



[Les raids aériens de

l'armée française au Mali, dont l'objectif est de "liquider" les groupes armés islamistes selon l'expression du ministre de la défense, Jean-Yves Le Drian, ont visé ce week-end le nord du pays, alors que le Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies doit se réunir lundi 14 janvier à la demande de la France. Il s'agit d'"informer le Conseil et procéder à des échanges de vues entre membres", a indiqué la mission française auprès de l'ONU."L'aviation de chasse française a visé et détruit ce dimanche plusieurs cibles à proximité de Gao, a indiqué M. Le Drian.]

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

**Rwanda: President Calls for Multiple Efforts to Devt**

By Edwin Musoni/The New Times/14 January 2013

President Paul Kagame has said that it is a responsibility of every Rwandan to contribute to the development of the country and none should tolerate any form of failure no matter the situation.

The President was speaking at the annual Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast, organised by the Rwanda Leaders Fellowship (RLF).

The event was attended by senior government officials and business, religious leaders as well as senior officials from the US.

"We must do more than being thankful for our achievements; we must continue to work hard to achieve more. God gives you the basics only," said the President.

During the day's session, the guest speaker, Prof. Vincent Chinedum Anigbogu, the Director General, Institute for National Transformation, spoke about Singapore's developmental journey since 1950s which President Kagame also referred to.

President Kagame noted that, "What God gave to Singapore is what has been given to all of us, what is left is for us to build on what we have to achieve more. We are not seeking to become Singapore but we can be like Singapore. We must have a vision of where we want to go and work harder towards to achieve it."

In his lecture about building a nation, the President observed that it is not about personal achievements that build country, rather collective progress, adding that progress would be diminished when it is not shared by all Rwandans.

President Kagame pointed out that, it's unfortunate that some of Rwanda's Partners in the West decided to freeze or cut development aid to the country but he hastened to add that recent development around aid is a lesson and a wakeup call to all Rwandans.

"They give us money from their citizens, but for how long should we be a burden of citizens of other countries? Dependency takes away our dignity and leaves behind an empty shell; the lesson is that we must double our efforts to achieve more than what we had projected. In this context, we cannot afford to walk, we must run," Kagame said, adding that Rwandans should never accept failure.

Without mentioning names, Kagame disclosed details of his interaction with western leaders where he said he was engaged in tense debates challenging the westerners on false accusations levelled against Rwanda about the crisis in the eastern Democratic Republic Congo.

The President also criticised the enormous expenditure by the UN on MONUSCO where he observed that since the establishment of the mission, about US\$20 billion has been spent on it yet there is practically no impact made by the mission.

"How can you spend money on anything and you are not bothered about what you get from the other side as an outcome? If you care then, what are the results? And if you claim that you made commitments to deal with the problem, did you succeed; did you fail, if so, how does Rwanda come into the equation?" the President questioned.

He wondered if there is anyone who could make a connection between the aid that was meant for Rwandans and the Congo crisis.

Also, President Kagame rallied Rwandans to live a life with purpose saying that, Rwandans must know what to live and die for. "I would rather be a victim of questioning than a victim of blind obedience."

Referring to countries that have assumed a responsibility to dictate what is right and wrong for Africa, President Kagame pointed out that Rwandans will not worship any anyone apart from God.

A delegation of five US Congressmen and Senators who were in the country for a two-day trade-related visit attended the Prayer Breakfast and praised the initiative.

At the event, which included praise and worship songs, leaders thanked God for the country's accomplishments in 2012, prayed for the 2013 development agenda, and dedicated the nation to God.

RDC CONGO :

### RDC: reprise des négociations entre les rebelles du M23 et le gouvernement

Par RFI/lundi 14 janvier 2013

Un deuxième round de négociations débute ce lundi 14 janvier à Kampala entre les rebelles du M23 et le gouvernement de Kinshasa. En décembre dernier, le premier round n'avait rien donné. Mais aujourd'hui, rebelles et gouvernement congolais se sont entendus sur un ordre du jour.

Le premier point à l'ordre du jour sera de vérifier si l'accord du 23 mars 2009 a été respecté à cette date. Le gouvernement congolais avait signé la paix avec le mouvement de rébellion CNDP.

La principale mesure avait été l'intégration dans l'armée nationale d'environ 4 000 combattants rebelles. Trois ans plus tard, c'est à dire l'année dernière, une partie de ce même CNDP se rebellait à nouveau, pour former l'actuel M23.

À l'ordre du jour, il y aura également la situation sociale et politique du pays. Le pouvoir ne voulait pas aborder ce sujet. Mais il est obligé de le faire, car les pays des Grands Lacs ont ordonné que le président Kabila soit à l'écoute des revendications du M23. Or, le M23 a surtout des revendications politiques.

« Là-dessus, nous allons les écouter, dit un membre de la délégation gouvernementale, mais ça ne veut pas dire que nous allons négocier ».

Le gouvernement de Kinshasa a encore prévenu la semaine dernière, qu'il ne serait pas question de changer l'ordre établi, ni de toucher à la Constitution, alors que le M23 conteste, les armes à la main, la légitimité du pouvoir.

UGANDA :

### Uganda: Isabirye - Ten Most Famous Club Sackings

By Hassan Badru Zziwa/The Observer (Kampala)/13 January 2013

Last week, Uganda Revenue Authority sacked its coach Alex Isabirye for the dismal showing in the ongoing Fufa Super League (FSL).

At the time of Isabirye's sacking, URA had lost six games in 13. Last year, the team only lost three matches. Isabirye's case is typical; Ugandan clubs have a tendency of parting company with successful tacticians although this is not only restricted to Uganda. In 1998, Real Madrid's Jupp Heynckes won the Champions League but the German tactician was sacked. Still, Isabirye's case came as a kind of shock to many fans, although the writing was on the wall.

Yet Isabirye has been a successful persona in sports. As a player, he helped URA win the 2008/09 league title before guiding the team to the 2010/11 league and Uganda Cup titles. Below are some of the coaches who have had a similar fate as Isabirye.

George Mukasa

After leading SC Villa to two league and one Uganda Cup (1982-1983) titles, Express FC signed

Mukasa in 1984. At the time of his recruitment, Express had spent six-years without winning major silverware.

Mukasa guided The Red Eagles to the 1985 Uganda Cup title and finished behind eventual league winners SC Villa. Yet, the fans were not impressed. They demanded a change of guard. In 1986, the club signed Charles Masembe but the Wembley side posted mixed results in the first four games, forcing Masembe to flee Wembley.

Mukasa bounced back but the club finished eighth in the 1986 season and the return of former coach Robert Kiberu from Kenya at the beginning of the 1987 season put paid to Mukasa's tenure.

Moses Nsereko (RIP)

Nsereko is that midfield maestro who was known for his vision, indomitable spirit and physical prowess for both Uganda Cranes and KCC FC as a player. In 1979, he was picked as coach/player following the appointment of Jaberu Bidandi Ssali to the cabinet post. Nsereko wasted no time, winning the Uganda Cup that year and KCC successfully retained the title (Uganda Cup) the following year (1980). He would later guide the side to three league titles and two more Uganda Cup trophies.

But in the 1987 season, the team registered poor results in the first three games and when Nsambya defeated KCC 3-1, Nsereko was forced to resign, ending his 16-year glittering career with ten major titles both as a player and coach.

Polly Ouma

He returned from exile in Kenya in 1986 after handling a couple of teams and he was immediately put pen to paper to handle SC Villa. The former Cranes striker guided the Jogoos to their first "double" (league and Uganda Cup). He also helped the club to win the 1987 Cecafta title before retaining the league title a few months later.

So when club supremo Patrick Kawooya signed British tactician Geoff Hudson in 1988 as head coach, the Villa Park faithful were taken by surprise. Ouma had no option but to leave Villa Park.

Tom Lwanga

Lwanga had played for KCC for eleven years before he was picked as head coach in 1988 replacing John Latigo who had gone for a coaching course in Germany. Lwanga guided KCC to the 1990 Uganda Cup and the 1991 league title but he was sacked at the beginning of the 1992 season to pave way for former Cranes coach Barnabas Mwesiga.

Surprisingly, the club returned him towards the end of 1997 to replace Mike Mutebi who resigned after a disagreement with his bosses. Lwanga then won the 1997 league title. He was again sacked in 1998 to pave way for Danish tactician Jacobsen Flemming.

Timothy Ayiekoh

He spent eight years in the shadow of both Polly Ouma and Geoff Hudson at Villa Park, until he was appointed head coach in 1992 following the departure of Hudson. He guided SC Villa to the 1992 league title and also helped the club reach the final of Caf- Cup (Abiola Cup). In 1993 when the club lost miserably to Tanzania's Simba in the Cecafta Club Championship and failed to win any major local silverware, a section of fans and officials expressed discontent.

However, Ayieko redeemed himself when he recaptured the 1994 league title which he failed to defend in 1995 and was shown the exit

Jimmy Muguwa

When David Otti left Express to join SC Villa, Muguwa was elevated to handle the Red Eagles in 1995. Muguwa successfully won the first ever "double" for the club and also guided Express to the semi-final of Africa Club Championship (Champions League) the same year. So you can imagine his shock when the club hired Serbian coach Dragan Popadic at the beginning of the 1996 season. He left the club.

Paul Hasule

Hasule is that elegant skipper who ruled Villa Park for 11 years. He was appointed in 1998 to end a three-year trophy drought at Villa Park. In his first season, Hasule won the "double" (league and Uganda Cup) and successfully retained the league in 1999.

In 2000, he again guided SC Villa to another 'double'. He also retained the 2001 league title. But before the beginning of the 2001 season, Hasule demanded an improved contract and had a sit-down strike. Later, he was convinced and returned to Villa Park. This annoyed his bosses and it didn't come as a surprise when he was sacked in November 2001. He was replaced by Serbian tactician Milutin 'Micho' Sredojevic.

George Nsimbe

The departure of Moses Basena to URA in 2008 paved way for former KCC FC player George Nsimbe to handle the Lugogo side. Nsimbe guided the club to the 2007/08 league title to end ten years of waiting. However, URA piped KCC to the 2008/09 league trophy on goal difference and shockingly, Nsimbe was given marching orders by his bosses. He was replaced by his former club team mate Sam Ssimbwa.

Moses Basena

He left KCC in 2008 after securing a lucrative deal with URA. He immediately swung into action by winning the 2008/09 league title. But mixed results in the 2009/10 season didn't please his bosses and in March 2009, he was shown the exit. He was replaced by coach/player Alex Isabirye. Last week, Isabirye faced the same fate.

The author is Director Marketing & Promotions of The Observer Media Ltd.

### Uganda: Tullow Hits Three Dry Wells

By Edward Ssekika/The Observer (Kampala)/13 January 2013

Tullow Oil ended its 2013 exploration activities in western Uganda on a dour note, hitting three dry wildcat oil wells in December. The firm, however, encountered hydrocarbon in a fourth well, Lyec-1, according to a statement released on Friday.

Tullow said the wells were drilled in December to help delineate the ultimate basin potential ahead of potential relinquishment. The company says Lyec-1 well, at the northern end of the Jobi east oil well, is currently under evaluation and remapping. All the wells were drilled in Block One in the

Albertine graben, where Total is the main operator.

The 'wildcat wells', drilled outside the vicinity of a known oil or gas field, are not expected to significantly change the country's oil potential outlook, which has in the past recorded a 90% success rate. Aidan Heavey, Tullow Chief Executive Officer, however, described the year 2012 as a success.

"Tullow accomplished much in 2012. We have had significant exploration success in establishing Kenya as a new hydrocarbon province," he said in a statement.

