

[Les rebelles congolais du M23, qui combattent l'armée de République démocratique du Congo (RDC) dans la riche province minière du Nord-Kivu (est), ont accepté de se retirer de la capitale provinciale Goma, a affirmé mardi l'un de leurs responsables, sans préciser à quelle date. Interrogé par l'AFP sur un accord conclu dans la capitale ougandaise Kampala entre la rébellion et une médiation des pays des Grands Lacs, menée par l'Ouganda, sur un retrait de Goma, le colonel Antoine Manzi a répondu : "C'est vrai". "Ils nous ont demandé de nous retirer de Goma pour commencer les négociations avec le gouvernement," a-t-il poursuivi.]

BURUNDI :

Burundi : Les transferts des fonds des migrants en hausse de plus de 400% entre 2002-2011
Xinhua/Mardi 27 novembre 2012

BUJUMBURA (Xinhua) - Le transfert des fonds par la diaspora burundaise dans leur pays accuse des avancées significatives, selon un rapport du Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement (PNUD) sur les Pays les Moins Avancés (PMA) lancé lundi à Bujumbura par le directeur pays de cette institution.

"En ce qui concerne les transferts de fonds des migrants burundais, ils sont une source importante de devises, puisqu'ils ont été le double de la valeur des Investissements Directs Etrangers entre 2008 et 2012. Parmi les 33 PMA africains, le Burundi est celui dont les transferts de fonds des migrants ont connu une croissance plus forte entre 2002 et 2011, avec une augmentation de plus de 400%, selon les statistiques disponibles", a indiqué le directeur pays du PNUD, Xavier Michon, lors de la présentation officielle dudit rapport.

Cependant, a-t-il souligné, ces transferts correspondent encore à moins de 1% du PIB et à environ 2,3% des exportations du pays.

Ces proportions sont encore largement inférieures aux moyennes des PMA, ce qui pousse le directeur pays du PNUD à interpeller le gouvernement burundais à réduire les coûts de réception des transferts de fonds. "Ceci constitue une interpellation des pouvoirs publics pour réduire davantage les coûts d'envoi et de réception des transferts de fonds sur l'étendue du territoire burundais", a souligné Xavier Michon. Les statistiques disponibles montrent que le Burundi comptait, en 2000, quelque 6. 300 émigrés ayant une formation universitaire, ce qui correspondait à 13% de sa population avec un tel niveau de formation.

C'était un pourcentage inférieur à la moyenne des PMA qui était de 18%, mais qui était tout de même supérieur à la moyennes des pays en voie de développement en dehors des PMA qui était de 10% et à celle des pays développés (4%). Un certain nombre de Burundais hautement qualifiés rentrent au pays avec l'appui du PNUD pour venir enseigner à l'université du Burundi. Pour aider ces membres hautement qualifiés de la diaspora des PMA à aider à construire les bases de compétences et les capacités d'innovation de leurs pays d'origine, la Conférence des Nations Unies pour le Commerce et le Développement (CNUCED) propose quant à elle une création d'un nouveau dispositif international d'appui en faveur des PMA. Il s'agit de l'investissement dans le transfert des connaissances de la diaspora dont l'objectif premier est de permettre aux membres hautement qualifiés de la diaspora de transférer des connaissances spécialisées et de canaliser les investissements vers leurs pays d'origine.

La Croix-Rouge du Burundi face à des défis "pas faciles à gérer"

2012-11-27/ xinhua

La Croix-Rouge du Burundi est actuellement confrontée à trois grands défis qui "ne sont pas faciles à gérer", dont l'accueil des 35.000 rapatriés du camp de Mtabila en Tanzanie, a déclaré lundi le secrétaire général de la Croix-Rouge Anselme Katiyunguruza à l'occasion d'une réunion avec les partenaires.

Un autre défi est l'accueil des réfugiés congolais qui fuient les affrontements entre le M23 et les FARDC et l'épidémie de choléra.

Les 35.000 Burundais doivent être rapatriés tous au plus tard le 31 décembre 2012 alors les réfugiés congolais continuent de demander asile à l'ouest du Burundi dans la province de Cibitoke.

"Trois fronts ne sont pas très faciles à gérer", a affirmé M. Katiyunguruza, ajoutant que la Croix-Rouge voulait informer ses partenaires de ce qu'elle a l'intention de faire et de "l'étendue de nos besoins pour pouvoir faire face à cet état des lieux".

Il a en outre déclaré que la Croix-Rouge envisage de créer une société nationale capable de délivrer des services.

"Nous voulons amener la communauté à prendre ses responsabilités et nous y parviendrons", a-t-il martelé.

RWANDA :

Rwanda: Top UK Researcher Casts Doubt Over UN Report

By James Munyaneza/The New Times/26 November 2012

A recent report by a group of UN experts panel which controversially accused Rwanda and Uganda of backing a rebellion in neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo exhibits "methodological shortcomings", a top British researcher and lecturer has said.

Dr Phil Clark, a lecturer in comparative and international politics at SOAS, University of London, and a specialist on conflict-related issues in central Africa, says the analysis contained in the report should be treated with caution.

He warns the donor community against taking policy decisions on the basis of the group's allegations, which have strongly been refuted by Kigali and Kampala.

"In the case of the June 2012 report, apparent methodological and substantive problems suggest that international donors should have treated the GoE's analysis with much greater caution," Dr Clark says.

His observations, contained in a paper addressed to British decision-makers with regard to the

country's foreign aid, come just days after the British government announced it would be reviewing its development aid to Rwanda based on the GoE findings.

The UK, Rwanda's single largest bilateral donor, will mid next month decide on whether to release or withhold the next tranche of financial support to Rwanda after the initial segment was unfrozen back in September - ahead of the final GoE report, released last week.

US, the Netherlands, Germany and the European Union have also withdrawn or delayed their financial support to Rwanda in the wake of the country's alleged support to the M23 rebels, who last week seized the key eastern city of Goma and threatened to overthrow President Joseph Kabila's government.

"There are substantial methodological and substantive shortcomings in the 2012 Group of Experts (GoE) report, on the basis of which several foreign donors reconsidered their development aid strategies toward Rwanda," adds Dr Clark.

In his paper, Dr Clark argues that "decisions to withhold or withdraw aid to particular states should be based on more comprehensive and systematic evidence than that provided by the United Nations Group of Experts (GoE) for the DRC."

"Most GoE reports in the context of the DRC involve interviews and other forms of information-gathering within confined regions of eastern Congo, with little engagement in neighbouring countries, including Rwanda...This geographical restriction limited the depth of analysis in the report and led to several erroneous claims," he argues.

Dr Clark echoes the government of Rwanda's own rebuttal to the allegations of M23 rebel support, including claims that Rwanda trained rebel fighters at Kanombe military barracks in Kigali City.

"The report states incorrectly that Rwanda trained some M23 fighters at the Kanombe army barracks in the Rwandan capital, Kigali - a key claim in showing the extent of Rwandan involvement in the M23 rebellion - when those barracks comprise only a military hospital and a cemetery.

"It would be impossible for such training to take place in those barracks and even a cursory check of the premises would have convinced the GoE of this," says the British researcher.

He adds, "This error suggests that the GoE conducted insufficient investigations within Rwanda and relied on highly questionable sources, a point that has major implications for the GoE's wider claims regarding Rwandan complicity in rebel activity in Congo".

Furthermore, a key dimension of the June 2012 GoE report is the reliance on testimony by unidentified Congolese military commanders and intelligence officials, whose impartiality on the issues at hand must be seriously questioned, he adds.

"The report provides insufficient information regarding how evidence gathered in the field was tested and how the reliability of certain sources was established".

"Coupled with the geographical narrowness of the GoE's investigations, questions should be raised regarding the robustness of the evidence which underpinned the GoE's conclusions.

According to Dr Clark, "the withholding or withdrawal of aid to Rwanda will do little to address systemic causes of conflict in eastern DRC and may undermine important political, social and economic gains which Rwanda has made since the 1994 Genocide (against the Tutsi)."

As such, the academic advocates for the continuation of UK aid to Rwanda "at the same level as before the GoE findings, alongside the continued use of non-aid measures to address the question of Rwanda's alleged military involvement in the DRC and domestic human rights issues in Rwanda".

One significant problem with the GoE report and much of the international reaction to it, he said, is the insistence that Rwanda is primarily responsible for current instability in eastern Congo.

"This view neglects the role played by Congolese President Joseph Kabila in generating the M23 mutiny. One key motivator for the rebellion was that President Kabila reneged on deals with these same rebels in 2009, before they were integrated into the Congolese army".

President Kabila has undermined the 2009 peace agreement between the DRC, Rwanda and a range of Congolese rebel groups, which greatly improved the security situation in eastern Congo, Clark argues.

"Rwanda played a vital role in this peace process and the subsequent increase in regional security - a positive contribution that warrants greater recognition in current policy discussions."

Not only should there be a closer assessment of the GoE's findings, but the decision by the UK and other donors in 2012 to withhold or withdraw aid to Rwanda will not address systemic political and military causes of violent conflict in eastern DRC.

He said the vast majority of the aid to Rwanda (more than 40 per cent of the national budget) is spent on education, health and poverty alleviation.

"As a landlocked, resource-poor country, Rwanda still relies heavily on foreign assistance. Most observers - even those highly critical of the Rwandan government - agree that Rwanda has recorded extraordinary successes in these domains since the genocide because of its effective use of international aid and its low levels of corruption."

These major socio-economic achievements have been the bedrock of the peace and stability that Rwanda has enjoyed over the last 18 years, he added.

"The danger in using aid to alter Rwanda's perceived military policy in eastern DRC is that ultimately it will be the Rwandan population that suffers from any reduction in social and economic services. Withholding aid will do little to address systemic problems in the DRC and will undermine substantial gains in Rwanda."

He urged the UK government to seek "more robust field methodologies employed by the UN Group of Experts, to ensure a higher quality of empirical analysis".

"The Group should display greater transparency about the nature of its informants and its strategies to ensure impartiality and comprehensiveness in its reporting. More effective GoE analysis would provide more systematic insights into conflict-related issues in the DRC and elsewhere and a more informed basis for international policymaking".

For sustainable peace to be achieved in the Congo, the academic says there is need for what he calls "substantial political and military reform within the DRC".

The M23 rebellion broke out in April this year after former members of the ex-CNDP and PARECO rebel groups accused the government of renegeing on a March 23, 2009 peace deal that had seen them integrated into the army.

Last week, two high-profile regional summits convened in the Ugandan capital of Kampala, demanded the rebels to withdraw from Goma, and the Kinshasa government to "listen, evaluate and resolve the legitimate grievances of M23."

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, current chair of the 12-nation member International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), has hosted at least five extraordinary Heads of State and Government summits in five months, aimed at finding a lasting solution to the recurrent conflicts in eastern DRC.

DRC is home to more than 40 armed groups, including the so-called Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), largely composed of perpetrators of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

There are also dozens of local ethnic based militias, including several Mai-Mai groups, and other insurgents fighting the governments of Uganda and Burundi, most of which are notorious for gross human rights violations.

M23 leaders have reportedly travelled to Kampala in recent days as part of efforts to resolve the crisis. The M23 rebels political leader, Bishop Jean-Marie Runiga Lugerero, met President Kabila on Saturday in the Ugandan capital, but it was not clear what the two men agreed in their first meeting.

