressing basic hunger and nutrition needs — "food security" for the region — is a key focus of the international community and is part of broader efforts to bring political stability and stem the spread of radical Islamist influence.

Harper used the meeting to announce that Canada will boost its food aid for vulnerable women and children in Senegal hit hard by the drought that has affected people in the north.

Ottawa will direct \$20 million over three years to a food security and nutrition program run in conjunction with Senegal, the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

It comes on top of the Conservative government's \$57.5 million in humanitarian aid for Sahel drought victims.

Harper said in a release the \$20 million money will provide "short-term food assistance to vulnerable households, such as nutritional supplements to pregnant women and women who have just given birth, and to young children."

The government says in the long term, the project will provide access to better seeds such as rice, maize, sesame and vegetables, and "guidance to help break the food insecurity cycle."

It is not new money, but part of CIDA's \$70 million budget in Senegal- which comprises most of the \$100 million Canada spends in this country.

"I know I speak for all Canadians when I tell you, we won't let you down," Harper said at the UN meeting.

"I know that the challenges we're talking about today go well beyond the food shortages, but for many this is the most critical challenge." The prime minister then basked in some rare praise from the UN.

"Canada has been a pioneer and an exemplary donor," said Thomas Yanga, regional director for the WFP. He said Ottawa's pledges of "substantial, flexible and multi-year contributions" are critical to mounting effective programs to tackle the "root causes" of poverty, malnutrition, and disease.

The G8 Summit Harper hosted in Toronto in 2010 already identified the emerging issue of transnational organized crime in West Africa, but what Harper heard here may have reassured the prime minister that the UN is aware its own approach has to change.

After the meeting went into a closed-door session, the UN officials were candid, fingering the UN's own bureaucratic "silo" approach, according to Canadian officials.

A senior government official on background said the UN officials said the international organization has typically looked at needs in West Africa on "a country by country basis, versus an approach to the Sahel region as a whole," and has been challenged because its various wings — whether aid, development or military — have not always worked together.

They told the Canadians the international organization is now adopting a more comprehensive, integrated approach, said the Canadian official.

The UN is front and centre in efforts to stabilize the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well, where Harper heads Friday to attend the biennial meeting of the world's leaders of francophone countries.

Harper also announced Wednesday Canada will inject \$4.9 million over five years into a vocational training program that, in part, supports training in 12 schools.

Harper promises aid for Africa

by The Canadian Press /Oct 11, 2012

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, whose government's approach to aid for Africa has been criticized in some quarters, reassured famine-stricken residents of Africa on Thursday that Canada will not abandon them.

On the first full day of his trip to Africa, Harper committed \$20 million in Canadian aid money to help people in the Sahel belt, a swath of land that stretches across the northern part of Africa and takes in several countries.

The \$20 million covers a period of three years and is aimed at improving food distribution and farmland rehabilitation.

"Across the Sahel region of Africa, there are many problems, including millions of men, women and children who are suffering because they do not have enough to eat," Harper said as he met with UN officials in the Senegalese capital of Dakar.

"I know I speak for all Canadians when I tell you we will not abandon you. The challenges we're talking about today go well beyond the food shortage, but obviously for many people this is the most critical challenge."

The Harper government has been criticized by aid groups for cutting the funding of the Canadian International Development Agency.

International Co-operation Minister Julian Fantino, who accompanied Harper on Thursday, said last month the agency's budget had not been cut, even though it shrunk by several hundred millions of dollars in last April's federal budget.

A spokeswoman for Fantino said at the time that CIDA's budget had actually been reduced but that the minister's no-cut remark referred to "humanitarian assistance."

CIDA spends about \$70 million a year in Senegal, one of seven African countries targeted by Canada.

"Even in a good year, more than 230,000 children in the Sahel die every year from malnutrition or illness," said Noel Tsekouras, who works for a UN humanitarian aid group.

Thomas Yanga of the World Food Programme said more than 18 million people are affected by hunger in the Sahel region this year.