He singled out Ngamia-1 and Twiga South -1 oil discoveries in Kenya as a key success, placing the East African country as a new 'oil frontier'. "These discoveries are, alongside successful exploration in Uganda and recent major offshore gas discoveries by industry peers, establishing East Africa as an exciting new energy region," the statement notes.

## SOUTH AFRICA :

[South African Markets - Factors to watch on Jan 14](#)  
2013-01-14/xs.com

The following company announcements, scheduled economic indicators, debt and currency market moves and political events may affect South African markets on Monday.

## DIARY

For South Africa corporate diary, click on

For southern and South Africa diary, click on

## COMPANIES

Shares of the following companies trade ex-dividend, or without the right to their latest dividend, from Monday:

- Nampak Ltd
- Tongaat Hulett
- Omnia Holdings
- Reunert Ltd
- Astral Foods
- Business Connexion
- Lewis Group Ltd

Business Connexion will also hold its annual general meeting on Monday.

## SOUTH AFRICAN MARKETS

South African stocks inched lower on Friday, dragged down by mining heavyweights such as BHP Billiton and Impala Platinum, but remained within reach of recently scaled record peaks as world shares hovered near multi-month highs.

The rand fell against the dollar on Friday, booking its softest week in a month after a credit rating cut added to investors' nervousness about holding the risky South African currency.

## GLOBAL MARKETS

The yen plumbed a 2-1/2 year low against the dollar on Monday, grabbing the Asian spotlight amid subdued trading for the region's stock markets, with the focus on Japan's central bank as it faced unrelenting political pressure to deliver bold stimulus.

## WALL STREET

U.S. stocks ended little changed on Friday as investors took a step back from buying ahead of next week's busy corporate earnings calendar.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 0.13 percent to 13,488.43. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index dipped 0.07 points to 1,472.05. The Nasdaq Composite Index added 0.12 percent to 3,125.64.

## GOLD

Gold edged up on Monday after a sharp correction in the previous session, buoyed by a stronger euro and physical buying from China, while expectations of aggressive monetary easing in Japan also lent support.

## EMERGING MARKETS

For the top emerging markets news, double click on

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Some of the main stories out in the South African press:

### BUSINESS DAY

- Transnet in talks on African copper transport link
- Landmark BEE deal for Impala in Zimbabwe

### BUSINESS REPORT

- Call to end farm strikes and focus on growth
  - Numsa to protest against tariff increase

**JSE closes flat**

14 January 2013/southafrica.info

The JSE closed flat on Friday with gold miners the biggest gainers because of the weaker rand after the Fitch downgrade.

Rating agency Fitch overnight downgraded SA's long-term foreign currency credit rating by one notch to BBB, while reducing the long-term local currency rating from A to BBB+.

At 5pm, the all share index was down 0.05 percent at 40,281.14 points, with resources the main laggards down 0.88 percent and gold stocks adding 1.49 percent.

Among individual shares on the JSE, resource counter Anglo American (AGL) dipped 0.34 percent to R286.20, rival BHP Billiton (BIL) gave up 2.46 percent to R291.20 and Exxaro (EXX) dipped 1.34 percent to R172.70.

Gold miner AngloGold Ashanti (ANG) added 2.22 percent to close at R252.88, Gold Fields gained 1.20 percent to R105 and Pan African Resources jumped 3.04 percent to R2.71.

### Oliphant wants talks 'in good faith'

January 13 2013/By Penwell Dlamini/Sapa

Johannesburg - The Labour Department is ready to mediate in the farmworkers' strike if all parties return to the negotiating table, Labour Minister Mildred Oliphant said on Sunday.

"I have been making an appeal to all the involved parties to engage in negotiations in good faith.

"As early as the beginning of the year, I dispatched a team led by the director general to try and bring the parties to a negotiating table. For a while it seemed that there was progress, but the talks broke down," she said.

Oliphant's statement came after the Congress of South African Trade Unions in the Western Cape announced that farmworkers would intensify their strike on Monday.

"Some farmers have indicated their willingness to increase above R100, but a number of bad farmers are opposing this," said Cosatu's Western Cape secretary Tony Ehrenreich.

The farmworkers were also rejecting a call by the African National Congress for the suspension of the strike.

Ehrenreich said negotiations with some farmers had shown progress, and that if agreements were reached with farmers in particular areas, the strike would end in those areas.

Farmworkers were calling on Oliphant, as well as Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies, Economic Development Minister Ebrahim Patel and President Jacob Zuma, to intervene in the strike.

Farmworkers went on strike last year in demand of an increase in their daily wage from R69 to R150, and a coherent land-reform programme. The strike was suspended in December, but resumed on Wednesday.

During the often-violent strike, farmworkers barricaded roads, stoned motorists and burnt farm



properties.

Ehrenreich said farmworkers were calling on retailers to boycott the “bad farmers” who did not want to heed their demands.

“Cosatu is calling on its members... not to handle the fruit and not to load any fruit onto the ships for export,” he said.

“There has also been a call from workers for the food- and fruit-processing plants to also come and join the protest action.”

Ehrenreich said workers were willing to suspend the strike “should government come to the party” on Monday.

Meanwhile, police said the situation was quiet on Sunday afternoon, with no violent protests reported.

A total of 125 people have been arrested since the beginning of the strike, mainly for public violence. - Sapa

### South Africa: Zuma Blames Monopoly For Lack Of Economic Change

January 14, 2013 /VENTURES AFRICA

VENTURES AFRICA – The cartel-like control of the South Africa’s economy was a hindrance to the objectives of the country’s economic transformation, growth and development, President Jacob Zuma said at the weekend.

Zuma, speaking at the ANC’s annual January 8 statement on behalf of the party’s national executive committee (NEC), added that a decisive action was required to thoroughly and urgently transform the economic patterns of the present in order to realise “our vision for the future”.

He made it clear the ANC was not intending to change its current economic policies, which have widely been blamed, particularly by some leaders from the left and the ANC Youth League.

The recent ANC national conference rejected calls to nationalise mines and other key sectors of the economy. Instead, the ANC resolved to create a state mining company that will compete with the private sector.

“We have also resolved that the state must capture an equitable share of mineral resources rents through the tax system and deploy them in the interests of long-term economic growth, development and transformation. Government must implement this resolution,” said Zuma.

Zuma said the ANC national conference opted for a mixed economy, where public, private, cooperative and other forms of social ownership complement each other in an integrated way.

“Within this mixed economy, we re-affirm the active and interventionist role of the state in ensuring economic development.

“It must be a state that has the capacity to intervene in the economy to lead development,” Zuma said

TANZANIA :

### **Tanzania: TPA Appeals to Exporters to Utilise Port Services**

By Dar es Salaam/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/14 January 2013

THE Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has urged exporters to co-operate in utilising improved services at Dar es Salaam port.

The Acting Communication Manager at TPA, Ms Janeth Ruzangi, gave the appeal over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when talking to journalists on the measures taken by the port to improve services.

"Our appeal to exporters is to be time conscious so that their goods should be loaded on ships conveniently," she said.

She explained that exporters who use the General Cargo Terminal should make sure that they adhere to time allotted to bring their goods at the port. She said the failure to adhere to arrangements has caused serious inconvenience to the port and ship companies.

### **Tanzania: Mwalimu's Portrait Back At AU 'Big Five' Line-Up**

By Gabby Mgaya/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/14 January 2013

AT last, the portrait of Tanzania's founding president and one of the pioneers of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) - later renamed African Union (AU) - Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, is back at the reception gallery of the Union's headquarters in Addis Ababa.

Tanzania - and most of Africa - had 'taken to arms' during the Union's 19th Ordinary Session over what was described as "notable absence of Mwalimu's portrait in the lineup of OAU pioneers in the new AU headquarters and demanded an immediate reinstatement.

Foreign Minister Bernard Membe and Ambassador to Ethiopia Joram Bisworo had led the campaign last July that was supported by most African countries. Rising on a point of information during an AU ambassadors' meeting on the sidelines of the summit, Tanzania's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Mr Joram Biswalo, had expressed concern over the omission of Mwalimu's portrait in the lineup.

He had called for an immediate reinstatement. An explanation that the portrait lineup represented African zones - and that Emperor Haile Selassie, represented others in 'their' zone, including Tanzania, had failed to convince the Tanzanian delegation, compelling it to press hard on the matter.

The rest of Africa supported Tanzania. Dr Bisworo's concern was shared by several speakers from other African countries who felt that it was not right to exclude Mwalimu Nyerere from the portrait lineup of pioneers of the continental body, geographical representation or not, judging from the Tanzanian leader's key role in the liberation of the continent.

AU Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma had on December 28, last year written to one of the campaigners in the portrait's reinstatement crusade, Tanzanian scholar and author who resides in London, UK, Mr Harid Mkali, saying that Mwalimu's portrait is "now among the other five leaders who were initially selected on the basis of regional representation.

The letter, with reference number BC/Z/1881/12.12, signed by the commission's Chief of Staff, Bureau of the Chairperson, Ambassador Jean-Baptiste Natama, on behalf of Dr Dlamini Zuma, informed Mr Mkali that the 'situation has been accordingly rectified.'

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was established on May 25, 1963 in Addis Ababa, with 32 signatory governments, including Tanganyika (later renamed Tanzania). It was disbanded on July 9, 2002 by its last chairperson, South African President Thabo Mbeki and replaced by the African Union (AU).

### **Tanzania: Celebrities Scale Mt Kilimanjaro to Promote Water Cause**

By Marc Nkwame/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/14 January 2013

Arusha — A GROUP of 12 celebrities from the United States of America have just completed scaling Mount Kilimanjaro over the weekend, a trek done to promote safe and clean water in Africa.

The celebrities, through a campaign famously known as Summit on the Summit, started their ascent on January 6, this year and all made it to the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro, the Uhuru Peak and spoke to the media in Arusha on Sunday.

The Summit on the Summit climb includes celebrities such as Actor Justin Chatwin, artist Mark Foster, Melissa Arnot, Chevenee Reavis, the Director of Strategic Initiatives for Water organization, Mr Kenna Zemedkun, Chase Jarvis, Actress Beau Garrett, Bryn Mooser, David Morton, Dr Greg Allgood, Steve Hall and Cynthia Koenig.

The initiative is designed to drive awareness and change to the global clean water crisis while engaging a community through raising awareness, supporting education, inspiring advocacy and activating fundraising.

By taking cultural influencers, educators and high profile individuals to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Summit is able to support organizations in bringing clean water to the 1 billion people living without the basic human right.

This year's Summit took seven days with internationally recognized influencers as well as men and women who have either made an exceptional global impression around the water crisis or proven to be leaders in youth activism. These two groups represent influencers and educators.

They climbed the mountain as a team, communicating about the issues around access to water, learning of solutions to the problem, discussing how to improve social awareness and embracing the idea that they are now the example for showing ways to take action and give back to those with little or nothing.

Through these efforts, Summit will directly support non-profit organizations providing safe, clean drinking water to struggling communities and giving future generations the chance to thrive. Computer maker HP has also joined the 'Summit on the Summit,' as the official technology outfitter, to help Kenna and the entire team to continue bringing clean water to Africa.

KENYA :

## Kenya Will Not Freeze Assets of ICC Four

By Nzau Musau/The Star/12 January 2013

THE Kenya government yesterday told ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda that it would not identify or freeze the assets of the four Kenyans accused of crimes against humanity charges at the Hague.

Attorney General Githu Muigai categorically stated that it would not cooperate with identifying their assets.

The request was originally made by Bensouda's predecessor Luis Moreno Ocampo.