Yesterday, reports also indicated that M23 commander Sultani Makenga had travelled to Kampala apparently on the invitation of Uganda's Chief of Defence, Gen. Aronda Nyakairima, who was mandated by the ICGLR to supervise the rebel withdrawal from Goma as well as implementation of other major decisions.

The ICGLR summit asked the rebels to withdraw from "current positions to the ground of tactical importance not less than 20km from Goma town within 2 days (from Saturday)."

The Kampala summit also resolved that a composite force comprising one company of a proposed neutral force, one company of Congolese army (FARDC) and one company of M23 be deployed at Goma airport, and also asked the UN Stabilisation Mission in Congo (Monusco) to "occupy and provide security in the neutral zone between Goma and the new areas occupied by M23".

Congo is home to a US\$1.4 billion-a year UN force, Monusco, which is widely viewed as inefficient and generally indifferent, and has for the last ten years been dogged by allegations of gross violations, including rape and selling arms to rebel groups operating in the region.

RDC CONGO :

Les rebelles du M23 acceptent de quitter Goma

27/11/12/Source: afp.com

Les rebelles congolais du M23, qui combattent l'armée de République démocratique du Congo (RDC) dans la riche province minière du Nord-Kivu (est), ont accepté de se retirer de la capitale provinciale Goma, a affirmé mardi l'un de leurs responsables, sans préciser à quelle date.

Interrogé par l'AFP sur un accord conclu dans la capitale ougandaise Kampala entre la rébellion et une médiation des pays des Grands Lacs, menée par l'Ouganda, sur un retrait de Goma, le colonel Antoine Manzi a répondu : "C'est vrai". "Ils nous ont demandé de nous retirer de Goma pour commencer les négociations avec le gouvernement," a-t-il poursuivi. Un peu avant lui, le ministre ougandais des Affaires étrangères, Sam Kutesa, avait aussi affirmé à l'AFP que les rebelles, d'ex-membres de l'armée de RDC qui se sont mutinés au printemps, avait accepté de quitter la capitale du Nord-Kivu, qu'ils ont prise le 20 novembre.

Lui non plus n'a pas donné d'indication temporelle. Samedi, les pays des Grands Lacs avaient donné 48 heures aux mutins du M23 pour quitter Goma. Malgré l'expiration du délai, les rebelles, qui jusqu'ici exigeaient d'entamer des discussions directes avec le président de RDC Joseph Kabila avant tout retrait, étaient toujours mardi matin dans la capitale du Nord-Kivu. L'accord pour un retrait de Goma serait cependant intervenu avant une incursion, tôt mardi matin, en territoire rwandais, de rebelles hutus rwandais des Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR), venus de RDC où ils sont basés.

Cette incursion, dénoncée par l'armée rwandaise et non confirmée d'autre source à ce stade, aurait donné lieu à des combats avec des soldats rwandais. "A l'heure où nous parlons, certains se sont repliés en RDC," d'autres seraient encore en territoire rwandais, a affirmé à l'AFP le porte-parole de l'armée rwandaise, le général Joseph Nzabamwita. Les commandants des FDLR ont fui dans l'est de la RDC après le génocide des Tutsi en 1994 au Rwanda, auquel ils sont accusés par Kigali d'avoir pris part. Le FDLR continue d'être opposé à l'actuel régime du président rwandais Paul Kagame, qui a mis fin au génocide. Kigali accuse Kinshasa de soutenir le FDLR. La RDC et l'ONU affirment elles que le M23 est soutenu par Kigali.

UGANDA :

Ugandan officials: Congo M23 rebels need more time, assurances before leaving city of Goma

Published November 27, 2012/Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda – Ugandan officials say representatives of a Congolese rebel group that now controls the key eastern Congo city of Goma are holding out for assurances from Central African leaders that their demands will be considered after they quit the provincial capital.

A Monday midnight deadline set by the regional bloc for the rebels to leave Goma passed with the rebels still firmly in charge.

Okello Oryem, Uganda's deputy foreign minister, said Tuesday that the rebels need more time as well as reassurance that their grievances will be taken seriously.

Oryem says M23 representatives, who are in talks with top army officials in Uganda, are asking "many questions" and need "another day or two." Regional leaders have called on Congo to listen to M23's "legitimate grievances."

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa's ANC Looks to Ramaphosa to Rescue Economy

By Mike Cohen and Franz Wild /businessweek.com/ November 26, 2012

Cyril Ramaphosa, a former South African labor union leader turned tycoon, is gaining support to take a top leadership post in the ruling party to help rescue an economy plagued by strikes and credit-rating cuts.

Ramaphosa, 60, received overwhelming backing to replace Kgalema Motlanthe as vice president of the African National Congress from the eastern KwaZulu-Natal province, which has the most delegates at party elections next month. His selection would position him to succeed Jacob Zuma as president. Ramaphosa won't yet say if he'll stand for office at party elections next month, his spokesman Steyn Speed said by phone.

"Cyril Ramaphosa is appealing to business, to the labor movement, to the young people, to everybody," said Celiwe Madlopha, chairwoman of the ANC's Women's League in KwaZulu-Natal. "He has the support. We really want to elevate him to the party leadership."

Investor confidence in Africa's economy has been battered by a series of violent strikes that have shut mines owned by Anglo American Platinum Ltd. (AMS), Lonmin Plc (LMI) and Gold Fields Ltd. (GFI) and spread to the transport and farming industries. The labor action and rising political risk contributed to Standard & Poors and Moody's Investors Services lowering their ratings on South Africa's sovereign debt.

The rand fell to a more than three-year low of 9.0092 per dollar on Nov. 21 and has plunge 8.8 percent this year, the second-worst performer of 16 major currencies tracked by Bloomberg.
Investor Confidence

Ramaphosa, South Africa's second-richest black businessman after Patrice Motsepe, according to the Johannesburg-based Sunday Times, owns a stake in mines operated by Lonmin, the world's third-biggest platinum producer, a coal-mining venture with Glencore International Plc (GLEN), and has the McDonald's Corp. (MCD) franchise in South Africa. He's also the chairman of MTN Group Ltd. (MTN), Africa's biggest mobile-phone company, and Bidvest Group Ltd. (BVT), and sits on the board of SABMiller Plc (SAB) and Standard Bank Group Ltd.

His experience would give investors confidence that the ANC would be capable of turning the economy around, Paul Hansen, who manages 4.5 billion rand (\$508 million) worth of assets as director of retail investing at Stanlib Asset Management, said in Nov. 14 phone interview from Johannesburg.

"It would be very positive internally and offshore," he said. "It's been very unusual for people in

this country to go from business into public life. It's a big advantage to have people in government who understand how business works."

Parliamentary Domination

Africa's oldest political movement controls almost two-thirds of the seats in Parliament, which elects the president, and its overwhelming majority faces no immediate threat. Under current ANC rules, its leader will also be its presidential candidate in national elections to be held in 2014.

What Motlanthe, the country's current deputy president, decides to do at the Dec. 16-20 conference in the central city of Bloemfontein may determine Ramaphosa's fate. While he hasn't said if he will stand against Zuma for the party's presidency, he's made several speeches criticizing how the country is being run and has backing in several provinces.

Ramaphosa won Zuma's appreciation by heading the appeals panel that upheld the party's expulsion of Julius Malema, the former leader of the youth league who backs Motlanthe as ANC leader.

Political Comeback

"If Motlanthe decides to run, the Zuma camp wants Ramaphosa on his ticket," William Gumede, a political analyst at the University of the Witwatersrand and author of "Restless Nation: Making Sense of Troubled Times," said by phone from Johannesburg on Nov. 14. "That could open the way for Ramaphosa to re-enter politics. It's very difficult to say whether he actually wants to do that."

In KwaZulu-Natal, Zuma's home province, Ramaphosa won 841 votes for the ANC deputy leadership post to Motlanthe's 16, Sihle Zikalala, the party's provincial secretary said by phone yesterday. Provincial officials, who will account for 22 percent of the total at the ANC elections, unanimously nominated Zuma as party leader, he said.

The other eight provinces have yet to hold their nomination conferences.

Some top ANC leaders want to avoid a repeat of the divisive leadership struggle that occurred when Zuma ousted Thabo Mbeki in 2007. They're trying to broker a compromise that would allow Zuma to remain party leader while relinquishing the nation's presidency to Motlanthe in 2014, Gumede said.

Top Negotiator

Ramaphosa, who studied law, helped found the National Union of Mineworkers in 1982 and led the biggest-ever strike in South Africa's gold industry five years later. He was the ANC's top negotiator with the white minority government when they reached agreement to end apartheid and hold South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994. He also worked on crafting the nation's constitution following the vote.

After Ramaphosa lost to Mbeki in the race to succeed Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first post-apartheid president, he decided to enter the corporate world in 1996.

Ramaphosa still serves on the ANC's 80-member national executive committee, one of its top decision-making structures. He is also deputy head of the National Planning Commission, a government advisory body headed by former finance minister Trevor Manuel.

Political Ambitions

While Ramaphosa declined nomination to run for the ANC presidency in 2007, he has political ambitions and as a senior ANC leader could help ease tensions in the mining industry, according to Anthony Butler, a politics professor at the University of Cape Town.

“He has experience of the mining sector and understands the limitations mining companies labor under,” Butler, Ramaphosa’s biographer, said in an interview. “He’s highly pragmatic and he’s unlikely to encourage or allow decisions to be taken that would be imprudent or counter-productive.”

Even so, the killing of 34 protestors by police at Lonmin’s Marikana platinum mine northwest of Johannesburg on Aug. 16 following days of illegal and violent strike action may have dented Ramaphosa’s support.

Ramaphosa called the strike “dastardly criminal” in an e-mail a day before shooting, and called for police to take “concomitant action,” the Johannesburg-based Times newspaper reported, citing evidence at a commission of inquiry looking into the killings.

He also drew criticism after City Press newspaper reported in April that he bid as much as 19.5 million rand for a buffalo cow and her calf at a game auction. He later apologized, telling Johannesburg’s SAFM radio station that his actions were a mistake and inappropriate, given the level of poverty in South Africa.

“My view on Cyril Ramaphosa is that over the years since he left active politics to go to business his political star has waned,” Brutus Malada, a politics lecturer at the University of Pretoria, said in a Nov. 14 phone interview. “The recent events around Marikana may have somewhat dented his credibility.”

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British engineer who 'fell in love' with South Africa is hacked to death on his remote farmstead by machete-wielding thieves who only took mobile phones

By Dan Newling/dailymail.co.uk/27 November 2012

Chris Preece's wife was also injured in the attack which happened after robbers poisoned their guard dogs

This farm attack is the latest in a string of similar incidents and has been blamed on social inequality

A British engineer was murdered and his wife brutally beaten at their remote South African farm by robbers who took just £210 cash and a mobile phone.

Chris Preece, 54, who made his home there after ‘falling in love with the country’ was hacked to death in his kitchen by a gang with machetes.

His wife Felicity, 56, was stabbed and hit with a pole, fracturing her skull.

She survived a 12-hour wait for help by treating her own wounds.

The murder, on Saturday evening, is the latest in a spate of violent robberies in South Africa targeting relatively wealthy white farmers.

