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BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

**Rwanda: Justice Is Not a Game of Dice**

10 February 2013/Rwanda Focus (Kigali)

editorial

Last week, the appeals chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) caused controversy and anger by acquitting former Trade Minister Justin Mugenzi and former Public Service Minister Prosper Mugiraneza for their role in the Genocide against the Tutsis, thus annulling the 30-year prison sentence they received at the end of their trial.

Prosecutor general Martin Ngoga called the decision very disappointing, and warned that the legacy of the tribunal risks to be strongly damaged. He added, though, that he wouldn't be surprised to see more such decisions.

The Genocide survivors association for its part pointed out that the ICTR is courting with Genocide

denial, since these are not the first top officials to be declared innocent of the charges against them. If according to the ICTR those people are not guilty of planning the Genocide, Ibuka reasons, then it basically says there has been no planning, thus no Genocide.

However, the prosecutor general also pointed out that the ruling makes little sense. Normally, when someone is sentenced to a heavy sentence such as 30 years by a trial chamber, there is always a possibility that the sentence is reduced in appeal. Yet by acquitting the two former Ministers, the ICTR appeals chamber basically said that the judges of the trial chamber were wrong and did not know what they were doing.

That is indeed a strange thing. While the trial judges accepted the well-founded arguments and evidence presented by the prosecution, all but one of the appeals judge suddenly gave the same logic and facts a completely different interpretation, and decided that the Ministers were innocent.

While the acquittal of people accused of serious crimes does indeed happen occasionally all over the world, this is usually due to new evidence that has been unearthed or flaws discovered in the original evidence. Yet that wasn't the case with the Mugenzi-Mugiraneza; the appeals chamber was presented the exact same facts as the trial judges, yet they decided to accept the defense's weak and unlikely reasoning - such as saying that the prefet of Butare might have been sacked because of political reasons, while the prosecution had clearly demonstrated that he was considered an obstacle in the perpetration of the Genocide in that prefecture (he was indeed killed shortly after his dismissal, and the massacres in Butare increased very quickly).

Justice should not be a game of dice, as the ICTR appeals judges in this case apparently considered it to be. It should be based on facts and logic, not whims. With this decision, the ICTR has done great disservice to justice in Rwanda, and spat in the face of all Genocide survivors. Shame on them.

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

**Ottawa slams antigay Uganda, pays Crossroads to work there**

Lina Dib and Fannie Olivier/thespec.com/Sun Feb 10 2013

OTTAWA A Burlington-based evangelical organization that describes homosexuality as a “perversion” and a “sin” is receiving funding from the Government of Canada for its work in Uganda, where gays and lesbians face severe threats.

The federal government has denounced virulent homophobia in that East African country and Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird has condemned plans for an antigay bill that could potentially include the death penalty for homosexuals.

At the same time, the government is providing \$544,813 for Crossroads Christian Communications — an evangelical group that produces television programming — to help dig wells, build latrines and promote hygiene awareness in Uganda through 2014.

Until Tuesday, the organization's website carried a list of "sexual sins" deemed to be "perversion": "Turning from the true and/or proper purpose of sexual intercourse; misusing or abusing it, such as in pedophilia, homosexuality and lesbianism, sadism, masochism, transvestism, and bestiality."

Lower down the page, the group asks sinners to "repent."

"God cares too much for you (and all of His children) to leave such tampering and spiritual abuse unpunished," according to the group's website.

Just hours after The Canadian Press contacted the group to ask a spokesperson about the site, the page in question disappeared from public view.

The organization, based at Crossroads Centre on North Service Road, Burlington, is being funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. Just a few days ago the Quebec government announced its desire to create its own parallel agency because it no longer supported CIDA's policy choices.

This particular funding choice may also conflict with the federal government's own statements.

In October, Baird denounced abuses against gays and lesbians and specifically singled out Uganda in a speech at an international conference in Quebec City.

"We will speak out on the issues that matter to Canadians — whether it is the role and treatment of women around the world, or the persecution of gays," Baird told the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference.

"Canada will speak out."

In that speech, Baird shared the story of a Ugandan gay-rights advocate who was bludgeoned to death in his own home.