The trials of deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, Eldoret North MP William Ruto, former Cabinet Secretary Francis Muthaura and broadcaster Joshua Sang start on April 109 and 11.

The ICC wanted their assets to be frozen and made available to compensate victims of post election violence in case they are jailed.

In a three page letter sent to the ICC yesterday, Githu said the government believed that the request had no basis. Githu said he was reacting to Bensouda's latest brief at the ICC that the Kenyan government is frustrating her office.

"This request cannot be acceded to without a court order and further our interpretation of the law is that Article 75(4) (of the Rome Statute) makes it clear that a request for cooperation in identifying and freezing assets for purposes of reparations (rather than forfeiture) may only take place after a person is convicted," Muigai's letter stated.

The said article says that the court "may, after a person is convicted of a crime within the jurisdiction of the court" determine whether it is necessary to seek state support in identification and freezing of assets of its nationals.

In the letter, the AG argued that Article 77 (2) provides for forfeiture of proceeds, assets and property but only after it is clear that they have been derived from the crime.

"Please note that Article 93 of the Rome Statute enjoins states to provide certain forms of cooperation including requests for freezing of assets in accordance with national laws. Accordingly Article 40 of the Kenyan constitution prohibits the arbitrary deprivation of a person's property," the AG said in his letter.

The AG wondered why Bensouda told the judges that she had been denied access to interview security officers in Kenya. He said the government had informed the prosecutor that a court order had prevented the interviews.

On Bensouda's request to interview Mount Elgon MP Fred Kapondi, the AG said, "You will recall that the government has acceded to all requests by your office regarding Hon Kapondi. The government of Kenya is not in a position to compel Hon Kapondi to speak to you."

Githu asked Bensouda to confirm the accuracy of the media reports because government has since Wednesday been unable to access the filing on the ICC website.

Meanwhile the government has written to the ICC president requesting to make a presentation on the defence request to move the trial of the four Kenyans from the Hague to Arusha.

## Kenya: Inquiry On Poaching to Be Created

12 January 2013/The Star

A commission of inquiry is to be set up into the rampant poaching of rhinos and elephants.

This follows the slaughter of a family of 12 elephants, including a 2 month old baby, in Tsavo East National Park last week.

The commission will consist of stakeholders from the tourism and conservation sectors, according to the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, Dr. Noah Wekesa.

Prime Minister Raila Odinga said that security agencies "must treat the emerging poaching threat as part of the insecurity griping the country and not a wildlife issue to be addressed solely by the Kenya Wildlife Service."

He called upon the Internal Security ministry and the Treasury to address the equipment, personnel and logistical needs of the Kenya Wildlife Service to secure the parks and protect Kenya's wildlife.

Odinga also stressed that Kenya needs a "well coordinated, well-financed and properly designed crackdown on poachers", saying it would have to involve the police, the Tourism ministry, Interpol and other ministries.

In a statement issued by the Prime Minister's office on Wednesday, Raila Odinga also appealed to the international community to strengthen national and international policing to deal with wildlife trafficking.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

## African Markets - Factors to watch on January 14

2013-01-14/xen.com

The following company announcements, scheduled economic indicators, debt and currency market moves and political events may affect African markets on Monday.

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EVENTS:

\* MOZAMBIQUE - Outwatching economic growth data for 2012 and central bank decision on January lending rate.

## GLOBAL MARKETS

The yen plumbed a 2-1/2 year low against the dollar on Monday, grabbing the Asian spotlight amid subdued trading for the region's stock markets, with the focus on Japan's central bank as it faced unrelenting political pressure to deliver bold stimulus.

## WORLD OIL PRICES

Brent crude rose to near \$111 a barrel on Monday as fears of disruption of supply from the Middle East resurfaced amid growing optimism for a revival in demand growth as the world's biggest economies show signs of steady recovery.

## MALI REBELLION

\* French fighter jets pounded Islamist rebel strongholds deep in northern Mali on Sunday as Paris poured more troops into the capital Bamako, awaiting a West African force to dislodge al Qaeda-linked insurgents from the country's north.

## EMERGING MARKETS

For the top emerging markets news, double click on

## AFRICA STOCKS

For the latest news on African stocks, click on

## SOUTH AFRICA MARKETS

\* The rand fell against the dollar on Friday, booking its softest week in a month after a credit rating cut added to investors' nervousness about holding the risky South African currency.

\* South African stocks inched lower on Friday, dragged down by mining heavyweights such as BHP Billiton and Impala Platinum, but remained within reach of recently scaled record peaks as world shares hovered near multi-month highs.

#### NIGERIA MARKETS

Nigerian interbank lending rates rose by about 100 basis points last week, to an average of 12.5 percent, as dollar sales by the state-owned energy firm NNPC and treasury bills sapped naira liquidity.

#### KENYA MARKETS

Benchmark Kenyan shares rallied for the eighth straight session on Friday to a 23-month high as investors bet on a better economic outlook after policymakers cut interest rates, while the shilling ended steady against the dollar.

#### KENYA-BONUSES

Kenya's president rejected on Saturday plans by members of parliament to triple their end-of-term bonuses and award themselves diplomatic passports, bodyguards for life and state funerals.

#### NIGER MINING

French nuclear company Areva has agreed to pay Niger 35 million euros (\$46.71 million) in compensation for delays to its Imouraren uranium mining project in the north of the desert country, a presidency official said on Sunday.

## C. AFRICAN REPUBLIC REBELLION

Central African Republic President Francois Bozize dismissed his prime minister and dissolved the cabinet on Saturday, clearing the way for the nomination of a national unity government in line with a peace accord signed with rebels.

## ZAMBIA MINING

Canadian mining firm First Quantum Minerals plans to invest \$275 million in a new nickel mine in Zambia, a company official said on Saturday.

## UGANDA CURRENCY

The Ugandan shilling firmed 0.4 percent against the dollar on Friday, underpinned by tight liquidity and banks cutting their long greenback positions, traders said.

## NAMIBIA INFLATION

Namibia's headline consumer inflation braked to 6.3 percent year-on-year in December from 7.6 percent in November, the Namibia Statistics Agency said on Friday.

For the latest precious metals report click on

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## East Africa: AfDB Pushes for Single Regional Currency

By Eric Kabeera/The New Times/12 January 2013

A new report by African Development Bank has proposed the establishment of a single currency in the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (Comesa) member countries, a move that is seen as a stepping stone in cementing regional economic growth.

The report says if the monetary union is achieved, it will benefit in a greater macroeconomic convergence in the region.

The report stands against the prevailing skepticism about the desirability of pursuing the objective



of monetary unions in Africa, and hence the need for fiscal convergence and multilateral surveillance among regional economic communities' member countries.

Donald Kaberuka, the president of the African Development Bank, says the monetary union would be essential for economic integration.

"Fiscal convergence is essential to Comesa's macroeconomic convergence programme, and is a bridge between monetary and trade integration programmes," Kaberuka said.

The bloc that consists of 19 members, including Rwanda, would provide a wide market to the production sectors and elevate the proper flow of goods and services.

Not yet time

"A major responsibility also lies with the national authorities to encourage national ownership of the multilateral fiscal surveillance framework, reinforce their national public finance management systems, and formulate their individual convergence programs," says Jian Zhang, Principal Economist at AfDB.

However, Prof. Manasseh Nshuti, a Kigali-based economist, argues that though it is an important initiative, this is not the right time to propose it. Prof. Nshuti advises that there is a need to first concentrate on ensuring strong financial independence of member countries.

"We need to have harmonised fiscal regimes and we still have other outstanding issues like corruption, lack of transparency and different inflation rates, meaning that it might be difficult for the member countries to sort these issues," he said.

Prof. Nshuti, a former Finance minister, said it would not make sense to have a single Comesa currency before achieving the East African monetary union.

"We are not yet ready for the Comesa currency. We haven't even achieved the EAC Monetary Union that we have always been singing about," he said.

The long-awaited EAC single currency had initially been proposed for 2012.

### Egypt Court Orders Mubarak Retrial

January 13, 2013/online.wsj.com

CAIRO—An Egyptian court re-opened a sensitive political wound Sunday when it overturned former President Hosni Mubarak's life sentence over his role in the deaths of hundreds of protesters during the country's revolution two years ago, and ordered a retrial.

The judge also ruled to retry Mr. Mubarak's interior minister, Habib Al Adly, who is also serving life in prison, and reopened murder and corruption trials for nine co-defendants who had been acquitted: six of his top security officers, a former Mubarak business partner and the ousted president's two sons. The judge didn't explain his verdict or set a retrial date.

The rulings threaten to unsettle Egypt just as political parties, battered by a recent battle over a divisive constitutional referendum, prepare for parliamentary elections this spring, and as the country's crippled economy deteriorates.

To help stem that decline, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy on Sunday warned Egypt not to postpone a deal with the International Monetary Fund and said some European Union aid depends on it.

Sunday's widely expected decision disappointed the families of the protestors killed in the January, 2011, demonstrations that ultimately overturned Mr. Mubarak, but it offered a rare moment of accord across Egypt's fractious political scene.

Both Mubarak supporters and opponents viewed the verdict as a chance to rectify a flawed trial whose outcome satisfied few Egyptians when it was announced in June.

A Mubarak lawyer said the decision will give defense attorneys the chance to exonerate the former leader, whose vast security apparatus brutally suppressed dissent during his nearly 30-year reign.

Gamal Eid, an attorney who represents 13 deceased protestors' families against Mr. Mubarak and his co-defendants, said, "It's logical, actually. As we said during the trial, the investigation was very weak and it wasn't a serious investigation."

The court has not yet determined whether to let Mr. Mubarak leave state custody before the retrial, say local reports.

It is possible the former leader won't live to see it. The ailing 84-year old was transferred to a military hospital in December after he was reportedly injured in a fall in a prison bathroom.

Mr. Mubarak's opponents say the retrial will let them present a stronger murder case, with fresh evidence he ordered police to assault protestors with live ammunition. They also said a new trial may also let prosecutors ensnare the six acquitted officers.

"Practically speaking, we see it as important to the retrial of Mubarak as the former officers," said Khaled Dawoud, a spokesman for the National Salvation Front, an umbrella group that has emerged as the primary opposition to Egypt's Islamist leadership. The court "accepted both the appeal of the lawyers and the appeal of the prosecutors."

The judgment also reopens corruption charges against Mr. Mubarak and his two sons, Ali and Gamal. All three men were acquitted of embezzling public money during their trial, sparking outrage from activists who have seen little result from their efforts to bring corrupt former officials to justice.

Judge Ahmed Ali Abdel-Rahman's short statement on Sunday morning was interrupted by cries of victory from a small group of Mr. Mubarak's supporters who had crowded the courtroom.

Reaction across Egypt to the court ruling was muted, but opposition leaders said sentiment could feed into protests planned for Jan. 25, the second anniversary of the revolution's start.

Mr. Dawoud said protestors seemed more outraged by a decision on Saturday from Egypt's Public Funds Prosecution. Mustafa Hussein said the anticorruption body would let high-level ex-regime officials "reconcile" with the state by paying back embezzled funds in return for reduced prison sentences.

Mr. Mubarak himself was released from charges that he had illegally received gifts from editors of Al Ahram, Egypt's largest state-owned newspaper, after he agreed to return 18 million Egyptian pounds, or almost \$3 million, the newspaper reported.

Prosecutors have long complained that police with loyalties to the former regime stymied their investigations ahead of Mr. Mubarak's first trial. Some prosecuting attorneys have also acknowledged the faults of their own disorganized legal team, which saw little cooperation among dozens of lawyers representing hundreds of victims.