Mr Preece, originally from Southgate, north London, was attacked at about 7pm as he went to take his seven dogs for a walk at his farm near Ficksburg, on the Lesotho border.

The gang killed him, then attacked his wife.

'Because the gang had cut the telephone wires and there is no mobile phone reception, she couldn't get help,' said friend and neighbour Gavin Hoole.

'It was only the next morning, at around 7am, that anyone realised something was wrong.'

Mr Preece's South African daughter-in-law Jeanne Preece said he had gone to the country in 1995 to work as a geotechnical engineer with diamond firm De Beers.

'He fell in love with South Africa from day one,' she said yesterday.

Last year he was made principal geotechnical engineer for rival mining firm Snowden in Johannesburg.

He would drive 200 miles home to his wife every weekend.

The couple kept horses and were in the process of transforming the farm into a nature reserve with cheetahs and birds of prey.

Jeanne Preece, who is married to their son, said the couple, who have two daughters, were unaware there had been a murder and four robberies on local farms in the past month.

Felicity Preece was yesterday said to be in a 'stable but traumatised state' in hospital.

Mr Preece's death is the latest in an alarming trend of brutal murders on remote farmsteads in post apartheid South Africa.

Since the country's first fully democratic elections in 1994, more than 3,000 white, mainly Afrikaans, farmers have been killed in their homes.

The so-called 'farm attacks' are part of the wave of criminality that has engulfed the country in recent years, something criminologists blame of a number of factors, including inept policing and widening social inequality.

But in the case of 'farm attacks' - which occur far from the crime-ravaged townships - academics also blame a breakdown in the traditional social contract between employer and employee.

Police research shows that the murders are normally carried out by drug-addicted, unemployed black men. Often they have some connection with the targeted farmstead.

Local police said the attack at Mr Preece's farm - called Fleur de Lys - is the fifth such attack, and the second murder, in the district over the past month.

Yesterday Jeanne Preece told the local Volksblad newspaper how Mr Preece had moved to South Africa in 1995 for work, after which he had 'fallen in love' with the country.

He worked as principal geotechnical engineer for mining firm Snowden and was based in the country's commercial capital Johannesburg.

However he spent every weekend on the farm, 200 miles drive away, where he wife Felicity lived.

The couple were passionate about wildlife and welcomed local children to the farm to teach them to ride horses.

It had been the couple's dream to turn the farm, which is set in rolling green hills, into a nature reserve and rehabilitation resort for owls and cheetahs.

He was especially looking forward to seeing all his family over Christmas, Mrs Preece said.

Yesterday a spokesman for the hospital at which Mrs Preece is being treated said she is in a 'stable but traumatized state'.

Local police spokesman Captain Phumelelo Dhlamini said police were alerted to the attack by a worker who discovered the bloody scene as he arrived for work on Sunday morning.

He said the murder weapons were found in the house. Police have not yet arrested anyone in connection with the attack, which locals believe to have been committed by men who crossed the nearby border from Lesotho.

'Five years' warning for South Africa's ailing gold sector

by Allan Seccombe/bdlive.co.za/27 novembre 2012

THE gold industry in South Africa will no longer exist in five years if conditions stay the same, executives at Gold Fields warned on Monday after lowering their production forecast for this year by 200,000oz due to wildcat strikes, a fire and operational problems.

The gold price, hovering at less than R498,000/kg, is the highest it has been, but South African gold producers are losing out on the boom as production ramps up after weeks of strikes, but slowly.

Gold companies are facing soaring costs and stagnant, if not falling, productivity levels.

Gold Fields has just completed a "strategic portfolio review", which recommends a "critical review of declining and/or low-margin assets". The two such assets in South Africa are Beatrix and shafts at the Kloof Driefontein Complex (KDC) near Carletonville.

The company has come under pressure from some shareholders to separate its international assets from those in South Africa.

It was critical that gold miners stepped up productivity or job losses and shaft closures would become a reality, Gold Fields CEO Nick Holland said at a media briefing on Monday.

He said the company was looking for ways to protect jobs. When the gold sector starts two-year wage talks early next year, it will be critical to win union support for increased productivity.

"We are closer to the precipice than we were a few years ago. When we all look over the edge and see what's down there, everyone becomes a lot more focused," Mr Holland said.

"There's a necessity to do things differently. We've just gone through a very tough few months. We've gone through a cycle of continued job losses, a drop in production — the statistics are clear for all to see."

Chamber of Mines CEO Bheki Sibiyi said last week that thousands of miners would be laid off early next year, possibly more than 10,000. Mining companies have been warning that the spate of wildcat strikes at platinum, gold, chrome and iron-ore mines since August would force a downsizing of their workforces.

National Union of Mineworkers general secretary Frans Baleni said there had been no discussions on productivity-linked wages. "We will consider the matter once it is presented to us, then seek mandate from our members," he said on Monday.

Gold Fields chief financial officer Paul Schmidt said South Africa's annual gold production had halved to about 180 tons over the past five years.

"If what has happened in the last five years continues, there will be no (gold) industry in five years' time. We'll not be sustainable, particularly the legacy assets in SA."

The gold industry has a high fixed-cost proponent — about two-thirds of cash outflow — which remains unchanged when production is reduced. "If your production keeps falling, you have a domino effect — as you close one shaft, the fixed overhead has to be absorbed by the remaining shafts," Mr Holland said.

Gold Fields has an area below its workings at its KDC East mine with 10-million ounces of gold.

"We'd have to mine that in a very different way — still with a lot of people, but in a way that takes the man away from the face and relies on technology," he said. "Technology is not there yet, but we're all beavering away at it."

"My appeal is to give the gold industry a break. Carbon taxes we just can't afford ... try to keep the fiscal regime similar to today's."

Gold Fields has dropped its production forecast for this year to 3.3-million ounces, down from the 3.5-million ounces it predicted in the first quarter. It said it had lost 145,000oz due to the strikes.

TANZANIA :

Tanzania: EAC Eyes Soya Products Standardisation

By Pius Rugonzibwa/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/27 November 2012

THE East African Community (EAC) member states are finalising the establishment of standards meant to check the quality and safety of soya products as well as protecting consumers against inferior and sub-standard products.

Already, Tanzania has deliberated on the matter and will present its position during the East African Regional Standards meeting scheduled for Dar es Salaam in January, next month.

Standardization of soya products will not only put standard procedures to be applied before one buys and consumes the products, but will also enable the entire business community to confidently export or import the products within the region.

Speaking at the opening of a consultative meeting that met to discuss the draft yesterday, the Acting Director General of the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Mr Leandri Kinabo, said soya beans products are important protein source that are increasingly preferred worldwide.

"Results from researches have prompted health professionals to request governments to officially offer a stamp of approval for soya products therefore, standards are necessary for controlling quality and safety to protect consumers," he said.

In a speech read on his behalf by the TBS Manager for Process Technology Standards, Eng. Tumaini Mtitu, Mr Kinabo insisted that full deliberation on the draft standards and coming up with scientific-based decisions was important for the harmonization process.

If agreed, the soya standards will not only improve quality of products unlike in the present, but will also facilitate importers and exporters to trade ensuring quality between business partners in the region.

Commenting on the development, the Chairman of the Consultative Committee, Prof. Henry Lasway from the Department of Food Science of the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), said soya products have increasingly produced protein that has helped many people.

He mentioned some of the beneficiaries as HIV-AIDS patients whose health status improve a lot when taking soya products like cereals. "Now, consumption of soya products has spread from only children in the past to the public at large, today. We have equally suffered many economic setbacks for failure to export it due to lack of standardization," he said.

The January meeting will involve a number of stakeholders from the region including SMEs, member of academia, representation from ministries of food and agriculture as well as experts from standards bodies.

Tanzania: Clergy Urges Upholding of Peace, Morals

27 November 2012/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

THE Chairman of the Good News for All Ministry, Bishop Charles Gadi, has said that Tanzania stands a chance of becoming major economic power in East Africa and Africa at large if government leaders and its people invest in morals, ethics and practice God's teachings.

Citing an example of fast growing economies of tiger nations in Asia, he said there was no reason Tanzania -- which is endowed with plenty of natural resources such as minerals, gas, fertile soil, plenty of water and tourism attractions like Mount Kilimanjaro and national parks -- could continue lagging behind while there was every reason to strategize the nation's economic plans for swift development.

Speaking during special prayers for the nation's peace held in Moshi, Kilimanjaro Region, over the weekend, Bishop Gadi said that fast growing economies of countries like China, India, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong did not come over night, rather, it was because such nations invested heavily in moral ethics and adhered to God's teachings which in turn gave them vision and capacitated them in terms of science and technology.

"When you have God at heart, you will always have vision to lead people. Things like corruption, selfishness and other immoral acts will never get chance," he said. He said unless Tanzanians gave God a chance to stay in their hearts, nepotism, corruption, prostitution, selfishness and other immoral acts will continue setting back development agenda of the nation.

Citing an example of Mount Kilimanjaro's melting snow cap, he said lack of ethics to value their environment, people have degraded the environment causing climate change which is currently affecting the highest Mountain in Africa.

"This snow is very important for tourists, if the snow continues melting down, tourism will be affected and affect our economy, so we have to see that the environment around the mountain is well managed," he said.

In another development, Bishop Gadi warned Tanzanians to stay away from few people and leaders who want to divide them through religious lines or political ideologies, saying such people have no good intention for the nation's long cherished peace and unity.

Earlier, Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Leonidas Gama said that although his region was endowed with plenty of natural resources and tourism attractions, such resources faced with a challenge of degradation as people were felling trees, cultivating along water sources, setting fires and charcoal making.

He said that because of the situation, climate in the region has changed in recent days, sometimes reaching 42 centigrade, snow melting on top of Mount Kilimanjaro, drying rivers, prolonged droughts and reduced rains. He said that his region has banned felling of trees, ferrying timbers and logs and it has embarked on a very comprehensive tree planting programme to restore the environment and its biodiversity in the region.

He congratulated Good News for All Ministry for its initiative to pray for the nation and sensitize the general public to manage well the environment, calling on other religious organizations to emulate them.

The prayers are monthly scheduled programmes for Good News for All Ministry which aimed at praying for the nation's peace, its leaders, environment and other economic activities. Earlier this month, similar prayers were held in Katavi Region, attracting more than 2,000 residents of the region, religious groups and their leaders.

Tanzania: Increased Cross Border Trade Boosts Tanzania Aviation

By Leonard Magomba/East African Business Week (Kampala)/26 November 2012

The increase in Cross Border Trade has been termed as an enormous opportunity for the aviation industry to flourish within the region.

According to World Bank's 'Doing Business 2013' report estimated Tanzania to be ranked 122 by 2013 in the world compared to 119 in easiness of Doing Business across borders.

An expert in the aviation industry said that Tanzania, along with the rest of the African continent, are witnessing a significant expansion of the middle class and rising levels of disposable income.

"People are increasingly willing to spend their income on travel in pursuit of leisure or family visits, while trade across borders is also increasing, requiring an ability to travel greater distances to do business," the Fastjet's Chief Commercial Officer Mr. Richard Bodin said.

"These developments offer enormous opportunities for the aviation industry, particularly as the vast majority of African markets are currently under-served, he added while exclusively speaking to East African Business Week in Dar es Salaam last week.