The group CARE says floods in Niger; a conflict in Mali that has forced several hundred thousands of people to move to Niger; a cholera outbreak in Niger; and a locust outbreak in different countries are just some of the obstacles people face in Africa.

Harper, who is on his third trip to Africa since becoming prime minister, will travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo on Friday for the summit of la Francophonie on the weekend.

Earlier on Thursday, the prime minister visited a vocational training centre and announced Canada will contribute \$5 million between 2012 and 2017 to improve employment opportunities for young people in Senegal.

Harper then took part in a roundtable with business officials before meeting Senegalese President Macky Sall.

Harper will be joined at la Francophonie in Kinshasa by Quebec Premier Pauline Marois and New Brunswick Premier David Alward.

Harper and the newly elected Marois are scheduled to have a private meeting on Saturday morning before the summit officially kicks off.

The summit ends Sunday and Harper will return to Ottawa on Monday.

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA:

EU/AFRICA:

Europe crisis to slow, not derail, Africa growth: IMF

By Lesley Wroughton/Reuters/Fri Oct 12, 2012

TOKYO

(Reuters) - Europe's debt crisis and the related cooling in China is weighing on Africa, but even a sharp worsening of the crisis would be unlikely to choke off the region's growth, a top International Monetary Fund official said on Friday.

Most countries in Africa have largely escaped major harm, with the exception of South Africa, which has financial and trade ties with ailing euro zone markets.

"We think the crisis in Europe has had an adverse impact on sub-Saharan Africa, but not, to date, on a scale that would derail growth in the region," IMF Director for Africa Antoinette Sayeh told Reuters.

"Of course, a severe intensification of the euro zone crisis could have a sizeable adverse impact on the global economy, including on commodity prices, with pass-through of these developments to African economies."

"That said, we think it is likely that such a shock would slow, but not derail, growth in sub-Saharan Africa," she said.

An IMF report on Friday projected Africa would grow 5 percent this year and next. The region is home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies, many of them, such as Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Ghana, buoyed by new oil and gas finds.

The IMF expects Mozambique to grow 8.4 percent next year, the Democratic Republic of Congo 8.2 percent, Ghana 7.8 percent and the Ivory Coast 7.0 percent.

"Commodity prices make a big difference to the region," Sayeh said. "Notwithstanding what's going on in Europe, commodity prices have been kept at a reasonably robust level because of strong demand from emerging economies, notably from China. Our best guess is that sub-Saharan Africa will maintain the 5 percent growth recorded in 2010-11 through 2012-13."

However, if China's economy slows more that could prompt a fall in commodity prices and trade with Africa, hurting growth.

The IMF warned this week of risks to emerging Asia if the euro zone crisis escalates and the United States does not avoid its "fiscal cliff." Beijing has repeatedly assured investors that China's economy is on track to meet the official growth target of 7.5 percent for 2012.

"By and large, the IMF view is that China's slowdown represents a soft rather than a hard landing and, as a result, is unlikely to have a significant impact on commodity prices," Sayeh said. "Of course high growth rates in China are welcome, but we don't see that Chinese growth rates are decelerating so sharply that will have a significant impact on growth in Africa".

South Africa, the region's largest economy but one of its worst performers, is hurting the most from the euro zone crisis. Earlier this week, the IMF cut its growth forecast for South Africa to about 2.6 percent for 2012 and 3 percent next year.

NATURAL RESOURCE BOOM

Elsewhere in the region, however, strong growth rates are coming from higher revenues from natural resources, more domestic demand and a decade of better economic policies.

"It seems like almost every other day another country in the region discovers new natural resource stocks," Sayeh said. "This provides a great opportunity for countries to accelerate the development process, but only if the exploitation of the resources, and the associated budgetary revenues, are managed wisely."

Part of the challenge for these countries, said Sayeh, is to manage the big swings in commodity prices, including saving profits when prices are high.

"The important thing is to really look at the opportunity given by natural resources to leverage country growth performance," Sayeh said. "To do that requires keeping in mind the high volatility of commodity prices -- and, by extension, the volatility of resource revenues accruing to the budget."