In a report released on Sunday to coincide with the verdict, entitled "Mubarak's First Trial: A Wasted Opportunity for Justice," the Egyptian Institute for Personal Rights advised the court to consider new evidence uncovered by the fact-finding commission, which was convened last year by Egypt's new president, Mohammed Morsi. Mr. Morsi made the re-trial of ex-regime officials a primary plank in his election campaign.

The commission in December said Mr. Mubarak had watched the revolution unfold via a live television feed, contradicting his lawyers' contention that he knew little of a police crackdown that led to nearly 900 deaths.

"The primary cause of the flawed judgment handed down by the Cairo felony court was that the prosecution went through the same security and judicial channels that were designed to protect the Mubarak regime," the group said.

Yousri Abdel Razeq, one of Mr. Mubarak's defense attorneys, said he had proof that the powerful Muslim Brotherhood, which backs Mr. Morsi's presidency, were involved in killing demonstrators as part of a plot to discredit and ultimately topple Mr. Mubarak's regime.

"I'm sure that Mubarak and the people who were tried are all innocent," said Mr. Abdel Razeq. "We're going to file fresh evidence showing that the Muslim Brotherhood were involved in killing demonstrators."

The Brotherhood has denied any role in the killings.

Mr. Mubarak's main lawyer, Farid Al Deeb, told the Al Hayat news channel that the re-trial stood to benefit the former leader's case because it returned the proceedings "back to the starting point" but this time without the withering public pressure the trial faced last year. Egyptians widely believe next proceedings are unlikely to be televised because the previous judge turned off the cameras shortly into the initial trial and didn't turn them back on again.

Write to Matt Bradley at [matt.bradley@dowjones.com](mailto:matt.bradley@dowjones.com)

### Après Ben Ali, Moncef Marzouki reçoit sa part de "Dégage"

14 January 2013 /tixup.com

Le président provisoire de la République, Moncef Marzouki, a reçu sa part de "dégage" dimanche 13 janvier 2013, la veille du 2ème anniversaire de la "Révolte tunisienne" lors de son déplacement à Sidi Bou Saïd pour se rendre au mausolée de Sidi Bou Saïd El Béji qui a été incendié samedi dernier.

A son arrivée, M. Marzouki a été accueilli par des cris hostiles et les habitants de la ville qui étaient présents sur les lieux lui ont crié "Dégage". Moncef Marzouki a été ainsi contraint à quitter rapidement les lieux laissant derrière lui un tas d'insultes.

A la veille du 2ème anniversaire de la révolte tunisienne, la tension règne au sein de la société

tunisienne qui s'est retrouvée, en grande partie, déçue quant à des promesses non-tenues, des faux-espairs et des partis politiques qui n'arrivent toujours pas à gagner la confiance des citoyens et passer des messages encourageants...

### Egypte : Hosni Moubarak sera rejugé

( Xinhua )/14.01.2013

La cour de cassation égyptienne a accepté deux recours dans les affaires liées à l'ancien président Hosni Moubarak, a rapporté dimanche la télévision d'Etat égyptienne.

Le premier recours a été déposé par M. Moubarak et son ancien ministre de l'Intérieur, Habib al-Adli, tous deux condamnés le 3 juin 2012 par la cour pénale du Caire à la prison à perpétuité dans le cadre du procès devant déterminer leurs responsabilités dans la mort de manifestants durant les troubles survenus en janvier 2011.

Le second recours a été déposé par les procureurs qui poursuivent en justice les fils de M. Moubarak, Gamal et Alaa, ainsi que six ex-hauts responsables des services de sécurité proches de l'ancien ministre de l'Intérieur. Les fils de M. Moubarak, qui étaient accusés de faits de corruption, avaient été acquittés en juin dernier, tous comme l'avaient été les six responsables de la sécurité, mis en cause dans le meurtre de manifestants durant le mouvement de protestation populaire de 2011.

Tous les accusés, y compris M. Moubarak, seront rejugés, a rapporté la télévision d'Etat.

Par ailleurs, samedi, les procureurs égyptiens ont interrogé M. Moubarak sur les cadeaux d'une valeur de plus d'un million de dollars qu'il aurait reçus chaque année du journal d'Etat Al-Ahram durant la période 2006-2011.

Le bureau des procureurs va également former une commission qui sera chargée d'enquêter sur les cadeaux que M. Moubarak pourrait avoir reçus d'Al-Ahram pendant la période 1984-2006.

En outre, le procureur général Talaat Ibrahim Abdallah avait décidé jeudi de créer une commission spéciale pour mener des investigations sur les crimes commis durant les troubles de 2011 qui ont provoqué la chute du régime de M. Moubarak. Cette commission devra examiner le rapport de la commission qui avait été chargée par le président Morsi d'établir les faits concernant les agressions et les meurtres perpétrés lors des manifestations de début 2011.

En raison de la détérioration de son état de santé, M. Moubarak a été récemment transféré de l'hôpital de la prison où il était incarcéré à un hôpital militaire.

UN/AFRICA :

### U.N. Security Council to discuss Mali as France steps up fight against insurgents

From Katarina Hoijs, for CNN/January 14, 2013

Bamako, Mali (CNN) -- The U.N. Security Council will discuss the conflict in Mali on Monday as a military offensive to wrest Islamic militants' control over part of the country rages on.

The meeting comes as more world bodies, including the United Kingdom and the United States,

consider more support for the Malian government as it fights insurgents controlling the north.

France has taken the international lead in assisting Mali, a former French colony.

On Sunday, French military strikes targeted Islamist rebels, with both sides of the fight saying they were determined to win.

French fighter jets bombed rebel training camps and other targets, France's defense ministry said.

"France's goal is to lead a relentless struggle against terrorist groups, preventing any new offensive of these groups to the south of Mali," the ministry said in a statement.

France has several hundred ground troops in Mali, where they may soon be joined by hundreds of troops from nearby African nations.

Islamist rebels in Mali acknowledged Sunday they suffered heavy losses in fights with the country's military and French troops -- but said it wouldn't stop them.

"This is a holy war. The deaths are normal," Sanda Ould Boumama, spokesman for the al Qaeda-linked rebel group Ansar Dine, said.

"Our fighters are prepared to die for our cause."

One of Ansar Dine's lieutenants, Iyad Ag Ghaly, was killed in the fight over the central town of Konna, security sources said.

Who is Ansar Dine?

Insurgents took the town Thursday but retreated the next day after a combined air and ground assault. Konna has been the de facto line of government control.

"The war has only started," Boumama said. "We expect more casualties."

He accused the French military of attacking Malians.

"Now the world can see that it's the French who are the real terrorists," he said.

But French and Malian military officials say the assaults are against rebel strongholds, not civilians.

Bodies lay on a road between the town and Islamist base, said Vieux Dada, a teacher in Gao.

"I believe they were Islamist fighters who tried to flee," he said.

Mali's military has suffered heavy losses in previous clashes, including 11 soldiers killed and about 60 wounded in the battle for Konna, according to a government statement read on state TV.

Additionally, a French helicopter pilot died while taking part Friday afternoon in an aerial operation targeting a terrorist group moving on the town of Mopti, near Konna, Le Drian said.

What's behind the instability in Mali

A French colony until 1960, Mali had military rulers for decades until its first democratic elections

in 1992. It remained stable politically until March, when a group of soldiers toppled the government, saying it had not provided adequate support for them to fight ethnic Tuareg rebels in the country's largely desert north.

Tuareg rebels, who'd sought independence for decades, took advantage of the power vacuum and seized swaths of land. A power struggle then erupted in the north between the Tuaregs and local al Qaeda-linked radicals, who wound up in control of a large area as the Tuaregs retreated.

The United Nations says amputations, floggings and public executions -- like the July stoning of a couple who had reportedly had an affair -- became common in areas controlled by radical Islamists. They applied a strict interpretation of Sharia law in banning music, smoking, drinking and watching sports on television, and damaged Timbuktu's historic tombs and shrines.

Already, the armed groups' activity and a pervasive drought have displaced hundreds of thousands of Malians.

And the Islamists' movement southward has raised concerns among leaders in West Africa and elsewhere, some of them calling for swift and decisive military intervention in support of Mali's government, based in Bamako.

The U.N. Security Council last month authorized a one-year military peacekeeping mission in the country. Members of ECOWAS, the Economic Community of West African States, pledged thousands of troops, and the Security Council has urged other nations to contribute forces as well.

British Prime Minister David Cameron agreed to "provide logistical military assistance to help transport foreign troops and equipment quickly to Mali," but no British personnel in a combat role, a Downing Street spokesman said.

The U.S. military is weighing options, including logistical support and intelligence sharing with France, a U.S. defense official said Saturday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because no decisions had been made.

"This is a serious issue, and ... the United States is committed to going after terrorists wherever they may be in order to protect American interests, but also those of our partners and allies around the world," Pentagon spokesman George Little said last week.

CNN's Vladimir Duthiers and Saskya Vandoorne contributed to this report.

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

**Canada to supply logistical support to Mali's military, president says**

By David Pugliese/ Ottawa Citizen/ January 13, 2013

Mali's president says Canada has agreed to provide military logistical support to his country as

African nations start preparing for a mission in that country against al-Qaeda-linked rebels and French and Malian forces continue their attack against the well-armed jihadists.

Canadian troops from Petawawa still plan to train African soldiers starting next month in Mauritania, although it is now possible that many of the personnel they are to instruct could soon be heading into battle in Mali.

The news comes as French fighter jets on Sunday bombed training camps run by Islamist rebels in Northern Mali. Niger, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Nigeria agreed on Saturday to send soldiers to support that military action designed to help Mali's military push back the advancing rebels.

Mali's President Dioncounda Traore used Twitter on Sunday to announce that Canada, the United States and Britain have agreed to provide logistical support to the Malian and French military forces fighting the rebels.

The U.S. has acknowledged it is providing communications and transport help, while Britain is sending C-17 aircraft to help African nations move their troops to the front lines.

The Canadian government did not comment directly Sunday on Traore's announcement. But Jay Paxton, a spokesman for Defence Minister Peter MacKay, stated in an email that Canada's position has not changed.

"Canada continues to be deeply concerned by the ongoing security situation in Mali and supports efforts to stabilize that country," he said.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said Canada would not provide "direct" military aid to Mali. Government officials have said, however, Canada is looking for ways to support that country.

Mali's president did not give further details on what sort of logistical aid Canada would provide.

But a Canadian Forces C-17 transport aircraft was recently in Africa to deliver equipment and personnel from the Canadian Special Operations Regiment from CFB Petawawa so they could begin training troops from Niger. The Canadians, numbering less than 25, will provide instruction to the Niger soldiers and then accompany them to a U.S.-sponsored exercise in Mauritania.

It is not known whether the Canadian C-17 has since been diverted to pick up other African troops and transport them to Mali so they can take part in the fighting.

Once one of Africa's most stable and vibrant countries, Mali has been in turmoil since Islamic militants took control of the northern half of the country in March.

That has prompted fears the jihadists and other terrorist groups active in a belt spanning Africa just south of the Sahara Desert will use the territory as a base from which to launch attacks throughout the region and even against Western targets.

As a result, the UN Security Council last month approved the creation of an African-led military force supported by the West to intervene in Mali.

More than 400 French troops have been deployed there to seize back the territory captured by the rebels. A French helicopter has already been shot down by the well-equipped rebels. The pilot was killed.

African Union chair Boni Yayi met with Harper last week to discuss the situation in Mali, among other things, and press for Canada's support in establishing the mission.

At a press conference following their Jan. 8 meeting on Parliament Hill, the two leaders reiterated the international community's concerns about the situation in Mali.