He added, "That's why, we intend to position our airline (Fastjet) as a leading regional airline serving both the domestic and regional movement of passengers within Africa," Bodin said.

The arrival of more international airlines to the Tanzania market will also provide regional distribution for the increasing number of passengers arriving in Africa from intercontinental flights.

This will also be good news in the tourism industry which depends mainly on the arrival of the international tourists.

In the recent years, Tanzania witnessed the increase of flight services being offered by international carriers in the northern part of the country which are the main tourist's circuit.

Among the international carriers that recently inaugurated flight services in the country include Egypt air, Qatar Airways, Emirates and KLM who recently launched directly flight services to/from Kilimanjaro.

This has been translated by an expert in the airline industry as among the measures which forced most of the airlines to come-up with the techniques of so called low-cost airline model to enable them win the market share.

The low-cost airline model seeks to attract large numbers of additional passengers by offering significantly lower fares. The fares need to be low enough to persuade people who did not previously travel by air to do so, and others to travel more often.

KENYA :

Kenya: Mutoko's Column Full of Vitriol Against Uhuru, Ruto

By Jasper Mbiuki/The Star/26 November 2012

opinion

On 19th November 2012, Caroline Mutoko used her weekly column in the Star Newspaper to launch an astonishing tirade (Kenya: Uhuru, Ruto Nani Kama Nyinyi?) against Uhuru Kenyatta and William Ruto. Couched under the guise of a humourous open letter to the two gentlemen was an article that brimmed with untruths, mischaracterisations and outright disinformation.

Miss Mutoko used numbered statements to put across her vitriol and so I have taken the liberty of addressing each one in turn.

1. "Your sense of entitlement knows no bounds. Not only do you believe you ought to be sitting in the big house, you don't believe anyone else has the capacity or even brains to do so."

Miss Mutoko is being mischievous here. At no time has either gentlemen expressed any such position. Additionally, they do not privately or otherwise hold such a patronizing position. It is instructive that Miss Mutoko makes this sweeping statement without any sort of reference or evidence.

Any Politician worth his salt must believe that he or she is the best candidate for the particular office they are running for. If they thought otherwise then surely they would have to back whomever they knew is better than them.

Does Barack Obama think he is the best person to run the United States right now? Of course he does. Would Miss Mutoko write a poisonous article vilifying President Obama on this? NO. A leader who is afraid to lead does not deserve the mantle of leadership. Simple!

2. "The fact that you have already decided the election and in fact I do recall you have even decided how many seats you want and should get. It's another award winning reason to cheer you on - and loudly"

Presumably Miss Mutoko is referring to the discussions held between TNA and URP on allocation of cabinet portfolios between the two parties should they form a coalition government. Not only is this sensible and standard international practice IT IS ALSO THE LAW!

The Third Schedule to the Political Parties Act 2011 specifies the basic requirements for a valid coalition agreement. At Paragraph 3(e) one of these compulsory requirements is that the agreement specifies

(e) the criteria or formula for sharing of positions in the coalition structure, roles and responsibilities within the coalition;

The saddest thing about Miss Mutoko's statement is not that she was entirely oblivious to this legal requirement. The saddest part of her statement is that the Media was full of discussions about the legal provision and how the negotiations between TNA and URP were in fulfillment of the Political Parties Act 2011 and also international practice. Does Miss Mutoko not read newspapers? Does she not watch news on Television?

3. "Have you noticed how every lame politician who's clearly aware that their chances of ever being re-elected even on a village school board is running around yelling TNA?"

It must really pain Miss Mutoko and her ilk that TNA has emerged as the Party of choice in Kenya. The incumbent parties, the parties of the old order and the status quo are quacking in their boots as this fresh new Party sweeps onto the scene, drawing mammoth crowds and eliciting widespread support.

TNA is the clear front runner in the upcoming election. It has the grassroots support, the policies, the professionalism and the vision that the Nation needs in her governing Party.

Many politicians, disenchanted with the briefcase nature of other parties, the dictatorship and lack of substance; are leaving those sinking ships and flocking to TNA.

4. "You have to tell me the secret of how you have managed to hoodwink the traditional and social media into becoming your campaign tool - and positively so."

Glad you asked. The secret is, and please lets keep this just between us, not to attempt to hoodwink Kenyans! If a political party engages Kenyans and listens to their concerns; involves them in decision making and policy formulation, goes to the grassroots and builds a party from there and not from Lavington, Nairobi ... the people respond. They dedicate their time and effort, their Twitter and Facebook accounts to spreading the Party's vision and policies.

TNA has captured the imagination, confidence and aspirations of Kenyans in a manner reminiscent of the NARC circa 2002, or KANU circa 1963.

No other Party has ever been able to so quickly resonate with Kenyans. At the heart of this success is the fact that TNA is the party of the people with a youthful leadership that reflects the face of Kenya.

5. " Lastly, I must say that the sheer prowess and stealth with which you have managed to silence industry captains and every Kenyan who works for a living - people who have massive investments on the line and even the young men or women who just started their own businesses, or jobs."

The National Alliance enjoys a broad supporter base. Captains of Industry and the employed are lining up behind the TNA banner in their millions because they feel that the policies that the Party has articulated offer them the best opportunity at realizing their full potential.

Witty proverbs casually flung around by the road side may very well leave a crowd in stitches of laughter but when they go home the very real concerns of trying to make a living force them to make rational and objective choices.

Kenyans from all walks of life are choosing Uhuru Kenyatta as their candidate for CEO-Kenya because they remember the sensible austerity measures he introduced in his first budget.

They remember that even before the new Constitution introduced devolution, the then Finance Minister had decentralized significant parts of financial management from Nairobi to the local levels.

Simply put Miss Mutoko, from mega rich industrialists to the simple Mama Mboga, Kenyans know

that Uhuru Kenyatta has a proven track record of managing the economy prudently and with integrity

In conclusion, Miss Mutuko's piece wasn't witty sarcasm; it was blatant vitriol. A charade of journalism, it was a contemptuous article dripping with disdain for two gentlemen who have devoted the majority of their adult lives to public service.

No one expects her to like Uhuru Kenyatta or wax lyrical about William Ruto. However it is not too much to ask that even as she exercises her right to criticize them, she should do so in a dignified manner befitting her place in Society.

Miss Mutoko talks a lot about changing Kenya but I can't for the life of me see what she has actually done. Criticizing and complaining about the ills of Kenya from the comfort of her sofa in Nairobi's up market suburbia will not change Kenya for the better.

Rather than mocking others and making snide comments laced with untruths, she should offer the Country a plan or at the very least a set of goals.

Jasper Mbiuki, is the TNA Secretary for Legal Affairs

Kenya: Uhuru Faces Rebellion Over Alliance Talks

26 November 2012/The Star

Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta's alliance, seems to be falling apart after he and his coalition partners failed to reach a compromise over how they will share power.

Parties which have expressed their willingness to forming an alliance with Uhuru's TNA are United Republic Party which is led by former Cabinet Minister William Ruto, Mvita MP Najib Balala's Republican Council , Justice Minister Eugene Wamalwa's New Ford-Kenya, Charity Ngilu's Narc and PNU which has already dissolved into TNA.

The New-Ford Kenya Leader Eugene Wamalwa broke ranks with Uhuru after he was upset that Uhuru wanted to make Eldoret North MP William Ruto his running mate instead of the Saboti MP who has all along been hoping he will be tipped for this.

Wamalwa spent the weekend with Lugari MP Cyrus Jirongo holding rallies in parts of western Kenya where he announced his departure from Uhuru's alliance claiming that he is being treated like a "junior partner."

"We are not going to be treated as junior partners in any political alliance. What my colleagues in G7 are doing is unacceptable and we must tell them so," said Wamalwa yesterday during a rally in Matunda.

Wamalwa follows Energy Minister Kiraitu Murungi who has openly expressed his displeasure over Uhuru's style of politics. Yesterday Kiraitu told the Star that his Alliance Party of Kenya was fed up with the alliance talk and has now decided to go it alone.

"The Bus party has had enough of alliance talk. We will not enter into any alliance with any party so we are preparing for elections with our aspirants across the country," said Kiraitu yesterday.

Kiraitu said the party will field its candidates in all constituencies and considers TNA to be one of its many rivals. Ruto is also faced with difficulties trying to convince the electorate in Rift Valley about the deal he is negotiating with Uhuru.

Some of the region's MPs have said they will openly disown and campaign against the deal. They accuse Ruto of entering negotiations for his own personal benefit and not because it was the best option for the community.

In Central region, several other MPs from the region are behind the scenes complaining of being coerced to support TNA for fear of what is being described as "political consequence."

GNU leader Mwangi Kiunjuri who has been critical of the pressure that non-TNA party officials and leaders have been put under, is later this week expected to announce his party's decision not to ally itself with Uhuru.

"TNA does not need an alliance with us. instead it wants GNU to dissolve and that is not negotiable. We are moving on with our plans and TNA can go ahead with its style of politics. Our party members will decide at the ballot which aspirant to pick," Kiunjuri said yesterday.

Several MPs who spoke to the Star on condition of anonymity as they were afraid of the consequences of coming out and openly criticizing TNA and Uhuru said they had received threats that their political careers would be at an end if they did not support TNA and Uhuru.

"I was told to my face that I have to be fully in the party or else the TNA campaign against my re-election," an MP from one of the constituencies in Kiambu said.

He declined to be identified as he feared the repercussions. Since receiving the threats, he has been robustly campaigning for Uhuru and TNA.

Other leaders who have stood up against the 'politics of coercion' are Gichuru MP Martha Karua and Planning assistant minister Peter Kenneth who are in the race for the presidency as the nominees of their parties-- Narc Kenya and Kenya National Congress, respectively.

Uhuru has since denied threatening Central province politicians who are not supporting TNA. In a statement sent through his director of communications Munyori Buku a fortnight ago, Uhuru denied issuing threats.

He however asked Ndaragwa MP Jeremiah Kioni and assistant minister Nderitu Muriithi to desist from "spreading falsehoods that he (Uhuru) cannot be elected President because he is a Kikuyu." The two MPs are supporting Musalia Mudavadi's UDF.

Yesterday former Mungiki leader Maina Njenga whose intention to ally his Mkenya Solidarity Movement with TNA has been rebuffed, accused Uhuru of arrogance which he said might cost him a clear win during the elections.

Speaking at a rally in Kiandutu slums in Thika where he opened a party office, Njenga said it was 'totally unwise' for TNA and Uhuru to dismiss the votes that MSM could bring to TNA.

"If TNA and Uhuru are ignoring your support where will they get votes from," he said. Njenga said

that by the time Uhuru woke up from his "slumber" he will realize he had lost over five million voters.

Kenya: Ethnic and Economic Grievances Underlie Violence in Eastleigh

By Jason Patinkin/allafrica.com/26 November 2012

analysis

Are retaliatory attacks against ethnic Somalis in Nairobi's Eastleigh neighbourhood likely to be repeated as we approach elections?

Last Sunday, a bomb blast on a public minibus left seven dead and scores wounded in Nairobi's Eastleigh neighbourhood. The attack, blamed on the Islamist Somali terrorist group al-Shabaab, triggered conflict between Eastleigh's Somali immigrants and their Kenyan neighbours.