A recent surge in global food prices has prompted concerns that the world may be headed for a repeat of the 2008 food price crisis, which triggered unrest in parts of Africa and Asia and an increase in trade protectionism.

Sayeh said while some food is more costly, the overall level of world food prices is nowhere near 2008 record levels.

"It's a bit of a mixture, but does not appear to be translating into significant price increases across sub-Saharan Africa as a whole," she said. "Right now commodity prices are a significant risk for the region ... but we don't see the calamity that looked possible a few years back."

(Reporting By Lesley Wroughton; Editing by Tim Ahmann)

Islamist Groups in Mali Targeted as Hollande Pushes Intervention

By Pauline Bax, Rose Skelton and Flavia Krause-Jackson/bloomberg.com/ Oct 12, 2012

French President Francois Hollande will use his first official trip to Africa to bolster his drive for military action against Islamist groups in northern Mali that are threatening to expand throughout the region.

The Mali crisis will dominate Hollande's talks today in Dakar with President Macky Sall of Senegal, a neighboring secular nation with a majority Muslim population, according to French officials. Tomorrow he's attending a summit of French-speaking African nations in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

France has been an outspoken supporter of the use of force against Islamist rebels controlling the arid north of its former colony and drafted a United Nations Security Council resolution that calls for a detailed military plan for intervention within 30 days. The Economic Community for West African States has called for UN backing for a regional military contingent. Ivory Coast and Senegal have pledged to contribute troops.

“The objective is to wipe out terrorism,” Hollande said during a joint press conference with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Oct. 9 in Paris.

Islamist groups, some linked to al-Qaeda, seized control of northern Mali and the historic city of Timbuktu after brushing aside Touareg insurgents who had declared secession after a March coup against President Amadou Toumani Toure in Bamako, the capital. The Islamists armed themselves with weapons taken from Libya following the overthrow of leader Muammar Qaddafi.

‘Jihadist Elements’

“There is a wide, general recognition that, despite all the risks and problems, force may be the only way to tackle the most hardline jihadist elements,” Paul Melly, associate fellow of the Africa program at London-based Chatham House, said in a phone interview. “France hopes that the threat of force will persuade large sections of the rebels to negotiate.”

The Islamist groups are using drug money and intimidation to force local residents to adhere to their strict interpretation of Islam, the UN assistant secretary-general for human rights, Ivan Simonovic, told reporters on Oct. 10 in New York. Mali has become a transit route for drug traffickers from Latin America to Europe, according to the UN.

“They have tremendous resources to buy loyalty because they are now having kickbacks from narco-traffickers in the region,” Simonovic said. The Islamist groups are paying families \$600 for their children to enlist as fighters and \$400 a month after that in a country where half the population lives on less than \$1.25 a day, he said.

Islamic Law

In a bid to impose Sharia law, fighters have carried out floggings, amputations and public executions, Corinne Dufka, senior Africa researcher at New York-based Human Rights Watch, said in a phone interview.

Northern Mali is controlled by at least three groups of Islamists, including Ansar ud-Din and al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, which is holding six French hostages.

Neighboring Senegal, Niger, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast wants to oust Islamist groups before they take root and use Mali as a hub to push their influence across borders, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker said in a phone interview.

In Nigeria, sub-Saharan Africa’s second-biggest economy, the Islamist Boko Haram group has carried out a wave of gun and bomb attacks in the north and the capital, Abuja, in the past three years in its campaign to establish Sharia law.

Refugee Flow

About a third of the 1.5 million people in northern Mali have fled their homes. The UN says there are 100,000 refugees in Mauritania, 100,000 in Burkina Faso, 30,000 in Algeria and about 40,000 in Niger. Another 230,000 are estimated to be internally displaced.

“The stakes are very high,” Dufka said. “The regional nature of the problem -- both in terms of the foreign element of the Islamists and the number of countries the crisis touches -- necessitates a carefully crafted plan which takes into account not only the security and rights of Malians, but also the governance issues which gave rise to the crisis.”