"Obviously we are very concerned about the situation," Harper said. "The development of essentially an entire terrorist region in the middle of Africa is of great concern to everybody in the international community."

Yet while similar concerns were used to justify Canada's military engagement in Afghanistan, Harper said: "The government of Canada is not considering a direct Canadian military mission."

Rather, Harper said Canada will continue to provide humanitarian aid to the region and "work diplomatically with our allies and our friends on how best to address that situation."

The prime minister's comments stood in stark contrast to those of Yayi, also the president of Benin, who warned that diplomatic talks with the militants will not work.

"Dialogue with the forces of evil is futile," he said. "And each day that we wait is a bad thing."

Yayi went on to say the jihadists pose a threat to global security and responsibility for dealing with them should lay with the entire international community, including NATO members like Canada.

"When we talk about an international force, it is not only (West Africa) or the African Union," he said. "There are also other forces outside the African continent that could contribute given the seriousness of the situation and the resources that are required to implement this. I think NATO should add its forces to our efforts so this could be a global mission."

Canada has provided Mali with hundreds of millions of dollars in aid over the past 40 years.

In addition, members of the Canadian Special Operations Regiment had earlier trained Mali's forces, both as part of a previous exercise and on separate training missions to the country. The special forces trainers did not accompany Malian troops to the front-lines as the instruction was done on bases.

With files from Lee Berthiaume, Postmedia News

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

**Mali: high stakes in 'Hollande's war'**

Angelique Chrisafis/guardian.co.uk/Sunday 13 January 2013

Unpopular in the polls and accused of dithering on the economy, Mali has shown the French



president in decisive mode

France's sudden military intervention in its former colony Mali to contain Islamist groups which have gained control of the desert north marks a crossroads. Until now, the Socialist president, François Hollande, who had positioned himself as an anti-warmonger with the early withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, had been planning a more subtle role in west Africa.

Paris played a key part in the recent UN resolution to restore order in Mali. But the plan had been for west African forces to lead the way, starting in September. Europeans would meanwhile train the dishevelled and contested Malian army. In the corridors of the French foreign ministry, diplomats always maintained that France would not - indeed could not - lead on the frontline with troops. Paris was keen to shake off its former colonial mantle by keeping a low-key role.

But after a surprise push by the rebels, leaving the path open to the capital, Bamako, France suddenly stepped in with fighter-jets and ground troops. Hollande carefully explained to the nation that he had a legal international mandate to act, backed by the UN and a request for help from Mali's embattled president. The French defence minister called it "a war against terrorism". Mali risked disintegrating into a jihadist state that would be a major international threat. It was sold as the war France could not avoid.

Yet France remains aware of the baggage it carries in Africa. Since the end of colonial rule, the Élysée has been accused of pulling strings, sweetened with briefcases of petrodollars, propping up contested leaders to suit Paris's business interests in a shady system known as "Françafrique".

The horrors of Rwanda and the bitter taste left by Nicolas Sarkozy's 2007 speech in Dakar that "the African has never really entered into history" still cast a shadow. Hollande promised that era was over when he was elected.

France, the only European country still to have a permanent military presence in Africa with several major military bases, had sought to move on from its role as "gendarme" of the region. Weeks before the Mali intervention, Hollande conspicuously refused to come to the rescue of the incumbent leader in Central African Republic, another former colony.

Already commentators in France are saying Mali could transform Hollande's political image. Unpopular in the polls and accused by critics of dithering on the economy, Mali has shown Hollande in decisive mode. "If Sarkozy had Libya, Hollande will have Mali," said *Le Parisien*, referring to Sarkozy's personal investment against Gaddafi. But "Sarkozy's war", as Libya was termed, never boosted the former rightwing president's poll ratings and failed to get him re-elected.

Military intervention in Mali, likely to be drawn out, is not without risk for Hollande. He will probably be pictured greeting coffins draped in the tricolour flag. France's eight-month role in Libya saw no troops killed, but on the first day in Mali, a French helicopter was downed and its pilot died. Mali's rebels, who control an area larger than Afghanistan, are better armed and trained than thought, boasting state-of-the-art weaponry left over from the Libya conflict. Civilian casualties are a major factor. France has eight hostages held by al-Qaeda-linked groups in the region who are more vulnerable than ever. The terrorist risk level on French soil has been stepped up to maximum.

France's aim for the time being is to hold back the rebels while a joint West African force prepares the drive to win back the north. So far Hollande has enjoyed the traditional cross-party support for military action, bar a few sceptical voices such as the leftist Jean-Luc Mélenchon. Dominique de Villepin, who led world opposition to the US-led Iraq war in 2003, warned that "war is not France" and pointed to the political mess left behind in places such as Iraq.

But most damaging of all, when parliament debates the action in Mali on Monday, the government faces difficult questions on two African fronts. As the Mali offensive began, Paris was shaken by a botched French bid to free one of its intelligence agents held for more than three years by Islamist militants in Somalia. After what seems like a major fiasco and intelligence failing, the hostage is presumed killed, another soldier is perhaps in enemy hands, and two soldiers are feared dead along with civilians.

As one French diplomat said last month of any action in Mali: "It would be heavy, onerous, not the peacekeeping we are used to elsewhere in Africa."

### French Join Africa Battle With Islamist Rebels

January 11, 2013/By GABRIELE PARUSSINI, DREW HINSHAW and DAVID GAUTHIER-VILLARS/online.wsj.com

Paris Puts Troops on Ground, Asks U.S. for Drones to Help Fight al Qaeda-Linked Insurgents Gaining a Foothold in Mali

PARIS—French military forces joined Malian troops battling Islamist rebels in the West African nation, and Paris asked the U.S. to send drones to support the campaign, amid Western fears that insurgent groups with links to al Qaeda could destabilize the region and gain the ability to strike overseas.

President François Hollande said Friday that French soldiers were intervening alongside the local army and other troops from Western African countries, at the Mali government's request, to help stop the progression of rebel groups advancing toward the south. He said the intervention is being conducted under resolutions by the United Nations Security Council, which early Friday called for "a rapid deployment" of foreign troops.

France has asked U.S. officials to speed surveillance equipment to support the military campaign, Western officials said. The Pentagon is reviewing the request, which if approved—as is expected—would involve the deployment of drones, satellites and sophisticated eavesdropping systems to collect intelligence in support of French strikes on militant targets.

The deployments would be the first U.S. involvement in a military campaign since Libya in 2011. In Libya, however, the U.S. conducted airstrikes.

In addition to drones, Paris wants the U.S. to be prepared to provide aircraft to help refuel French fighters, Western officials said. France hasn't asked for U.S. ground troops, and the American drones wouldn't take part directly in any airstrikes, the Western officials said.

Paris expected Washington to agree within days to the request.

The Pentagon and the White House declined to comment, but expressed U.S. concerns about Mali's instability. "We are monitoring the situation closely. We have noted that the government of Mali has asked for support, and we share the French goal of denying terrorists a haven in the region," said Tommy Vietor, spokesman for the White House National Security Council.

The Obama administration has been debating for months whether to authorize new steps to counter al Qaeda gains in Mali. The review gained added urgency after intelligence pointed to the involvement of militants linked to al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, al Qaeda's Saharan affiliate,

known as AQIM, in deadly attacks on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, Libya, on Sept. 11, 2012.

Mr. Hollande's decision to send soldiers to Mali marks a shift. Paris had earlier said it stood ready to help coordinate a multilateral intervention in the country but wouldn't deploy troops there. In recent months, Mr. Hollande had taken steps to reassure Algeria and other regional powers in North and West Africa that France—the former colonial ruler in the area—wouldn't lead a war aimed at restoring Mali's integrity, even if the operation was approved by the U.N.

"This afternoon, French armed forces lent support to units of the Malian army to fight against terrorists," Mr. Hollande said on national television. "This operation will last as long as needed."

France said its intervention included airstrikes. Malian officials said the local army was concentrating efforts on regaining control of Konna, in the center of the country. The sleepy market town had been a last outpost of government control before rebels marched in on Thursday, breaking an eight-month stalemate. Many civilians have fled toward the south of the country to escape the fighting in Konna, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

Late Friday, Malian President Dioncounda Traoré, who had called on France for military support a day earlier, urged in a televised speech that all Malians rally behind him to "defend every square centimeter of our national territory." He declared a state of emergency.

Western countries have watched anxiously in recent months as AQIM seized a wide stretch of Mali's north following the collapse of the country's elected government in March 2012. For about a decade, experts say, AQIM has trained terrorists, facilitated drug trafficking, and kidnapped foreigners for ransom in the vast Sahara region. In recent months, it and other Islamist groups have begun violently imposing Islamic rule in Mali's north, prompting hundreds of thousands to flee south.

Until Friday, international plans to assist Mali in coping with the rebel onslaught had moved slowly. The U.N. Security Council passed three resolutions last year to prepare the ground for an African-led military intervention. Within the framework of the resolutions, France and other European Union countries had been in the process of sending military instructors to the region to help set up a special African force and reorganize Mali's small army. The U.S. had said it might provide some technical and financial support.

But Mr. Hollande said Friday that after rebel groups renewed their push toward the south of Mali this week, a prompt reaction was necessary. "The very existence of this state, a friend of ours, is at stake," the French president said. The French government said it alerted the Security Council, the U.S., and several other governments before starting the Mali operation.

Mr. Hollande's decision to intervene in Mali is his boldest move on the international scene since he took office in May last year. Leaders of France's main opposition parties, who have often criticized the president for being indecisive, said Friday that they supported the intervention.

French leaders have long pledged that France would stop using its army to meddle in African politics. In 2011, however, then-President Nicolas Sarkozy engaged French forces in two armed conflicts on the African continent: in Libya and in Ivory Coast. In each case, Mr. Sarkozy said France had intervened strictly within the frame of a U.N. mandate and to protect civilians—not French interests.

The soldiers from France arrived the same day as troops from nearby Senegal and Nigeria, Mali

Defense Ministry spokesman Diarran Kone said. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said that, as of Friday, only French soldiers were fighting alongside the Malian army. About 6,000 French citizens reside in Mali, mainly in Bamako, the capital.

The European Commission, which is helping set up the Western African force that would intervene in Mali, said Friday that talks were under way to see how the process could be accelerated but that the troops sent on behalf of the European Union would help train Mali's military, not take part in combat. "We are not considering reviewing the mandate," an EU official said.  
—Adam Entous and Laurence Norman contributed to this article.

### European Commission to give Pak 42 mn euro aid

[PTI/hindustantimes.com/14/1/2013](http://PTI/hindustantimes.com/14/1/2013)

Berlin, January 14, 2013

India will continue to be a focus of the European Community's humanitarian assistance in 2013, but five major global hotspots of crises, including Pakistan, will receive the largest chunk of over 661 million euros aid earmarked for this year, the European Commission has said.

Vulnerable populations subjected to "long-enduring crises" in India and eight other countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America will receive a part of the funds allocated under the commission's humanitarian aid plan for 2013, which has been just adopted in Brussels.

For the victims of "forgotten crises", who receive little media attention, the EU is "often the only major donor", the commission said in a press statement.

Besides India, several communities in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Myanmar, Algeria, Yemen, Colombia and the Central African Republic will also receive the EU assistance.

"The only new crisis on this year's list is the one caused by conflict and internal displacement in Pakistan," the statement said.

Pakistan will receive a total of 42 million euros humanitarian assistance from the EU.

The crises in the five main regions of the EU's humanitarian aid operation arise from years of conflict, food shortages or both, the commission said.