For two days, rioting youths from nearby slums targeted ethnic Somalis, looting homes and fighting running street battles with police. After the tear gas settled, enterprising locals patched their broken windows with cardboard and sold shoes and leather jackets by the shells of shattered cars, but tensions continued to simmer.

Rioting and retaliation

The groups retaliating after Sunday's bombing had to cross Juja Road, which separates the shanty towns of the Mathare slum from Eastleigh's multi-story buildings and crowded markets. They threw rocks at buses full of Muslim women and vandalised Somali apartment buildings, taking anything they could find.

Nur Ahmed is a Somali refugee who lived in a Juja Road apartment with his family. He resisted repeated assaults on their home before police arrived. "We didn't eat or drink for 24 hours," he told Think Africa Press. "I had to hold the doors locked."

The rioters smashed windows and cut pipes to flood the building, demanding to know at each door whether the occupants were Somali. By Monday night, the building's 35 Somali tenants fled to safer lodgings with whatever belongings weren't stolen, while General Service Unit police guarded them from gangs waiting across Juja Road.

Kenyan security forces, already overwhelmed by ethnic clashes that have left hundreds dead this year, face another challenge in dealing with terrorists and rioters in Nairobi. Ahmed praised police for dispersing mobs but also criticised their arrest of four of his friends during 'night operations', the rounding up of undocumented Somali immigrants, and the demanding of bribes.

Ethnic divisions

Ethnic violence is all too common in Kenya, where politicians often command well-organised tribal militias. Since Kenyan troops began fighting al-Shabaab in Somalia last year, terrorist attacks have become more common and 2012 has seen its fair share of attacks on nightclubs, bus stations, and churches in Nairobi, Mombasa, and the town of Garissa near the Somali border.

In late September, for example, an explosion at an Eastleigh church killed a nine-year old boy and

earlier this November three soldiers were shot in Garissa. Kenyan troops retaliated by burning markets and opening fire on a school - attacks in which two civilians were killed.

This violence has driven a wedge between Kenyans and ethnic Somalis, and Eastleigh is now another potential hotspot for Kenya's stretched security forces as the country stumbles toward March elections.

What is also of concern is that Eastleigh's riots were spontaneous, revealing growing xenophobia against ethnic Somalis and frustration among jobless, landless youth.

Despite denials from the senior leadership of al-Shabaab regarding the most recent bus attack, Kenyan authorities blame the Islamist group for the bombing and all previous attacks. Reprisals against mosques and Somalis in the wake of such attacks are common, and attitudes among their Kenyan neighbours have become increasingly vitriolic.

Macao, a security guard injured in the bus bombing, was glad to see Somalis flee. "This behaviour is from the Muslim community," he said, referring to the attacks. "The only way [to stop it] is to remove these Somali people from Kenya". Macao spent three days in hospital after the blast. He now uses a cane, and his scalp, arms, and legs are pocked with shrapnel scars.

Gordon, another Mathare resident, has also been turned against Somalis by the bombing. "The Somalis target Christians," he said. He explained that he used to live with a Somali friend, but threw stones at Somali homes during riots. "After the riot, we are not getting along."

Nairobi's slums - including Mathare - saw terrible violence during Kenya's bloody 2007 elections, when politicians stirred restless youth to fight along ethnic lines. Eastleigh's unrest raises fears of a repeat of that episode. One ethnic Somali woman said rioters threatened to "come back during elections" as they tried to break into her home.

Economic grievances

Ethnic tensions are high but many rioters also used the unrest as an opportunity to loot. Mungai is unemployed and joined the raid on Ahmed's apartment building. "When I heard of the blast, I was hoping something would happen so I could get something to eat," he said. "I have been looking for a job for 3 months." Mungai stole a mattress, mobile phone, and a bag of flour.

Juja Road draws a stark line between Mathare, where landless squatters live in shacks without plumbing, sanitation, and electricity, and more prosperous Eastleigh, where malls bustle with spice vendors, electronics shops, and cafes along the unpaved streets.

To Joseph Mwangi, a 22-year-old student in Mathare, land ownership by Somali immigrants is unfair. "I don't see the need that these Somalis were given a place to live," he said.

Fred Njoroge, 24, who owns a video store in Mathare, told how this lack of opportunities is the root of the conflict. "When there's violence, they have opportunity to steal," he said, referring to his friends who looted during the riots.

Before opening his business, Njoroge also used to mug Somalis. "Somali people have riches and property. Here it's a slum. When you see a Somali with a phone you just snatch it," he said. If not for the video store, "I would be on the front lines [of the riots] too."

Calling for calm

Still, some calmer voices prevail. In Mathare, mother Ann Wamboi condemned the youth for bringing tear gas upon her community, making her infant daughter sick. Benson Wayama, who buys flour, rice, and sugar in Eastleigh to sell in Mathare, pointed out that "those Somalis are good in business and can help Kenyans".

And in cosmopolitan Eastleigh, immigrants and locals learn to get along. Ahmed holds no grudge against his attackers, managing to laugh at the irony of fleeing Somalia's violence only to find it again in Kenya. Johnson Musyimi - who is not Somali - owns a butchery a few meters from where the explosion took place and did not blame Somalis. "They are my customers," he said. "They too are Kenyan."

But days after the clashes, Gordon did not regret his actions in the mob. "When the Somalis do that again, we'll do something they'll remember," he said. Looking across Juja Road from Mathare to Eastleigh, he commented: "When you cross that road, you can't come home empty handed."

Jason Patinkin is a freelance writer and photographer from Chicago, Illinois. After graduating from Columbia University in New York City, he taught middle school science for three years to some extremely brilliant young adults on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Jason is now based in Nairobi, Kenya where he believes he has found the world's best cup of coffee. Blog: jasonpatinkin.wordpress.com, follow him on twitter @JasonPatinkin.

Kenya: Court to Handle International Crimes Due in December

By Simon Ndonga/Capital FM (Nairobi)/26 November 2012

Chief Justice Willy Mutunga says an International Crimes Division of the High Court could be in place as early as next month to deal with medium and low level perpetrators of grave crimes in the country.

Mutunga who spoke at a training program for Kenyan journalists on the International Criminal Court processes, said that among other things, the division will be focusing on crimes like those against humanity and others.

"The security, stability and economy of this nation is mortally threatened by crimes against humanity, drug trafficking, trafficking in humans and body parts, money laundering, counterfeit goods, corruption, piracy and terrorism," he said.

He emphasised the need for these crimes to be dealt with expeditiously.

"Something must be done and the ICD (International Crimes Division) is the Judiciary's response to it. The ICD project is owned by the Council for the Administration of Justice, the assembly line for the justice sector. It has robust support of the Ministry of Justice, the AG, the DPP, the Police Commissioner, the prisons, other security services, private sector, civil society and grassroots media."

He however pointed out that the ICD has nothing to do with Kenyan cases pending before the ICC.

German Ambassador Margit Hellwig also welcomed the establishment of the International Crimes Division saying that it will bring justice to all Kenyans.

She further called for enhanced civic education to be carried out to demystify the process. Attorney General Githu Muigai who spoke at the same venue insisted that Kenya is cooperating fully with the International Criminal Court.

"Since the case against Kenyan suspects was opened and since I have been sitting in the AG's office we have cooperated fully with the court they have material after material after material," he pointed out.

The AG stated that Kenya, will not listen to those who shout loudest about the ICC and are not member states of the ICC.

"The loudest commentators on the ICC and its importance to the future international justice are not members of the Rome Statute. The United States of America is not a member of the Rome Statute although it has an International Ambassador on international crimes who has been to my office to encourage me to follow the Rome statute," he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, Eldoret North MP William Ruto, former civil service chief Francis Muthaura as well as radio presenter Joshua arap Sang are due to appear before the ICC in April next year, when trials against them over the 2008 post-election violence are set to kick off.

ANGOLA :

Angola: Governor Highlights Importance of National Policy for Older Persons

26 November 2012/AngolaPress

Luanda — The minister of Social Welfare, João Baptista Kussumua, Tuesday in Luanda, stressed the importance of the National Policy for the Elderly, for "recognizing the social contribution" in favor of this fringe of society.

According to the government official, who was speaking during a seminar on "The inclusion of the issues of aging in the Media", he also recognizes cultural, economic and political contribution of this population group and their participation in the development of society.

He said, moreover, that he recognizes the need to reduce poverty among the elderly, particularly in relation to gender and aging preferred in the family and community.

According to the minister, the instrument establishing the guidelines for action for the different Ministerial Departments in promoting active aging and a better living quality of the elderly in Angola, combining universality and positively differentiating the diversity of situations and needs of the individual, "so it is oriented according to the specific, to ensure their rights of citizenship," he continued.

He opined that the elder must be the main agent and the recipient of the transformations to be carried out through this policy, enabling fundamentally reverse the economic, social and regional

differences between the rural and the urban, and must be observed at all levels of implementation.

Having all these aspects as references, the Ministry of Social Welfare intends that the initiatives to celebrate the Day of the Elderly in Angola have as core the discussion the Active Ageing in a multidimensional perspective," said the minister.

It will be celebrated on November 30, Older Persons Day in Angola, established under an Executive Decree of 10 January, by the Council of Ministers.

Data from 2011 estimated that four percent of the Angolan population is over 60 years old, or are in the age group considered elderly.

Angola: President Gets Transport Year Personality Award

26 November 2012/AngolaPress

Luanda — Angolan head of State , José Eduardo dos Santos, Sunday in Luanda received year personality for transport sector prize.

This happened during a four-day International Transports and Logistics Fair award gala, held at FILDA facility in Luanda.

The information was released by the chairperson of the board of directors of Luanda International Fair (FIL), Matos Cardoso, who highlighted that distinction is part of the Angolan head of State's commitment to the creation, upgrading and modernisation of transport sector projects.

Matos Cardoso also mentioned, among other aspects, the recovery of Luanda, Benguela and Moçamedes' railways, as well as the airports infrastructures in various provinces.

Awarded were also the companies of "Unicargas", Toyota de Angola, Benguela railway, Sonair and Angolan Airline (TAAG).

"China R20" firm also received the award during the gala.

AU/AFRICA :

Africa: 'Doing Business in Africa' Campaign Launched

26 November 2012/United States Embassy (Nairobi)/allafrica.com

press release

Washington — Acting Secretary of Commerce Rebecca Blank will travel to South Africa and Kenya next week to advance key elements of the President's "Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa," that will promote economic growth, trade, and investment in the continent.

As part of her trip, Acting Secretary Blank will officially launch the "Doing Business in Africa" campaign, an Administration initiative to help American businesses identify and seize opportunities

that will further the United States' commercial, trade, and investment relationship with Africa.

"As President Obama has said, Africa is a region of growing opportunity and promise, and it has the potential to be the world's next major economic success story," said Acting Secretary Blank. "As part of our efforts under the National Export Initiative to support U.S. companies in selling their goods and services to the world, we must do everything possible to ensure we are promoting trade and investment with Africa. The Department of Commerce has an important role to play when it comes to helping American companies understand the trade and investment opportunities in Africa that will not only support the region's economic expansion, but will also create jobs in America."