The crisis has had a negative impact on the economy of other West African countries. In June, the Central Bank of West African States lowered its key lending rates as the conflict in Mali cut an economic growth forecast for this year to 5.3 percent from 6.4 percent.

The \$10.6 billion-economy in Mali, Africa’s biggest cotton producer, is expected to contract between 3 and 4 percent this year as a result of the turmoil, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Political Strategy

It’s taken months to formulate a response because leaders in Mali have been vying for positions of influence rather than focussing on a clear political and military strategy, according to the Brussels-based International Crisis Group.

While Mali’s interim administration last month formally requested help from Ecowas, it said it didn’t want combat troops in Bamako.

“Confusion reigns,” ICG said in a report Sept. 24 that urged the UN to take the lead in brokering a solution.

Ecowas will need combat aircraft to be effective, which would require U.S. and French support, according to a UN Security Council official speaking on condition of anonymity. So far, France is the only western nation that has pledged logistical and technical assistance.

Western Support

“Ecowas has limited financial and technical resources, and the backing of the United Nations and western countries is indispensable,” Jean-Baptiste Bouzard, a political analyst with Bath, U.K.-based risk-advisory firm, Maplecroft, said in an e- mailed response to questions. “The U.S. army could use aerial bases in neighboring countries to launch drone attacks” on Islamist hideouts in Mali, he said.

Without immediately trying to reconquer the north, targeted military action may persuade the rebels to negotiate, according to the Security Council official.

During the Oct. 12-14 summit of French-speaking nations in Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Hollande will stress the need for a shared commitment to human rights, democracy and economic development, according to French officials. He will also hold discussions on the crisis in Mali, they said.

“Cohesive and concerted action by the international community will be crucial to overcoming the crisis and limiting the regional contamination,” Roddy Barclay, an analyst at London-based Control

Risks, said in a phone interview. "The solution will require both political dialogue and reform pledges, and military action to displace the hardliners from strongholds."

Hollande veut proposer à Dakar une «nouvelle page» franco-africaine

12 octobre 2012/liberation.fr

Le discours que le chef de l'Etat doit prononcer dans la capitale sénégalaise ne manquera pas d'être analysé à la lumière de celui de Nicolas Sarkozy en juillet 2007.

François Hollande entend écrire vendredi à Dakar une «nouvelle page» dans les relations tourmentées entre la France et l'Afrique par un discours qui sera reçu, qu'il le veuille ou non, comme une réplique au très controversé «discours de Dakar» de son prédécesseur Nicolas Sarkozy.

«Je viens en Afrique pour tenir le discours de la franchise, de la transparence et du respect», a souligné le président français à la veille de cette première visite en terres africaines depuis son élection en mai. Elle le conduira également samedi au Sommet de la francophonie, à Kinshasa.

Son message, François Hollande devrait le faire passer haut et fort lorsqu'il s'exprimera dans les premières heures de cette mini-tournée devant l'Assemblée nationale à Dakar, après s'être entretenu avec le président Macky Sall dès son arrivée dans la capitale sénégalaise. Cinq ans plus tôt, le 26 juillet 2007, Nicolas Sarkozy qui effectuait lui aussi à Dakar sa visite inaugurale sur le continent avait suscité une intense polémique et blessé la sensibilité de ses hôtes lorsqu'il avait vu dans «l'Homme africain (qui) n'est pas assez entré dans l'histoire», le «drame de l'Afrique».

«Je ne viens pas faire un discours pour effacer un précédent, je viens prononcer un discours pour écrire avec l'Afrique une nouvelle page», a cependant souligné jeudi François Hollande dans une interview accordée depuis l'Elysée à France 24, RFI et TV5 Monde. «Les temps ont changé, la France est maintenant désireuse, à la fois de respecter tous ses interlocuteurs mais aussi de dire la vérité», a-t-il insisté, avec la volonté de refermer la longue parenthèse des errements de la Françafrique. «Cette vérité n'est pas celle de la France» mais «celle des droits fondamentaux, des libertés essentielles et de la démocratie», a-t-il enchaîné.