It will finance the aid operations in the Sahel region, including its relief efforts in war-torn Mali, with an allocation of 82 million euros while 80 million euros has been earmarked to help ease the sufferings of the population caught up in the conflict in the Sudan and South Sudan.

The commission also allocated 54 million euros to cope with the emergency situation created by an escalation of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo while the EU's relief efforts in Somalia will be financed with an allocation of 40 million euros.

Geographically, Sub-Saharan Africa will receive the largest share of the EU humanitarian aid amounting to 344.5 million euros or 52% of the commission's overall commitments.

The funds will flow to its partner organisations in the recipient countries, which will implement the aid projects.

In addition to the funds allocated to cope with the most intractable humanitarian crises around the world, the commission will also keep reserve resources this year to respond to unforeseen crisis and other emergencies.

The EU's global humanitarian aid is allocated on the basis of an annual global need assessment, in which the commission evaluates the aid requirements of 140 developing countries in terms of their vulnerability and recent occurrence of a crisis.

In 2012, the commission identified 68 countries as experiencing at least one humanitarian crisis.

### Mali et Somalie : l'armée française opposée à un ennemi plus fort que prévu

Afp/14 Janvier 2013

Combattants islamistes mieux armés et mieux entraînés que prévu surprenant les militaires français au Mali, preneurs d'otages alertés de l'arrivée des commandos d'élite français en Somalie : les militaires français sont à la peine au Mali et en Somalie.

En moins de quarante-huit heures, l'armée française a connu des pertes coup sur coup sur les deux théâtres d'opération : un pilote d'hélicoptère tué au Mali et un otage, plus a priori deux soldats, l'un mort, l'autre soit tué soit disparu en Somalie.

Les deux opérations n'ont certes pas de lien, mais elles ont mis en lumière la qualité des combattants opposés aux forces françaises.

Episode révélateur : la rapidité de l'exécutif français à annoncer le "coup d'arrêt" porté à l'avancée vers le sud des islamistes au Mali avant de reconnaître que l'intervention serait plus compliquée que prévu.

"Un coup d'arrêt a été porté à nos adversaires", avait ainsi déclaré le président François Hollande, tout en soulignant que la mission n'était pas "achevée".

Le lendemain, dimanche, le ministre français de la Défense, Jean-Yves Le Drian, se montrait, lui, plus prudent et confessait que l'avancée vers le sud du pays des groupes armés n'était pas "totalement empêchée". "Les interventions sont toujours en cours et nous poursuivrons pour empêcher la progression vers le sud, ça c'est en partie fait, pas totalement", a-t-il dit.

Peu après, il révélait que la France avait fait entrer dans la guerre contre les jihadistes quatre Rafale, un bombardier ultra-moderne, le plus performant de l'armée...

Ennemi bien armé contrairement aux attentes

Dimanche, l'entourage du chef de l'Etat a fait une confession d'une candeur surprenante. "A l'origine, on pouvait penser qu'il s'agissait de quelques soudards à bord de Toyota avec quelques armes", a reconnu une source dans cet entourage.

"Ils se révèlent en réalité bien équipés, bien armés et bien entraînés", a ajouté la même source, notant que les groupes islamistes "ont récupéré en Libye un matériel moderne sophistiqué, beaucoup plus robuste et efficace que ce qu'on pouvait imaginer".

"Ce qui nous a beaucoup frappés, c'est la modernité de leur équipement, leur entraînement et leur

capacité à s'en servir", affirme cette source. Ces groupes armés ont "montré comment ils pouvaient endommager un hélicoptère et blesser mortellement son pilote", a-t-on souligné faisant allusion au pilote d'hélicoptère tué par un tir d'arme légère d'un combattant islamiste.

Interrogé dimanche soir, le ministre français des Affaires étrangères, Laurent Fabius, a démenti toute surprise : "non, on ne s'est pas laissé surprendre".

A plusieurs milliers de kilomètres de là, dans la Corne de l'Afrique, région de prédilection des pirates somaliens, les troupes d'élite de l'armée française ont aussi connu des difficultés pour une mission qui s'est soldée par deux morts et un disparu côté français. Selon Paris, 17 Somaliens ont été tués.

Le ministre de la Défense a ainsi reconnu que la résistance avait été "plus forte que prévu" pour les commandos chargés de libérer l'otage français en captivité depuis plus de trois ans, manière de reconnaître que les shebab somaliens avaient été sous-estimés.

L'opération a été décidée par M. Hollande "il y a un mois", "lorsqu'on a su avec un maximum de certitudes où se trouvait très précisément l'otage", a-t-il ajouté.

Mais selon des habitants sur place, les Français hélicoptérés à partir d'un navire de guerre ont atterri à trois kilomètres de la localité où était censé être détenu l'otage et leur présence a été rapidement éventée.

"Les combattants moudjahidine étaient déjà au courant de l'attaque et nous étions prêts à nous défendre, grâce à Dieu", a dit à l'AFP un commandant local islamiste, Cheikh Mohamed Ibrahim.

Les Français "étaient environ une quarantaine face à plus de cent combattants shebab lourdement armés. Leur mission était impossible et très peu professionnelle", s'étonne un employé somalien d'une agence humanitaire locale, s'exprimant sous couvert d'anonymat.

Dimanche, on apprenait par une lettre du président Barack Obama adressée au Congrès américain que les Etats-Unis avaient fourni "un soutien technique limité" aux forces françaises sans pour autant prendre part directement à l'assaut.

**Fiasco d'un raid français en Somalie: la résistance a été "plus forte que prévue"**  
(13/01/2013)/dhnet.be

NAIROBI Une opération commando française a échoué samedi à libérer un otage détenu en Somalie, a priori abattu par ses geôliers islamistes selon Paris, à la suite de combats ayant fait de nombreux morts dont un soldat français. "Tout donne à penser que (l'otage) Denis Alex a été abattu par ses geôliers", lors de cette opération menée tôt samedi matin, et qui a donné lieu à des combats d'"une grande violence", a déclaré samedi à Paris le ministre français de la Défense Jean-Yves Le Drian à la presse.

Le ministre a reconnu que la résistance avait été "plus forte que prévue".

Les islamistes somaliens shebab ont assuré au contraire que l'agent des services spéciaux français, qu'ils détiennent depuis plus de trois ans, était "toujours en sécurité, loin du lieu de bataille", et qu'il serait jugé "dans les deux jours".

Il apparaît en tout cas que l'opération menée par les équipes de la DGSE (services spéciaux et de renseignement) dans la localité de Bulomarer, dans le sud de la Somalie, pour libérer leur camarade

a été un échec.

Un soldat français a été tué dans les combats et un autre est "porté disparu", a indiqué le ministre français de la Défense. Dix-sept "terroristes" ont été tués dans les combats, toujours selon le ministère français de la Défense.

Les shebab ont pour leur part affirmé détenir un membre du commando français. "Le soldat français blessé est maintenant sous la garde des Moudjahidine", affirme le mouvement islamiste, rallié à Al-Qaïda, dans son communiqué parvenu à l'AFP.

Un habitant de Bulomarer a indiqué samedi à l'AFP avoir vu le corps sans vie d'un homme blanc. "Ce matin nous avons vu plusieurs cadavres y compris celui d'un homme blanc.

Huit civils tués dans le raid français en Somalie

Au moins huit civils somaliens ont été tués samedi au cours d'un raid français infructueux pour libérer un otage en Somalie, et qui a fait aussi plusieurs morts islamistes ou français, ont affirmé dimanche à l'AFP des habitants sur place.

Quatre de ces civils ont été tués lors de la progression au sol des commandos français vers la localité de Bulomarer, où l'otage était réputé être détenu.

Quatre autres civils sont morts dans les combats qui ont suivi entre ces commandos et les insurgés islamistes à Bulomarer, ont rapporté ces témoins, interrogés par téléphone depuis Mogadiscio.

"Quatre civils, dont trois d'une même famille, sont morts. Ils ont été tués hors de Bulomarer, là où les commandos français ont atterri avant d'entrer dans cette ville", a affirmé un de ces habitants, Adan Derow. "Nous ne savons pas pourquoi ces civils ont été tués" hors de Bulomarer, a indiqué pour sa part Ali Moalim Hassan, un notable local, ajoutant que leurs corps ont été retrouvés près d'un lieu appelé Dhaydog. "Quatre autres civils ont également été pris dans les échanges de tirs et sont morts dans la localité de Bulomarer", a ajouté cet habitant.

Les commandos français ont perdu pour leur part au moins un soldat dans le raid, et les autorités françaises ont fait état de 17 "terroristes" tués.

L'attaque a été menée par une cinquantaine de commandos du service action (SA) de la DGSE à bord d'au moins cinq hélicoptères du GAM 56 "Vaucluse" (unité d'hélicoptères et d'avions de l'armée de l'air dédiée à la DGSE) et du Commandement des opérations spéciales (COS), selon une source dans les milieux du renseignement français.

L'opération a commencé à 02H00 locales samedi (23H00 GMT vendredi), et les affrontements ont duré 45 minutes, selon les shebab. "Le commando de la DGSE a fait face d'emblée à une forte résistance", a souligné le ministère français de la Défense.

L'opération visait à libérer un agent de la DGSE détenu en Somalie depuis le 14 juillet 2009 par les shebab. Cet agent, présenté par les autorités françaises comme Denis Alex - a priori un pseudonyme - avait été enlevé à Mogadiscio avec un autre agent qui a, lui, recouvré la liberté en août 2009.

Le raid est survenu alors que la France a annoncé au même moment avoir apporté un soutien militaire au gouvernement du Mali contre un autre mouvement jihadiste lié à Al-Qaïda, qui occupe le nord de ce pays depuis neuf mois.

L'environnement était a priori difficile pour cette opération de libération: Bulomarer, au sud de la

capitale Mogadiscio, est une localité située dans une zone très arborée et habitée, selon des témoins sur place.

Les responsables shebab affirment qu'ils ont de plus pu mobiliser rapidement leurs combattants basés dans un camp d'entraînement voisin.

Plusieurs heures après l'opération, "de nombreux combattants shebab patrouillaient" dans la ville à bord de véhicules armés, a rapporté au téléphone Mohamed Shueyb.

Les islamistes ont menacé la France de représailles. "En fin de compte, ce seront les citoyens français qui goûteront inévitablement aux conséquences amères de l'attitude inconséquente de leur gouvernement à l'égard des otages", ont-ils assuré dans leur communiqué.

Les shebab ont perdu tous leurs principaux bastions dans le sud et le centre de la Somalie, à la suite d'une offensive menée depuis un an et demi par une force de l'Union africaine (Amisom) renforcée par un contingent kényan ainsi que par un corps expéditionnaire éthiopien et par l'embryon d'armée nationale somalienne.

Les islamistes contrôlent cependant encore certaines parties rurales du sud et du centre du pays.

L'agent de la DGSE faisait partie de neuf Français, au total, retenus en otage à l'étranger, tous sur le sol africain, dont au moins six sont détenus par Al-Qaïda au Maghreb islamique (Aqmi) au Sahel.

Le 4 octobre dernier, Denis Alex était apparu, pâle et les yeux cernés, dans une vidéo où il avait lancé un "message de secours" au président Hollande, qu'il pressait d'oeuvrer à sa libération.

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### Pourquoi la France a passé la vitesse supérieure au Mali

Par Thierry Oberlé/lefigaro.fr/14/01/2013

La détérioration de la situation a précipité l'intervention française.

- L'intervention française au Mali était-elle inévitable?