On June 14, 2012, the President issued the U.S. "Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa," under which the United States will pursue four objectives in the region: strengthening democratic institutions; spurring economic growth, trade and investment; advancing peace and security; and promoting opportunity and development. As part of spurring economic growth, trade and investment, the Strategy specifically calls for the development of a "Doing Business in Africa" campaign. This campaign will leverage the federal government's trade promotion, financing and strategic communications capabilities to help U.S. businesses identify and seize opportunities in Africa, and to help them overcome any challenges they face to establishing business relationships with Africa.

Also part of her trip to South Africa, Dr. Blank will also meet with and promote a multi-sector trade mission being led by the Department of Commerce's Under Secretary for International Trade, Francisco Sanchez. A delegation comprised of representatives from 15 U.S. firms will join Sanchez on stops in Lusaka, Zambia; and Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa.

In Kenya, Acting Secretary Blank will meet with heads of state and senior trade officials of the East African Community, a regional intergovernmental organization that includes Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. The United States has prioritized the promotion of regional economic integration in Sub-Saharan Africa, and it recognizes that the EAC in particular as a strategic market for trade and investment with significant long-term growth potential. For that reason, the United States is pursuing a Trade and Investment Partnership initiative with the EAC under the President's Strategy, which will build on the foundations of our already-existing trade and investment relationship with the EAC. Acting Secretary Blank will promote many of the Partnership initiatives on her trip, including the launch of a new EAC-U.S. Commercial Dialogue.

Sub-Saharan Africa presents enormous opportunities to the American private sector. According to the World Bank, its GDP totaled approximately \$1.25 trillion in 2011, and six of the 10 fastest growing economies in the world are in Sub-Saharan Africa. U.S. total merchandise exports to Sub-Saharan Africa tripled between 2001 and 2011.

In 2011, U.S. exports to Sub-Saharan Africa totaled \$21.3 billion, while imports were \$74.3 billion, an increase from \$17.1 billion and \$65 billion in 2010, respectively. Total trade between the U.S. and Sub-Saharan Africa increased by 16 percent between 2010 and 2011, and in the first half of 2012, U.S. goods exports to Sub-Saharan Africa are up 4.6 percent over the same period in 2011. The President's "Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa" seeks to build on this success.

AU Demands Humanitarian Access in Congo

Marthe Van Der Wolf/[voanews.com/November 26, 2012](http://voanews.com/November%2026,%202012)

ADDIS ABABA — The African Union is demanding that aid groups receive access to the conflict zone in the Democratic Republic of Congo and it is considering the deployment of international forces to the region. The AU Peace and Security Council held an emergency meeting on Monday.

The African Union Peace and Security Council convened an emergency meeting to reaffirm its rejection of the armed rebellion in the DRC that has created a humanitarian crisis in the region.

AU Commissioner Ramtane Lamamra says the organization is deeply concerned about the situation.

“[The] council urges that all stakeholders ensure unhindered humanitarian access and guarantee the security and safety of the staff of the humanitarian agencies and organizations who are operating under very challenging conditions,” said Lamamra.

Since the uprisings of the M23 rebels and their capture of the city of Goma last week, thousands of people have fled the fighting between the rebels and the government.

The African Union is considering deploying an international force from Tanzania to oversee the withdrawal of M23. But AU Commissioner Lamamra says that for now, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC, or MONUSCO, will monitor the withdrawal.

“MONUSCO is requested to ensure the security in that area pending the deployment of units from the international neutral force,” he said.

The Peace and Security Council is calling on all parties to prevent further escalation of the conflict. Commissioner Lamamra says the DRC government has accepted the African Union's request to discuss M23's concerns.

“It is within the next two weeks that the government of the DRC will be conducting the exercise, which was described here in terms of listening, evaluating and resolving the grievances or addressing M23's grievances,” said Lamamra.

The Peace and Security Council did not outline what the consequences might be if the DRC government fails to address M23's grievances.

The AU Peace and Security Council further endorsed the recently drafted declaration of the International Council of the Great Lakes Region and requested its immediate implementation. The declaration urges M23 to withdraw immediately from all occupied areas.

Seeming Retreat by Egypt Leader on New Powers

By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK and MAYY EL SHEIKH/nytimes.com/November 26, 2012

CAIRO — With public pressure mounting, President Mohamed Morsi appeared to pull back Monday from his attempt to assert an authority beyond the reach of any court. His allies in the Muslim Brotherhood canceled plans for a large demonstration in his support, signaling a chance to calm an escalating battle that has paralyzed a divided nation.

After Mr. Morsi met for hours with the judges of Egypt's Supreme Judicial Council, his spokesman read an “explanation” on television that appeared to backtrack from a presidential decree placing

Mr. Morsi's official edicts above judicial scrutiny — even while saying the president had not actually changed a word of the statement.

Though details of the talks remained hazy, and it was not clear whether the opposition or the court would accept his position, Mr. Morsi's gesture was another demonstration that Egyptians would no longer allow their rulers to operate above the law. But there appeared little chance that the gesture alone would be enough to quell the crisis set off by his perceived power grab.

Protesters remained camped in Tahrir Square, and the opposition was moving ahead with plans for a major demonstration on Tuesday.

The presidential spokesman, Yasser Ali, said for the first time that Mr. Morsi had sought only to assert pre-existing powers already approved by the courts under previous precedents, not to free himself from judicial oversight.

He said that the president meant all along to follow an established Egyptian legal doctrine suspending judicial scrutiny of presidential "acts of sovereignty" that work "to protect the main institutions of the state." The judicial council had said Sunday that it could bless aspects of the decree deemed to qualify under the doctrine.

Mr. Morsi had maintained from the start that his purpose was to empower himself to prevent judges appointed by former President Hosni Mubarak from dissolving the constituent assembly, which is led by his fellow Islamists of the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party. The courts have already dissolved the Islamist-led Parliament and an earlier constituent assembly, and the Supreme Constitutional Court was widely expected to rule against this one next week.

But the text of the original decree had exempted all presidential edicts from judicial review until the ratification of a constitution, not just those edicts related to the assembly or justified as "acts of sovereignty."

Legal experts said that the spokesman's explanations of the president's intentions, if put into effect, would amount to a revision of the decree Mr. Morsi issued last Thursday. But lawyers said that the verbal statements alone carried little legal weight.

How the courts would apply the doctrine remained hard to predict. And Mr. Morsi's opposition indicated it was holding out for far greater concessions, including the breakup of the whole constituent assembly.

Speaking at a news conference while Mr. Morsi was meeting with the judges, the opposition activist and intellectual Abdel Haleem Qandeil called for "a long-term battle," declaring that withdrawal of Mr. Morsi's new powers was only the first step toward the opposition's goal of "the withdrawal of the legitimacy of Morsi's presence in the presidential palace." Completely withdrawing the edict would be "a minimum," he said.

Khaled Ali, a human rights lawyer and former presidential candidate, pointed to the growing crowd of protesters camped out in Tahrir Square for a fourth night. "The one who did the action has to take it back," Mr. Ali said.

Moataz Abdel Fattah, a political scientist at Cairo University, said Mr. Morsi was saving face during a strategic retreat. "He is trying to simply say, 'I am not a new pharaoh; I am just trying to stabilize

the institutions that we already have,' ” he said. “But for the liberals, this is now their moment, and for sure they are not going to waste it, because he has given them an excellent opportunity to score.”

The attempt to qualify Mr. Morsi’s position follows four days of rising tensions and flashes of violence set off by his edict. He argued that he was forced to act because of indications that the Mubarak-appointed judges of Egypt’s top courts were poised to dissolve the constitutional assembly as soon as next week. The courts had already shuttered the democratically elected Parliament and an earlier constitutional assembly — both dominated by Islamists — and the courts had also rejected an earlier decree he issued to try to reopen Parliament.

By enabling the current assembly to complete its work, Mr. Morsi said, he would expedite the transition to a stable democracy with a written constitution and an elected parliament that would limit his own powers. His supporters portrayed his assertion of executive power over the judges as a triumph of democracy over Egypt’s unelected arms of the old Mubarak government.

But infringement on the courts touched a nerve. Under Mr. Mubarak’s authoritarian rule, the Egyptians had grown cynical about corrupt and politicized judges but still cherished their courts as the source of at least the promise of impartial justice and some check on power. And over the past decade, a judges’ campaign for judicial independence had helped lay the groundwork for the 2011 revolt.

To his surprise, according to at least one adviser, Mr. Morsi’s decree exempting himself from judicial scrutiny set off a furious reaction. The president’s fractious political opponents galvanized together into a unified coalition against him. Vandals attacked more than a dozen headquarters of his political party. Thousands demonstrated in the streets. Judges called for a national strike, which has begun in some places.

And the justice minister, a former leader of the judicial independence movement, publicly dissented, arguing that Mr. Morsi should limit his attempt to assert immunity from judicial oversight to acts only related to protecting the constituent assembly or other elected bodies — something the clarification offered Monday appeared to do.

In Washington, a State Department spokeswoman said Monday that Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton had spoken about the decree on Monday with her Egyptian counterpart, Mohamed Amr. Mrs. Clinton had told him, “We want to see the constitutional process move forward in a way that does not overly concentrate power in one set of hands,” the spokeswoman, Victoria Nuland, said, and she suggested that the Egyptian government had offered signs that a compromise was in the works.

“Our understanding from the Egyptian side is that there are now discussions ongoing among a number of the stakeholders, that President Morsi is conducting consultations with various groups, including with the judiciary,” Ms. Nuland said. The clarification Mr. Morsi offered on Monday also pulled back one of the most popular elements of his decree. He had called for retrials for officials of the former government, including Mr. Mubarak, accused of directing the killing of civilians during the revolt. Many Egyptians have been outraged at acquittals or what they consider to be inadequate sentences handed down in such trials; Mr. Mubarak’s life sentence was accompanied by a convoluted court statement that appeared to pave the way for a release on appeal.

But on Monday, Mr. Morsi’s spokesman said the president’s decree had not meant to provide new trials for the same crimes, a violation of Egyptian and international law. Instead, the spokesman said

the decree had only meant to provide for new trials if new evidence emerged. That is already a part of Egyptian law, so the clarification rendered that provision of the decree moot.

Mr. Morsi's decree had also sought to replace the Mubarak-appointed chief prosecutor, who was widely blamed for failing to pursue corrupt Mubarak government officials aggressively. But Egyptian law had blocked Mr. Morsi from removing him. It was unclear whether Mr. Morsi would now argue that replacing the chief prosecutor was justified as an "act of sovereignty," the doctrine the spokesman cited to justify immunity from judicial scrutiny of other presidential edicts "to protect the main institutions of the state."

Hossam Bahgat, executive director of a human rights group that has filed a lawsuit challenging the decree as unlawful, said he had "more questions than answers" after the statement. "Right now, these are just verbal explanations that contradict the written word of the declaration, so that discrepancy needs to be settled," he said.

In a television interview, Hisham Raouf, an assistant to the minister of justice and the president of the court of appeals, described the spokesman's statements as an "explanation memorandum" that complemented the original decree. He acknowledged that the explanation made much of the decree superfluous because the spokesman had asserted that all the powers the president claimed were already found in longstanding Egyptian legal doctrine.

But he said the explanation was a step forward because without it, the decree suggested that until the passage of a new constitution any act Mr. Morsi took was beyond judicial scrutiny. Now, courts would decide what qualified as a "sovereign act," he said, adding that all sides had to accept small compromises because "the crisis isn't small."