François Hollande a reconnu aussi les «fautes» du passé, la colonisation ou la traite négrière. Il commémorera le souvenir de ses victimes en visitant la Maison des esclaves sur l'Ile de Gorée, au large de Dakar, aux côtés de sa compagne, Valérie Trierweiler. Quant à son discours de «franchise», il devrait le tenir samedi dans ses entretiens avec le président congolais Joseph Kabila, réélu en novembre 2011 au terme d'élections qui, selon l'expression du président français, «n'ont pas été regardées comme étant complètement satisfaisantes».

Le président du MoDem François Bayrou a estimé qu'un «enjeu» du voyage officiel de François Hollande en Afrique était de retrouver «des relations saines» avec ce continent, ce qui permettra, à ses yeux, d'y avoir une «influence» face notamment à la Chine. Sur BFMTV et RMC, l'ex-candidat à l'Elysée (9,13%) a assuré, à propos de la première tournée africaine du chef de l'Etat : «Il y a deux enjeux. Qu'on retrouve avec l'Afrique des relations saines, équilibrées, pas marquées par les réseaux d'influence, les choses souterraines».

Par ailleurs, «face à ce qu'est en train de faire la Chine - une présence, une installation, avec dans

l'idée le contrôle des ressources, des richesses (...) de l'espace africain - , on voit que la France a une influence à retrouver», selon l'ancien ministre centriste. «Les deux questions sont liées l'une à l'autre», a insisté François Bayrou. «Des relations saines, c'est ce qui permettra d'avoir une influence débarrassée de tout soupçon».

(AFP)

Cellule islamiste : sept suspects mis en examen et écroués

Le Monde.fr avec AFP/ 11.10.2012

Les sept membres présumés de la cellule islamiste démantelée dans la région parisienne, à Cannes et à Strasbourg, ont été mis en examen et placés en détention provisoire, jeudi 11 octobre, selon une source judiciaire. Jérémy Bailly, suspect dans l'attaque d'un magasin casher à Sarcelles le 19 septembre et présenté par les enquêteurs comme le personnage central de la cellule, avait été le premier à être mis en examen. Six d'entre eux ont demandé que le débat contradictoire, entre le parquet et la défense devant le juge des libertés et de la détention (JLD), soit différé. Ce débat différé devra avoir lieu dans les quatre jours.

Le parquet de Paris, qui a ouvert une information judiciaire notamment pour tentative d'assassinat en lien avec l'appartenance à une religion et en relation avec une entreprise terroriste, avait demandé leur placement en détention. Pour le procureur François Molins, il s'agit du "démantèlement d'un groupe terroriste qui est probablement le plus dangereux mis au jour depuis 1996 en France". "Une attaque terroriste dans notre pays a pu être évitée", selon lui. Douze personnes avaient été interpellées samedi dans les milieux islamistes dans le cadre de l'enquête sur l'attentat contre un commerce casher de Sarcelles le 19 septembre. Cinq personnes ont été relâchées. Un dernier homme, Jérémie Louis-Sidney, 33 ans, avait été tué lors de son arrestation à Strasbourg.

De nouvelles informations ont par ailleurs été révélées sur les projets du groupe, et notamment ceux de Jérémie Louis-Sidney. Le procureur de Paris a en effet affirmé lors d'une conférence de presse que plusieurs suspects du groupe projetaient de se rendre en Syrie pour combattre aux côtés des jihadistes. Jérémie Louis-Sidney avait pour sa part l'intention de se rendre au Mali pour le jihad, croit savoir 20minutes, sur la foi du témoignage de la compagne de l'islamiste présumé, libérée jeudi matin sans charges contre elle.