La France n'avait pas d'autre choix que celui de l'implication directe en raison de la faiblesse de l'armée malienne. En pleine décomposition depuis la débâcle de l'hiver dernier marquée par la perte du nord du pays, celle-ci souffre d'une déshérence aggravée par le putsch du capitaine Sanogo. Sans soutien extérieur, elle est privée de colonne vertébrale. Les forces maliennes n'étaient pas en mesure de tenir la ligne de front séparant les régions sahéliennes, occupées par les groupes islamistes, du sud habité en majorité par une population noire. Peu défendue, Mopti, la capitale du centre du pays, ne tenait qu'à un fil. Elle était depuis plusieurs mois exposée aux infiltrations des djihadistes.

Al-Qaïda au Maghreb islamique (Aqmi), les Touaregs islamisés d'Ansar Dine et le Mouvement pour l'unicité et le djihad en Afrique de l'Ouest (Mujao), des bandits spécialisés dans les trafics en tous genres, tenaient à pousser leur avantage en tablant sur les difficultés à monter dans les meilleurs délais une force d'intervention africaine. Composés de combattants aguerris, ces groupes sont familiers des raids éclairs. Leurs coups de boutoir auraient provoqué l'effondrement du Mali. Pour le ministre de la Défense, Jean-Yves Le Drian, il n'était pas possible de laisser se développer «un État terroriste aux portes de l'Europe».

- Pourquoi la situation s'est-elle brusquement détériorée?

La communauté internationale souhaitait privilégier la négociation avec les mouvements locaux



susceptibles de prendre leur distance avec les groupes les plus radicaux. Cette position était encouragée par les États-Unis, l'Algérie et la Mauritanie, qui craignaient de voir le cancer terroriste toucher des zones plus peuplées que le Sahara et se métastaser après la reconquête des trois villes du nord du Mali: Tombouctou, Gao et Kidal. Une médiation menée par le Burkina Faso était en cours et Alger menait des tractations parallèles. Lors du voyage en Algérie de François Hollande, fin décembre, les points de vue français et algériens semblaient s'être rapprochés. Au lendemain du départ du président français, des seconds couteaux d'Ansar Dine ont annoncé à Alger qu'ils renonçaient à la violence. Un écran de fumée qui a eu le don d'agacer au plus haut point les diplomates français. Quelques jours plus tard, les dirigeants d'Ansar Dine confirmaient leur volonté d'en découdre. Les dés étaient jetés. Les combattants islamistes sont passés à l'action avec, selon des sources du renseignement français, la volonté de foncer sur Bamako. Aqmi ne pouvait qu'appuyer l'initiative. La stratégie d'al-Qaida consiste en effet depuis des années à créer un abcès de fixation dans le Sahel pour attirer les armées occidentales dans une confrontation majeure. Aqmi espère que la présence française va mobiliser des candidats au djihad venus aussi bien d'Afrique du Nord que d'Afrique noire et, pourquoi pas, d'Europe.

- La France est-elle isolée?

Dans les discours officiels, François Hollande comme son ministre des Affaires étrangères, Laurent Fabius, donnaient le sentiment de vouloir diriger de l'arrière les opérations en se bornant à un soutien logistique. Mais, en coulisses, les militaires se préparaient dans la plus grande discrétion. Cet affichage a volé en éclats à l'épreuve des faits. Paris se retrouve en première ligne mais n'est pas pour autant isolé militairement ou diplomatiquement. La Grande-Bretagne et les États-Unis apportent une aide en matériel et les principales capitales de l'Union européenne affirment soutenir la posture française. De son côté, la Maison-Blanche dit partager avec Paris l'objectif d'empêcher des terroristes de «bénéficier d'un sanctuaire». Même l'Algérie a exprimé son appui «sans équivoque» aux autorités de transition maliennes qui ont demandé l'aide de Paris. En Afrique, les préparatifs militaires s'accroissent. Depuis plusieurs mois, l'Afrique de l'Ouest avait promis l'envoi d'une force de 3300 hommes. Elle va être enfin à pied d'œuvre. Le Burkina Faso, le Niger et le Sénégal ont annoncé le déploiement d'un bataillon de 500 soldats. Le Nigeria, la grande puissance régionale, va dépêcher sur place 600 militaires. Le Bénin 300. D'autres pays comme la Côte d'Ivoire contribuent. Un sommet extraordinaire de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cedeao) consacré au Mali est prévu samedi à Abidjan.

- François Hollande est-il le nouveau gendarme de l'Afrique?

François Hollande renoue avec la tradition de l'interventionnisme en Afrique. En dépit de l'encadrement onusien qui donne un cadre international à l'opération, le président français agit de manière bilatérale en réponse à une demande du président malien par intérim, Dioncounda Traoré. Il vole ouvertement au secours de son ancienne colonie, l'un des pays les plus pauvres du monde, qui vit par ailleurs sous assistance financière de la France et de l'Union européenne. Le risque est maintenant celui d'un enlisement à l'afghane.

Villepin brise le consensus de la classe politique

À l'exception de l'ancien premier ministre Dominique de Villepin, l'ensemble de la classe politique ou presque a salué l'intervention française contre les djihadistes au Mali. Pour l'ancien premier ministre François Fillon, «la lutte contre le terrorisme exige l'unité de la nation au-delà des clivages partisans». Même tonalité chez son ex-rival pour la présidence de l'UMP, Jean-François Copé, pour qui «l'intervention française se fait dans une parfaite légalité internationale». De son côté, Marine Le Pen, la présidente du Front national, a jugé «légitime» l'engagement de l'armée française au Mali. Les leaders centristes Jean-Louis Borloo (UDI) et François Bayrou (MoDem) ont, eux, mis en avant «l'urgence» qu'il y avait à agir contre les radicaux islamistes, même si pour Borloo une décision d'engager l'armée française est «un acte grave qui nécessite un débat». Outre le député écologiste Noël Mamère et Jean-Luc Mélenchon, le coprésident du Parti de gauche, la principale

critique est venue de Dominique de Villepin: «Au Mali, aucune des conditions de la réussite n'est réunie. Un processus politique est seul capable d'amener la paix.» L'opposant à la guerre américaine en 2003 en Irak appelle la France à «tirer les leçons des guerres perdues en Afghanistan, en Irak, en Libye». Il juge que ces guerres constituent «un engrenage», chacune créant les conditions de la suivante.

### Mali : la France bombarde les bases arrière des islamistes dans le Nord

Le Monde.fr avec AFP/ 13.01.2013

Les raids aériens de l'armée française au Mali, dont l'objectif est de "liquider" les groupes armés islamistes selon l'expression du ministre de la défense, Jean-Yves Le Drian, ont visé ce week-end le nord du pays, alors que le Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies doit se réunir lundi 14 janvier à la demande de la France. Il s'agit d'"informer le Conseil et procéder à des échanges de vues entre membres", a indiqué la mission française auprès de l'ONU.

"L'aviation de chasse française a visé et détruit ce dimanche plusieurs cibles à proximité de Gao, a indiqué M. Le Drian. Des camps d'entraînement, des infrastructures et des dépôts logistiques constituant les bases arrière des groupes terroristes" ont notamment été attaqués. Le ministre des affaires étrangères, Laurent Fabius, a assuré que la progression des groupes islamistes vers le sud est stoppée et que la France a commencé à "s'occuper des bases arrière des terroristes" dans le Nord. M. Fabius a précisé que l'Algérie avait autorisé le survol de son territoire par les avions Rafale français qui mènent ces raids.

#### "DES RAIDS EN PERMANENCE"

Interrogé dans l'émission "Le Grand Rendez-vous", dimanche, M. Le Drian avait déclaré : "Il y a des raids en permanence. Il y en a en ce moment, il y en a eu cette nuit, il y en aura demain." Les forces militaires françaises ont été surprises d'affronter des groupes islamistes "bien équipés, bien armés et bien entraînés", dotés "d'un matériel moderne, sophistiqué", selon les services de l'Elysée.

D'autres raids menés dans l'extrême Nord-Est du pays, dans la région de Kidal, ont été rapportés par des sources sécuritaires citées par l'AFP, mais pas confirmés par Paris. Kidal, première région conquise par les rebelles touaregs et les groupes islamistes en mars 2012, est une base importante du groupe Ansar Eddine.

Le gouvernement, qui tiendra une nouvelle réunion interministérielle lundi matin, souligne que les trois objectifs de l'intervention restent d'arrêter l'offensive des groupes islamistes, de garantir l'intégrité du pays et de préparer le déploiement des troupes africaines organisé avec l'aval de l'ONU, prévu cette semaine.

#### "IL Y AVAIT NÉCESSITÉ D'AGIR DE MANIÈRE RAPIDE"

A Tombouctou, où les djihadistes ont mené ces derniers mois lapidations et amputations, un enseignant cité par l'AFP a fait état d'un "début de panique" parmi les familles des islamistes partis au combat, assurant que "beaucoup essayent de partir dans le désert".

"Depuis neuf, dix mois, on est dans un régime très totalitaire. On est coupé de tout. Franchement, on n'attend que ça ! On ne peut pas imaginer que les forces françaises s'arrêtent aux portes de Konna. C'est l'occasion ou jamais d'en finir avec ces islamistes", a-t-il expliqué.

Sans intervention extérieure, a en outre ajouté Jean-Yves Le Drian, les islamistes auraient fait

tomber la capitale malienne en deux ou trois jours. "Il y a eu une accélération spectaculaire de l'action de ces groupes depuis jeudi. Il y avait nécessité d'agir de manière rapide", a-t-il martelé.

## EN ATTENDANT LA CÉDÉAO

L'armée malienne a enregistré dans ses rangs 11 morts, une soixantaine de blessés, alors qu'un officier français a également été tué lors de ces combats, selon un bilan provisoire. Aucun bilan n'est communiqué pour le camp des djihadistes. Plus tôt samedi, l'armée malienne avait parlé d'une centaine d'islamistes tués, des témoins ont parlé de dizaines de corps d'islamistes vus à Konna. Des civils sont morts lors des combats dans la ville, a affirmé de son côté samedi l'ONG Human Rights Watch, citant des habitants de la zone.

Les premiers renforts promis par des pays ouest-africains étaient attendus au Mali dimanche pour se joindre aux forces maliennes. Le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU a voté en décembre une résolution créant une force africaine de 3 300 hommes pour aider le Mali à reprendre le Nord aux groupes islamistes, à savoir Le Mouvement pour l'unicite et le djihad en Afrique de l'Ouest, Ansar Eddine et Al-Qaida au Maghreb islamique.

Un sommet extraordinaire de la Communauté économique des Etats d'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cédéao) aura lieu mercredi à Abidjan, a indiqué Sunny Ugoh, porte-parole de la Cédéao. Des militaires français sont arrivés samedi à Bamako en provenance de Côte d'Ivoire et du Tchad.

**Laurent Fabius: "Bloquer les terroristes au Mali, c'est fait!"**

AFP/13/01/2013

Interrogé sur la durée de l'intervention française en première ligne, M. Fabius a estimé que "c'est une question de semaines".

L'armée française, "en guerre contre le terrorisme" au Mali, a bombardé pour la première fois dimanche des positions islamistes dans le nord du pays, à Gao et Kidal, au coeur des territoires jihadistes.

"Bloquer les terroristes, c'est fait. Ce qui a commencé à être fait aujourd'hui, c'est s'occuper des bases arrière des terroristes" dans le Nord, a déclaré dimanche le ministre français des Affaires étrangères, Laurent Fabius. Interrogé sur la durée de l'intervention française en première ligne, M. Fabius a estimé que "c'est une question de semaines".

Le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU doit se réunir lundi après-midi, à l'initiative de la France, pour discuter de la situation au Mali et informer les membres sur son intervention.