Au Caire, les jeunes coptes s'apprêtent à manifester pour la démocratie

Céline Hoyeau (au Caire)/la-croix.com/27/11/12

Mardi 27 novembre, les opposants au régime ont appelé à manifester contre le décret élargissant les pouvoirs du président islamiste égyptien Mohamed Morsi. Rencontre, la veille, le 26 novembre, avec des jeunes chrétiens décidés à participer au mouvement.

Ce lundi 26 novembre, au soir, l'ambiance est fiévreuse au centre social jésuite du Caire où se sont réunis une quinzaine de jeunes coptes, catholiques et orthodoxes. Il n'est question que de la manifestation qui aura lieu le mardi 27 novembre, place Tahrir et dans tout le pays. Chacun calme sa tension en évoquant son analyse de la situation et en grignotant fiévreusement pignons et graines.

Comme les autres jeunes du groupe, Sara, étudiante en droit de 24 ans, ira manifester contre le décret du président Morsi annonçant qu'il prendra toute disposition jugée nécessaire pour « la défense de la Révolution ». « Il a pris tous les pouvoirs, l'assemblée constituante qui doit rédiger notre constitution n'a plus aucune validité car la plupart des partis laïques l'ont quittée. Elle n'est plus représentative de l'opinion des Égyptiens. Il n'est pas question que nous revenions à une dictature », dénonce-t-elle.

Prendre leur place sur la scène politique.

Sara participe chaque semaine à ce groupe qui s'est constitué après la Révolution du 25 janvier 2011 pour réfléchir, avec un dominicain et un prêtre du Prado, à la théologie de la libération et à leur propre engagement dans la société égyptienne. Emblématique d'une génération de jeunes

Coptes décidés à sortir de leurs églises et à prendre leur place sur la scène politique.

« Au début de la Révolution, se souvient-elle, nous étions comme des enfants qui apprennent ce qu'est la liberté, la démocratie. Aujourd'hui, c'est incomparable : désormais les jeunes ont une conscience politique et ne laisseront plus passer de tels abus de pouvoir ».

« Morsi pensait que sa décision allait passer facilement, mais le sentiment de rejet a énormément grandi à son égard ces dernières semaines. On ne peut plus imposer au peuple égyptien ce qu'il ne veut pas », appuie Mikhail.

Peur des violences

Tous se disent déterminés à rester place Tahrir en se relayant pour des sit-ins jusqu'à ce que le président égyptien se retire. La plupart reconnaissent qu'ils ont peur, ils redoutent les violences, mais cela ne les empêchera pas de descendre dans la rue. « Si vous êtes pris à parti, ne répondez surtout pas par la violence, quittez plutôt la place », conseille le P. Magdi, qui, lui, a choisi de ne pas manifester.

Certains évoquent le risque de guerre civile. D'autres pensent que l'armée va profiter des violences pour reprendre le contrôle du pays. D'autres encore redoutent les assassinats des opposants. Le webmaster d'un site très critique des Frères musulmans a été tué, une semaine plus tôt. « Les Frères musulmans n'ont peur de rien, voici quatre-vingts ans qu'ils attendent de concentrer tous les pouvoirs, c'est leur dernière chance », souligne Hamdi.

Une alternative cohérente

Iman, elle, « regrette que certains évêques orthodoxes aient appelé à descendre dans la rue car il ne faut pas que les fondamentalistes puissent dire que ce ne sont que les chrétiens qui manifestent contre le président ». Pour eux, il n'est pas question de se focaliser sur la question des minorités mais de se battre « pour la justice, pour le respect des droits de l'homme et pour la démocratie ».

Milad, son mari, exprime sa lassitude : « Va-t-on devoir tout recommencer : des élections, une constitution ? quand aura-t-on un gouvernement stable ? » « Il ne suffit pas de faire tomber Morsi, reconnaît Sara. Il faut que l'opposition se rassemble et présente une alternative cohérente, sans cela on retombera dans les mêmes travers que les Frères musulmans ».

Le président Morsi tente de calmer les esprits

Par Fatiha Temmouri/lefigaro.fr/ le 26/11/2012

En Egypte, la tension monte entre les Frères musulmans et l'opposition.

Le président Mohammed Morsi, que l'opposition égyptienne qualifie de «nouveau pharaon», a reçu lundi après-midi des membres du Conseil supérieur de la magistrature. Il espère ainsi désamorcer la crise politico-judiciaire déclenchée en fin de semaine dernière par la «déclaration constitutionnelle» visant à élargir ses prérogatives. Les hauts magistrats, dont l'indépendance est directement menacée par ce texte, ont appelé samedi à la grève générale.

Au vu de cette escalade, l'une des plus importantes depuis son arrivée au pouvoir fin juin dernier, le président islamiste a tenté dimanche soir de calmer le jeu en se disant prêt au dialogue «avec l'ensemble des forces politiques». Morsi a martelé que ces mesures d'exception ont été prises à titre provisoire en attendant l'adoption d'une nouvelle Constitution, qui doit être rédigée d'ici à la mi-

février et soumise à référendum. Le ministre de la Justice, Ahmed Mekki, a par ailleurs laissé entendre que Mohammed Morsi est disposé à restreindre le champ des décisions présidentielles échappant à tout recours en justice. Mais l'opposition considère avec méfiance le communiqué présidentiel qui, publié uniquement en langue anglaise, lui semble avant tout destiné à rassurer l'opinion internationale.

La place Tahrir reste en ébullition

Tandis qu'au Caire, la place Tahrir reste en ébullition, des heurts ont éclaté à d'Ismailiya et Port-Saïd, au nord-est du pays. Les sièges locaux de l'organisation des Frères musulmans, dont est issu le président, y ont été saccagés et incendiés. Dimanche, on comptabilisait deux morts - un dans chaque camp.

Salah Gaber, plus connu sous le surnom de «Jika», est l'un d'eux. Membre du mouvement révolutionnaire du 6 avril, il a été touché par des balles à la tête et à la poitrine. Une cérémonie funéraire s'est tenue lundi en sa mémoire sur la place Tahrir.

Climat de tension croissante

Dans le camp adverse, la mort de Fathi Masoud, un collégien âgé de 15 ans, a ému les islamistes. L'adolescent, présenté comme un membre des Frères musulmans, a été atteint à la tête par un jet de pierre devant le siège de la confrérie dans la ville de Damanhour, une localité du delta du Nil considérée comme un bastion du mouvement islamiste.

Saad al-Katatni, secrétaire général du parti Liberté et Justice (bras politique des Frères musulmans), a dénoncé l'action «des membres de l'ancien régime». Dans ce climat de tension croissante, l'opposant Mohamed ElBaradei a déclaré qu'il ne serait pas étonné «si l'armée descendait à nouveau dans les rues pour empêcher le chaos et protéger la patrie» - comme elle le fit le 27 janvier 2011 alors que plusieurs dizaines de milliers d'Égyptiens demandaient le départ de Hosni Moubarak.

Egypte: heurts près de Tahrir qui se prépare à une manifestation anti-Morsi
mardi 27 novembre 2012 /Belga

(Belga) Des heurts ont à nouveau opposé des groupes de jeunes Égyptiens à la police mardi près de la place Tahrir au Caire, où des militants se préparaient pour une grande manifestation contre le président islamiste Mohamed Morsi, accusé de monopoliser le pouvoir.

Ces heurts sporadiques, qui ont débuté il y a une semaine et se déroulent dans plusieurs rues autour de la place, ont repris dans la matinée aux abords de l'ambassade américaine, selon un journaliste de l'AFP. Les forces anti-émeutes déployées près de la mission diplomatique ont essuyé des jets de pierres, auxquels ils ont répondu avec des tirs de gaz lacrymogènes. Sur la place elle-même, un village de tentes est installé depuis vendredi pour protester contre le décret par lequel le président Morsi a étendu ses pouvoirs en mettant en particulier ses décisions au-dessus de tout recours en justice. De nombreux mouvements et partis politiques d'opposition ont appelé à des manifestations de masse mardi dans tout le pays, et en particulier sur la place Tahrir, contre ce décret. Le gros des manifestations est attendu dans l'après-midi et en soirée, après la journée de travail. (MUA)

UN/AFRICA :

Africa: Cop18 Gets Underway in Qatar

26 November 2012/SANews.gov.za (Tshwane)

Qatar — Some 200 nations from around the globe have gathered in Doha, Qatar, for the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 18) taking place from today at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

Represented at the conference are government delegates, representatives from business and industry, environmental organisations, research institutions and the media.

COP18 takes place as different continents have experienced extreme weather conditions, with superstorm Sandy being the most recent. The general sense from delegates at the conference centre is for urgent action in efforts to reduce earth-warming greenhouse gas emissions.

The United States and China, who are considered to be the world's biggest emitters, have not taken on mitigation limits under the current climate change deal.

Speaking at the opening, President of COP18, President Bin Hamad Abdullah al-Attiya, described the negotiations as historic. "This is a historic conference of crucial importance and represents a turning point in climate negotiations."

He said governments meeting at the gathering will have to stick to the task and timetable they have set themselves to reach an effective, fair and ambitious universal climate agreement that is to be adopted in 2015 and to enter into force from 2020.

They are also expected to recommit themselves under the Kyoto Protocol, move the broad infrastructure of support they have been building for action in the developing world into firm implementation, and decide how to resolve policy issues that remain outstanding under the UN Climate Change Convention.

The protocol, whose first commitment period runs out on December 31, currently binds about 40 rich nations and the EU to an average 5% greenhouse gas reduction from 1990 levels.

Department of Environment Affairs spokesperson, Albi Modise, said South Africa viewed the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol as the cornerstone of the Doha agreement.

"This agreement is important to South Africa and all developing countries. The Africa Key Messages document agreed to by AMCEN in Arusha this year makes it the first priority for Africa. South Africa will be a lead negotiator for Africa on this issue in Doha," he said.

Countries meeting in Doha will also need to reach a better understanding on how to mobilise long-term finance to support action in developing nations, which they have agreed must reach a level of US\$100 billion a year by 2020.

Delegates must also draft a work plan for arriving in the next 36 months at a new global climate deal that will be implemented by 2020.

Cabinet ministers from more than 100 countries will join negotiators in the last four days of the conference next month and will be under pressure to raise pre-2020 emission reduction targets, and

rich nations to come up with funding for the developing world's mitigation actions.

This conference is an important opportunity for all stakeholders to exchange information and ideas in order to help build momentum for action on climate change.

U.N. climate talks start in Doha

By Juliet Eilperin/washingtonpost.com/Tuesday, November 27

Modest expectations marked the start of U.N. climate talks Monday, as negotiators and experts all warned that the two-week session would only lay the groundwork for a potentially ambitious global-warming pact by the end of the decade.

This is “a transitional climate conference,” said Todd Stern, U.S. special envoy for climate change: It will end the negotiations of the past five years and inaugurate a new phase in which major emerging economies will be called on to play a larger role in curbing their greenhouse-gas emissions.

The session, taking place in Doha, Qatar, under the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), includes representatives from nearly 200 countries.