"EFFETS POTENTIELLEMENT MORTELS"

L'enquête progresse également pour comprendre les cibles visées par le groupe. Les enquêteurs ont en effet découvert dans l'appartement de Jérémy Bailly une clef qui les a conduits "mardi soir, vers 18 h 50", à un box de parking, selon le procureur de Paris. Lors d'une perquisition dans ce box, qui a duré jusqu'à mercredi après-midi, les enquêteurs ont trouvé "un fusil automatique à canon et crosse sciés 22 long rifle, un fusil à pompe calibre 12, environ 800 cartouches de calibre 22 long rifle et surtout 3 kg de nitrate de potassium, une bouteille contenant de la cire de bougie, un sac de charbon de bois, 1,5 kg de soufre, deux réveils, cinq mètres de câbles électriques, des piles, une cocotte-minute et cinq ampoules de phare", a détaillé le procureur François Molins. Associés à d'autres substances, ces éléments peuvent servir à fabriquer un engin explosif semblable à ceux utilisés lors des attentats de 1995.

"Tous ces éléments permettent de fabriquer un engin explosif composé d'un mélange initiateur pouvant servir à amorcer une explosion s'il est couplé à un ensemble constitué de piles, fils électriques et ampoules cassées dont le filament touche la poudre puis est chauffé", a expliqué M. Molins. "Il s'agit exactement du type de montage d'engin qui avait été utilisé en 1995 par les activistes du Groupe islamique armé [GIA]", a rappelé le procureur, en référence à la vague d'attentats qui avaient fait dix morts et plus de deux cents blessés dans la capitale. Un tel engin, "au regard de la quantité de nitrate de potassium retrouvée", aurait eu des effets graves et potentiellement mortels, en particulier dans "une enceinte fermée", a souligné M. Molins.

Les modalités de fabrication de tels engins explosifs rudimentaires, qui font des centaines voire des milliers de morts chaque année dans le monde, sont largement répandues sur Internet. Ces engins peuvent se révéler très dangereux, y compris pour les apprentis terroristes, en raison de l'instabilité des substances manipulées. Lors des perquisitions menées dans cette enquête, des testaments et un courrier "faisant tous référence à une mort en martyr", une "liste de structures israélites" et 27 000 euros en espèces ont également été saisis.

En 1995, une vague d'attentats, lancée d'Algérie par l'ancien "émir" du GIA Djamel Zitouni, avait endeuillé Paris, avec des explosions dévastatrices dans des lieux publics et les transports en commun.

"NOUS LES POURCHASSERONS, NOUS LES ÉLIMINERONS"

Le président François Hollande, a promis, jeudi "d'éliminer" les "cellules" qui, en France, "veulent faire de l'islamisme radical une cause de haine et d'agression". "Il y a des cellules – je ne sais pas encore l'importance, des enquêtes sont en cours – qui veulent faire de l'islamisme radical une cause de haine et d'agression. Nous ne les lâcherons pas, nous les pourchasserons, nous les éliminerons", a déclaré M. Hollande sur France24-RFI-TV5 Monde, alors qu'une enquête a été ouverte à Paris après une opération antiterroriste commencée samedi.

"Nous irons jusqu'au bout de nos enquêtes car les Français doivent être protégés. Ma responsabilité, avec le gouvernement, c'est de veiller à tout surveiller, tout remarquer, tout identifier, pour qu'il n'y ait aucune possibilité d'une action terroriste", a-t-il déclaré.

CHINA/AFRICA:

Discovery rebuff disappoints China suitor
October 12 2012/tradingroom.com.au/AAP

MELBOURNE, Oct 12

Two Chinese entities proposing a takeover of minerals explorer Discovery Metals say they are disappointed by Discovery's rejection.

Australian-based Discovery is focused on the exploration and development of the Kalahari copper belt in northwest Botswana in Africa.

The company produces copper at its 100 per cent-owned Boseto copper project.

On Thursday, Discovery said it had met representatives of Cathay Fortune Corporation (CFC) and the China-Africa Development Fund (CAD Fund) to discuss a non-binding proposal by CFC and CAD Fund to acquire all the Discovery shares not held by CFC for \$1.70 per share.

At \$1.70 per share, Discovery Metals is valued at about \$830 million.