Quatre avions de combat Rafale ont notamment détruit des camps d'entraînement et des dépôts logistiques près de Gao (environ 1.200 km au nord de Bamako), selon le ministère français de la Défense.

"La France est en guerre contre le terrorisme, où qu'il se trouve, pour préserver sa sécurité, et celui du Mali, pays ami", avait déclaré dans la matinée le ministre français de la Défense Jean-Yves Le Drian.

Il "y a eu une dizaine de frappes, dans Gao et près de Gao", selon un habitant sur place. "Toutes les bases des islamistes ont été détruites".

"Les Français ont fait du bon travail. Presque tous les islamistes ont fui Gao. Ceux qui sont encore là sont cachés dans les maisons et attendent la tombée de la nuit pour fuir", a assuré un élu de la ville.

Les avions français ont aussi frappé à Aghabo, à 50 km de Kidal, dans l'extrême nord-est du pays, selon une source de sécurité régionale. Aghabo est une base importante du groupe islamiste Ansar Dine (Défenseurs de l'islam).

Un camp de combattants jihadistes a été visé à Léré, près de la Mauritanie, et des cibles ont été atteintes près de Douentza (800 km au nord de Bamako). "Il y a des raids en permanence. Il y en a en ce moment, il y en a eu cette nuit, il y en aura demain", a expliqué M. Le Drian.

Gao, Kidal, et la ville historique de Tombouctou sont les trois principales villes du Nord malien, en majorité désertique.

Sous la coupe des islamistes depuis près de neuf mois, elles sont devenues des points névralgiques pour les groupes armés opérant dans ces zones: Ansar Dine, Al-Qaïda au Maghreb islamique (Aqmi), et le Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest (Mujao).

A Tombouctou, où les jihadistes ont mené ces derniers mois lapidations et amputations, un enseignant a fait état d'un "début de panique" parmi les familles des islamistes partis au combat, assurant que "beaucoup essayent de partir dans le désert".

Présentés comme des "soudards à bord de Toyota avec quelques armes", les islamistes sont en réalité "bien entraînés" et dotés "d'un matériel moderne, sophistiqué, beaucoup plus robuste et efficace que ce qu'on pouvait imaginer", déclare-t-on dimanche dans l'entourage présidentiel français.

Alors que la France a estimé que son intervention avait permis de donner un "coup d'arrêt" aux islamistes qui venaient de s'emparer de Konna et menaçaient de progresser vers le Sud, l'armée française a franchi un cap dans son engagement en frappant dans le Nord au coeur des territoires jihadistes.

L'intervention française doit permettre aux forces maliennes de "reprendre leur marche en avant pour l'intégrité" du territoire, a indiqué M. Le Drian.

La perspective d'une avancée des troupes maliennes vers le Nord, région traditionnelle des Touaregs, est d'ores et déjà dénoncée par le Mouvement national de libération de l'Azawad (MNLA, rébellion touareg malienne).

Partisan de l'autodétermination, le MNLA avait lancé en janvier 2012 une offensive dans le Nord avant d'en être évincé peu après par Aqmi, le Mujao et Ansar Dine.

Les discussions entre gouvernement malien, MNLA et Ansar Dine, qui devaient avoir lieu à Ouagadougou le 21 janvier, "ne sont plus d'actualité", a indiqué par ailleurs dimanche une source proche de la présidence burkinabè.

A Bamako, l'influent capitaine Amadou Sanogo, chef des putschistes de mars 2012, jusqu'ici réticent à toute intervention étrangère, a estimé samedi que la France avait joué "un rôle capital" aux côtés de l'armée malienne.

Acteur clé et plutôt hostile à une intervention militaire étrangère, l'Algérie a "autorisé sans limite le

survol de son territoire" par les avions français en route vers le Mali, selon Laurent Fabius, qui s'est aussi prévalu du soutien du secrétaire général de l'ONU, Ban Ki-moon.

"Ce que nous avons à l'esprit, c'est que si les troupes africaines doivent remonter au Nord, il faudra que les Algériens ferment leurs frontières", a précisé le ministre français.

Le Premier ministre malien Diango Cissoko est d'ailleurs arrivé dimanche à Alger pour une visite de deux jours.

Les préparatifs s'accroissent pour le déploiement d'une force ouest-africaine chargée, avec l'aval de l'ONU, de déloger les groupes liés à Al-Qaïda.

Les premiers éléments de la Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'ouest (Cédéao) se mettent en place, sous la direction d'un général nigérian, Shehu Abdulkadir, déjà arrivé au Mali selon Lagos, qui fournira "environ 600 hommes".

Le Niger, le Burkina Faso, le Togo, et le Sénégal ont également annoncé l'envoi chacun d'environ 500 hommes au Mali. Le Bénin va envoyer 300 soldats.

### French surprise intervention in Mali aims to stop terrorists, but will it trap Paris, too?

By Associated Press/Monday, January 14

PARIS — France, breaking its own rules with a surprise military intervention in Mali, appears to be halting the lightning advance of radical Islamists seen as a threat to Europe.

But the operation raises the specter of an African quagmire in a new theater of the West's war on terror just as France and other U.S. allies emerge from the old one in Afghanistan. And it undermines President Francois Hollande's promise to end the cozy, paternalistic ties France has long sustained with its former African colonies.

France fears a new sanctuary of terrorism could take root in Mali, and says fast action was the only choice after sudden extremist advances last week.

French authorities contend that Mali and its neighbors in West Africa, Europe and especially France are threatened by three radical organizations, including an al-Qaida affiliate, that control northern Mali and are looking to extend their grip to the crucial south and the capital of Bamako to set up a terror state.

French authorities acknowledged Sunday that the militants have turned out to be better-armed and equipped than France had initially thought.

Eyes around the world are on France to see what it does next.

Will French troops move into a support role, behind African troops, as initially set out for the West by a United Nations Security Council resolution on Mali? Or will they be lured into deeper involvement at the behest of Mali and other African nations — and, perhaps, take Western allies with them?

To avoid entrapment, "The purpose (of the French mission in Mali) has to be limited in scope but it has to have specific strategic purposes," said London-based security and terror analyst Sajjan

Gohel.

French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian painted the mission in broad strokes: “We need to get rid of this terrorism that threatens to put at risk the security of Mali and the security of our country and of Europe.” He refused to say when the intervention would end.

But an aide to French President Francois Hollande stressed the importance of transferring responsibility to regional players. “The important word is africanization, meaning rapid deployment of the African force,” said the official, who wasn’t authorized to speak publicly and asked not to be identified.

Hollande, not seen as a man of bold action, had for months rung the alarm bell about the dangers stalking unstable Mali, where a temporary government has led the poor west African country since a March coup d’etat.

Islamist radicals who moved in to fill the power vacuum have whipped and amputated limbs of those they consider sinners, to force them to conform to their interpretation of Islamic law, and have destroyed the ancient tombs of local saints in cities such as Timbuktu.

The French president led the long effort for passage of the U.N. resolution to come to Mali’s aid. African soldiers were to back up Mali’s weak army after training from the West — and once an acceptable military plan was in place.

The radicals’ sudden two-column advance toward the south last week and a direct plea for help from Mali was Hollande’s call to faster action.

Hollande repeatedly promised his countrymen there would be no French boots on the ground. But by Sunday, hundreds of French forces were involved in a military operation in Mali, and Rafale fighter jets had bombed training camps and other installations near Gao, one of three cities held by the militants. A helicopter pilot was killed in the first 24 hours of the action that began Friday.

Families of eight French hostages thought to be held in northern Mali fear the captors could avenge the French action by killing their loved ones. Their fears grew when French security forces bungled a rescue attempt of a secret agent held hostage in Somalia this weekend, leading an operation that ended with the captive dead.

But Hollande, whose popularity has plunged since his election in May, received rare and nearly complete backing at home for his action in Mali.

Western allies have also voiced support for the French action with some offers of help — but, significantly, no troops.

“We stand by our French allies and they can count on U.S. support,” said Air Force Maj. Robert Firman, in the office of the defense secretary, adding that information sharing and logistics will be the likely contribution.

The U.S. was also expected to send in drones. Britain agreed to send aircraft to help transport troops. Germany offered political support by firmly said no combat troops.

Francois Heisbourg, international analyst with the Foundation for Strategic Research summed up the French argument like this: “A friendly state is on the verge of being put under the jihadi boot, they ask us to intervene ... If they go under, we have a much bigger terrorism problem.”

He compared the situation to the Afghanistan of 2001, when French troops joined the NATO mission there. Last month, France drew the curtain on its Afghanistan engagement, pulling out the last of its fighting troops. The U.S. is winding up its military operation next year.

Then comes Mali.

France has some 6,000 citizens and economic and strategic interests throughout the Sahel desert region that includes Mali, interests to be protected.

But the real fear is that a state run by radical Islamists could spread the doctrine throughout the Sahel and do what al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, one of the leading radical groups in Mali, has failed to do from its home base in neighboring Algeria — strike across the Mediterranean.

At the moment, the threat is limited to Mali and potentially its neighbors — where terrorists can target western interests but lack the structure to do damage elsewhere, said Gohel said of the Asia-Pacific Foundation think tank. “But they are growing in ascendancy. ... We’re seeing the Talibanization process taking place inside Mali.”

French authorities worry that the radicals could contaminate the diaspora of Malians in France and elsewhere, much as some Algerians in France took up the jihadist cause in the 1990s, sending weapons and money to Islamist insurgents in Algeria — and carrying out terrorist attacks in France.

What may make this campaign different is Hollande’s promise to end a long-standing informal policy of paternalism with former African colonies and fawning gratitude in return. The policy, known as France-Afrique, was widely detested by all those outside the circles of privilege and special favors.

The French “are keenly aware of the need not to lose the political support of the Africans, collectively and individually,” said Heisbourg.

Experts say France must avoid ballooning their mission.

But it’s not easy for France to pull out of former colonies where it maintains ties and sees security concerns — and sometimes is asked by the local government for protection. As Heisbourg noted: “We’ve been in Chad for ... 45 years.”

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Sylvie Corbet in Paris, Eileen Sullivan in Washington and Juergen Baetz in Berlin contributed to this report.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

**Made-In-India Ford EcoSport confirmed for South Africa in 2013**

indianautosblog.com/2013/01/14

The new compact SUV sensation from Ford will roll down the streets of Johannesburg next year.

Ford recently issued a press blast on their future product map for South Africa and the EcoSport has made it to the list.

South Africa will get a petrol-engined EcoSport where the going-power will come from the 3 cylinder, 1L EcoBoost engine which has won the 2012 International Engine of the Year award.

A host of features such as Anti-lock brake system, Electronic Stability Program and Hill Launch Assist have been confirmed for the South African model, many of which are going to feature on the Indian model too.

The EcoSport will be joined by other Ford family members such as new Fiesta, Fiesta ST, new Transit, new Tourneo and all-new Kuga in 2013.

Remember, South Africa is a RHD market and only Ford's Chennai plant manufactures the RHD EcoSport. It is very easy to put 2 and 2 together now. Ford India will export the EcoSport from the Chennai plant to South Africa just like they do with the Figo.

The Ford EcoSport is a global product that has already debuted in markets Brazil, China and Argentina. Countries like Chile, Mexico, Nepal, and of course our India are expected to jump on the bandwagon soon.

We think Ford India is getting ready for an early 2013 launch. We are expecting oodles of typical Ford creativity and exciting activities before the launch day, though we haven't sensed something on those lines yet.

Now that the American automaker has made us wait so much we hope that the EcoSport better be worth the wait!

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 14 Janvier 2013 ... AGNEWS/DAM,NY, 14/01/2013