Aiming for the end of the decade may not be soon enough, say scientists, environmental activists and many of the world's poorest nations. The world's governments must commit to deeper carbon cuts now in order to avert dangerous climate impacts. Last week, the World Bank issued a report suggesting that a temperature rise of 4 degrees Celsius (7.2 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2100, which scientific forecasts say is possible, could cause widespread crop failures, malnutrition and significant sea-level rise.

World leaders have pledged under the UNFCCC to keep warming from exceeding 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century.

A recent U.N. Environment Programme report projected that the emissions trend could produce a global temperature rise of between 5.4 and 9 degrees Fahrenheit by the century's end.

“Time is running out,” the UNFCCC executive secretary, Christiana Figueres, told reporters at a news conference in Doha. “The door is closing fast on us because the pace and the scale of action is simply not yet where it must be.”

On Monday, a coalition of 100 countries, including the Alliance of Small Island States, the Africa Group and the Least Developed Countries, called upon industrialized nations to commit to legally binding carbon cuts.

“This conference comes in the wake of disasters that offered an alarming glimpse at what life on a warming planet looks like,” the group said.

But much of the ongoing negotiations will focus on more procedural matters, such as determining which countries will commit to a second round of emissions cuts under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. Any new Kyoto agreement will cover less than 15 percent of the world's carbon output: While developing countries say a second round is critical, it will fail to change the global emissions trajectory.

China's chief climate negotiator, Xie Zhenhua, recently said China's emissions could peak when its per capita gross domestic product reaches roughly half of what it was when developed countries' emissions peaked. According to an HSBC Bank analysis, that would be around 2030, more than a decade later than scientists say would be required to meet the world leaders' temperature goal.

Pennsylvania State University professor Michael E. Mann, who directs the Penn State Earth System Science Center, said policymakers have assumed if they kept atmospheric carbon concentrations at 450 parts per million they'd have a 50 percent chance of limiting temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius. But new research suggests the estimates were too optimistic about uncertainties such as the extent to which future cloud cover will reflect sunlight.

"So often uncertainty is offered as a reason for inaction," Mann said. "It can really break against us. It's an argument for why we need to take action."

While this year's round of talks is not expected to produce any major breakthroughs, the fact that the United States is on track to meet its goal of reducing its greenhouse-gas emissions 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and has provided \$7.46 billion in international climate assistance over the past three years may give it some leverage with other countries.

Michael Wolosin, who directs research and policy at the consulting firm Climate Advisers, said the funding amounts to a "very real and sustained increase in international climate finance by the United States . . . even in a time of difficult fiscal pressures."

Still, Michael MacCracken, chief scientist for climate change at the Climate Institute, said the U.S. will have to make deeper cuts in emissions in order to show economic growth and reconcile low carbon emissions. "Developed countries need to show a modern economy can prosper on low greenhouse-gas emissions," he said.

Les trois contradictions de la conférence sur le climat de Doha

Publié le 27/11/2012/francetvinfo.fr

ENVIRONNEMENT – Le temps presse, à en croire les scientifiques : le réchauffement climatique est en marche. Les représentants de 195 pays se retrouvent, à partir de lundi 26 novembre à Doha (Qatar), pour tenter d'y remédier. La 18e conférence des Nations unies sur le climat doit durer jusqu'au 7 décembre avec, au programme, deux semaines de débats concernant l'état de la planète. Les nations doivent surtout s'entendre sur de nouvelles restrictions en matière d'émissions de gaz à effets de serre (GES) mais les observateurs sont pessimistes. Explications.

1Le Qatar, premier émetteur de CO2

Doha, mauvais choix pour un sommet sur le climat ? En tout cas, il ne manque pas d'ironie. Le Qatar, pays organisateur de cette 18e conférence, est aussi le premier émetteur de gaz carbonique (CO2) par habitant, signale Le Figaro. Comptez 44 tonnes par personne d'après les données des Nations unies recueillies en 2009. C'est huit fois plus qu'un Français ou qu'un Chinois (6 tonnes), près de trois fois plus qu'un Américain (17 tonnes) et vingt-deux fois plus qu'un Indien, note Le Monde.fr.

Le minuscule émirat de 1,8 million d'habitants est également le premier exportateur mondial de gaz

naturel liquéfié (GNL). Comme le rappelle The Telegraph (en anglais), le Qatar détient 15% des réserves de gaz de la planète et compte, à l'avenir, avoir recours au forage en pleine mer. Il ne ferme pas non plus la porte au gaz de schiste. Le Qatar n'est donc pas ce que l'on peut qualifier d'exemple à suivre en matière d'impact environnemental. Dans son rapport Planète Vivante 2012 (PDF en anglais, p.44), l'organisation de protection de l'environnement WWF l'a même désigné comme le pays ayant la plus forte empreinte écologique au monde. C'est pourtant là que plus de 190 pays vont devoir se mettre d'accord pour réduire leurs émissions et tenter de tempérer leur dépendance au pétrole et au gaz.

Le choix de ce pays-hôte pose donc question, notamment à Raul Estrada, diplomate argentin qui a présidé la conférence de Kyoto en 1997. Le Qatar "n'aurait pas été mon choix", a-t-il ainsi déclaré. "A Doha, où les gratte-ciel futuristes poussent comme des champignons, la sobriété énergétique n'est pas encore entrée dans les mœurs", analyse Le Figaro. Et cette situation pourrait bien perdurer. En tant que pays en voie de développement, le Qatar ne s'est pour le moment fixé aucun objectif en matière de réduction de ses émissions de GES.

2Une conférence très polluante

Selon un autre article de The Telegraph (en anglais), la conférence de Doha pourrait elle-même générer près de 25 000 tonnes de CO₂, un calcul fait sur la base du transport et des quinze nuits d'hôtel prévues pour les participants. Près de 20 000 personnes sont attendues à cette conférence, et la majorité d'entre elles devraient avoir recours à l'avion pour se rendre dans l'émirat. Loin d'être écologique donc.

Mises à part ces dépenses énergétiques liées à la logistique, le Qatar a promis de faire en sorte que les émissions de carbone soient les plus faibles possibles le temps de la conférence. Pour cela, le centre international dernier cri que le pays a inauguré en décembre 2011 pourrait l'y aider.

Comme le montre cette vidéo, le Qatar National Convention Center, où se déroule le sommet, possède un toit composé de 3 500 m² de panneaux solaires. Selon The Telegraph, ces derniers doivent permettre de produire 12,5% de l'énergie nécessaire pour alimenter le bâtiment. Enfin, le quotidien britannique indique que parmi les 400 bus qui assurent la navette des participants, certains vont rouler aux biocarburants.

3Un échec couru d'avance

L'enjeu de la conférence de Doha est double. Elle doit d'abord permettre de prolonger le protocole de Kyoto qui expire fin 2012. Ce dernier, signé en 1997, est le seul outil juridique contraignant qui engage les pays industrialisés - mis à part entre autres les Etats-Unis - à réduire leurs émissions de GES pour éviter une hausse des températures de plus de 2°C d'ici à 2100. Or, de nombreux pays, à l'instar de la Russie, de la Nouvelle-Zélande, de la Chine et du Japon, ont d'ores et déjà indiqué qu'ils refuseraient des réductions supplémentaires. Et les quelques volontaires (l'Union européenne et l'Australie) ne représentent que 15% des émissions de GES mondiales.

Passées ces difficultés, les quelque 195 nations devront ensuite négocier les termes d'un nouvel accord qui engagerait cette fois tous les pays, industrialisés ou non, dès 2020. Là encore, la partie est loin d'être gagnée. Selon Europe1.fr, "le Brésil, la Chine, l'Inde et l'Afrique du Sud ont prévenu que Doha serait un échec si les pays riches ne s'engageaient pas à réduire davantage leurs propres émissions". Le casse-tête des négociations, illustré dans cette vidéo humoristique en anglais, ne fait donc que commencer.

Pour Bettina Laville, ancienne coordinatrice pour la France du sommet de Rio de 1992, interrogée sur le blog Eco(lo) du Monde.fr, la suite ne fait aucun doute : "Il n'y aura pas de décision, ni au Qatar, ni lors des rencontres suivantes." Selon elle, "les négociations climatiques vont très certainement se terminer en engagement volontaire (...). Au lieu d'être contraints par des objectifs décidés par tous, les Etats pourront donc choisir de réduire leurs émissions s'ils le souhaitent, dans les proportions qu'ils désirent et par rapport à l'année de référence de leur choix." Avec comme conséquence le risque d'un réchauffement climatique global dépassant le seuil fixé des 2°C.

Julie Rasplus

EU/AFRICA :

Enlevé au Mali, un Français appelle à l'aide

Par Gary Assouline/lefigaro.fr/le 26/11/2012

Kidnappé le 20 novembre dans l'ouest du pays par le mouvement islamiste Mujao, Rodriguez Leal Gilberto apparaît pour la première fois dans une vidéo diffusée lundi.

«Je m'appelle Rodriguez Leal Gilberto. J'ai été enlevé à Diéma, entre Nioro et Bamako, par le Mujao». Dans une vidéo publiée lundi par un site mauritanien d'information, Rodriguez Leal Gilberto, otage français retenu au Mali, apparaît pour la première fois depuis son enlèvement le 20 novembre.

Le Français venait de traverser la Mauritanie à bord d'un camping-car lorsqu'il a été victime d'un rapt à Diéma, localité proche des frontières avec le Sénégal et la Mauritanie. Sur les images où il apparaît entouré de deux hommes armés, le Français âgé de 61 ans, né au Portugal, lit un court texte dans lequel il s'identifie et date l'enregistrement de la vidéo au dimanche 25 novembre. L'homme affirme être «bien traité» mais demande au gouvernement français de «traiter rapidement sa situation et trouver une issue favorable».

«Je demande au gouvernement français de répondre rapidement à leurs revendications», continue l'otage, sans préciser toutefois quelles sont les demandes de ses kidnappeurs. «Je ne suis pas fautif dans cet enlèvement, c'est le gouvernement qui est mis en cause par ses actions extérieures», ajoute-t-il. «Pour ma famille, ne vous faites pas de souci. Je suis bien traité. Je vous embrasse et je vous aime tous», conclut-il.

Le 7e otage français au Sahel

Le Mujao, Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest, est un groupe armé qui occupe le nord du Mali avec al-Qaida au Maghreb Islamique (Aqmi) et Ansar Dine (Défenseur de l'Islam), deux autres organisations terroristes. Le 22 novembre, les ravisseurs de Rodriguez Leal Gilberto avaient revendiqué son enlèvement, promettant de «prochainement publier une vidéo de l'otage». Ce dernier est le 7e otage français détenu par ces groupuscules au Sahel.

Après visionnage de la vidéo lundi, le ministère des Affaires étrangères a confirmé qu'il s'agissait bien de l'otage français. «On a pris connaissance des images de notre compatriote, on examine

actuellement le document vidéo et on procède à son évaluation. On est mobilisé en sa faveur», a-t-on déclaré. Jeudi, une enquête préliminaire de police avait été ouverte par le parquet de Paris après son enlèvement. La Direction centrale du renseignement intérieur a été chargée de la procédure qui vise des faits «d'enlèvement et séquestration en bande organisée en relation avec une entreprise terroriste».

EN BREF,CE 27 Novembre 2012 ... AGNEWS/DAM,NY, 27/11/2012