CFC is Discovery Metal's largest shareholder, with a stake already of around 13.7 per cent.

Discovery directors rejected the price proposed by CFC and CAD Fund, saying it undervalued the company.

CFC and CAD Fund said on Friday that the Discovery board had indicated that it was not prepared to engage with CFC and the CAD Fund.

"We are extremely disappointed with the response and lack of engagement from Discovery Metal's board of directors," CFC founder Yong Yu said in a statement.

CFC representative Kalidas Madhavpeddi said CFC believed that the proposed offer price fully valued the Boseto copper project and appropriately considered any potential exploration upside.

Discovery said on Thursday that the indicative proposal did not reflect the value of the company's operations and expansion plans, the potential to increase the resources on the company's tenements through further exploration, the strategic value of the company with an operating project and management team in Botswana, and the scarcity value of the company.

But Discovery said it would consider any new proposal on its merits.

Discovery had advised on October 4 that it had received a proposal from CFC and CAD Fund and was evaluating it.

CFC and CAD Fund have proposed to acquire the outstanding shares of Discovery through a joint venture that would be 75 per cent-owned by CFC and 25 per cent by CAD Fund.

CFC is a Shanghai-based private equity firm.

CAD Fund is a fund set up in 2007 to support investment in Africa by Chinese enterprises.

Shares in Discovery Metals were one cent higher at \$1.65 at 1500 AEDT on Friday.

INDIA/AFRICA:

Why Indians Are Getting Poorer

By Margherita Stancati/blogs.wsj.com/ October 12, 2012

When Credit Suisse mapped global wealth last year, most of Asia was mustard green. The biggest difference in the way the map looks this year is that India is now blue.

That's not good news.

It indicates that the average wealth in the country has dropped to below \$5,000 per person, above that being mustard green, below that blue.

Besides India, only a handful of other Asian countries fall under the blue category – the lowest of four – together with most of Africa.

Specifically, individual wealth in India dropped to \$4,250 in the year that ended in June from \$5,300 a year earlier, according to a study the bank released this week.

That's nearly a 20% decrease and much worse than the world-wide average, which saw individual wealth decline 5.2% to \$49,000 per person, the report found.

In India, wealth per adult—measured in terms of financial and non-financial assets like real estate – averaged much lower than in other major emerging markets. An average adult in China has assets worth \$20,452; in Brazil this figure is \$24,600 and in Russia \$12,161, according to Credit Suisse.

Despite the growth of its economy, India was worse hit in percentage terms than debt-strapped Europe, which saw a 13.6% decline in wealth per adult.

But data for India is less bad than it may appear at first. Declining wealth levels are measured in dollars, not in rupees. The main reason India fared badly in global wealth comparisons is that, over the past year, the Indian currency lost around 20% of its value against the U.S. dollar. (See more on the rupee's decline here.)

Within India, though, the report found that wealth inequality remains a major issue. The country's population is disproportionately concentrated at the bottom of the wealth pyramid: 95% of people have less than \$10,000. (World-wide, the figure is 69.3% of the population.)

Yet India is home to many of the world's wealthiest 10%. Although the figure dropped by half-a-million people last year, it's still a sizeable number: 3.6 million people.

Among them are around 1,550 super rich individuals with assets worth \$50 million or more. In India, Mukesh Ambani tops this list with a personal fortune of around \$19 billion.

India's middle class still remains comparatively small – just 3% of the global total – a share the report describes as “stagnant” in recent years. However, Credit Suisse believes this will change in the next five years, when it expects India to add 40 million adults to its middle class, defined as individuals holding wealth between \$10,000 and \$100,000.

Overall, the Asia-Pacific region (excluding India) did a better job than other parts of the world at containing its losses: it overtook Europe to become the richest region in the world.

Looking forward, Credit Suisse expects global economic growth to pick up from its current slowdown and total household wealth to increase by nearly 50% over the next five years.

BRAZIL/AFRICA:

EN BREF, CE 12 Octobre 2012... AGNEWS/DAM,NY, 12/10/2012