That speech provoked an angry reaction from the head of the Ugandan delegation, Rebecca Kadaga, who accused Baird of "arrogance" and "ignorance" and demanded an apology.

Crossroads defends its position on homosexuality as grounded in scripture.

"Crossroads' views on sexuality are informed by our Christian faith and values," spokesperson Carolyn Innis told The Canadian Press in an email.

She said the projects funded by CIDA do not include evangelical work and are focused on specific objectives.

On the group's website, under the section "Who We Are," the group describes its mission the following way — "Our motivation: To communicate a visible expression of God's love, and contribute to the transformation of lives around the world."

But that doesn't mean the group is getting involved in Uganda's homosexuality debate, Innis said.

"It has not been a practice of Crossroads to influence matters of policy in countries in which we are completing relief or development projects," she said.

Steve Foster, president of the Quebec LGBT Council, said the federal government should stop funding groups like Crossroads.

“It’s unacceptable that the government would accept that kind of organization as an international-co-operation organization,” Foster said.

“Taxpayers’ money should not be used to finance religious groups working abroad, who furthermore contribute to the creation of discriminatory — even inhumane and dangerous — policy.”

Foster calls it a “dangerous” shift from the government toward using religious groups to perform international development work.

He’s not alone to perceive a trend.

A study by the Canadian Research Institute on Humanitarian Crisis and Aid concluded that, between 2005 and 2010, the funding for religious nongovernment organizations increased 42 per cent. Secular groups saw an increase of 5 per cent.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has been asked about that disparity.

“We consider the efficiency of projects,” Harper replied during a Montreal news conference last month. “(We) do not consider the religion of groups promoting these projects.”

As for Crossroads’ opinion on homosexuality, the government sought to keep its distance.

“Our government does not endorse these particular views,” Rick Roth, a Baird spokesperson, said in an email.

“Canada’s views are clear — we have been strongly opposed to the criminalization of homosexuality or violence against people on the basis of their sexual orientation.”

The minister responsible for CIDA, Julian Fantino, has also said funding is doled out “on merit.”

A CIDA spokesperson, Amy Mills, added in an email, “Canada’s views are clear — we have been strongly opposed to the criminalization of homosexuality or violence against people on the basis of their sexual orientation.”

She offered no comment on Crossroads’ views on homosexuality.

An antigay bill was returned to the order paper for debate in Uganda’s parliament last week. The MP who tabled it has spoken of replacing the death penalty with prison sentences, but it’s unclear what the final version of the legislation might look like.

The Canadian Press

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

### Kenya to Begin First Presidential Debate

Peter Clotey/voanews.com/February 10, 2013

In Kenya, the first of two presidential debates is scheduled to be held Monday in the capital, Nairobi ahead of the March 4th general election. The second debate will be held on February 25th.

“We realized that [the] Kenyan voter doesn’t get to know the candidates very well. You don’t get to know what they stand for, what their values are and what do they really want to do for the country. So, we thought we owe it to the Kenyan voter to interrogate the candidates on an issue-based platform, and hopefully that would enable them to make informed choices at the ballot box,” said Wachira Waruru, the chairman of the presidential debate steering committee.

Six presidential candidates are expected to participate in the debate, which is the first in the East African nation’s history. They include Musalia Mudavadi (Amani coalition), Uhuru Kenyatta (Jubilee), Martha Karua (Narc-Kenya), James ole Kiyiapi (Restore and Rebuild Kenya), Peter Kenneth (Eagle Coalition) and Prime Minister Raila Odinga of the CORD party.

Organizers say they expect about 44 million viewers across the country to watch the debate, which will be broadcast live on all television and radio stations, as well as on the internet.

Some Kenyans have expressed worry of possible violence leading up to the election. Security experts have also cautioned that there is need for measures to be implemented to prevent a repeat of the 2007-2008 post-election violence that left at least 1,300 killed and displaced hundreds of thousands from their homes.

Waruru says the candidates are expected to discuss concerns of violence ahead of the elections.

“This is part of the purpose of this whole exercise, because politicians sometimes use ethnic parameters to campaign quietly to their supporters and the average Kenyan ends up making choices based on ethnic loyalties,” said Waruru.

“But by making these politicians come to a public platform where they are interrogated in front of all Kenyans on matters beyond ethnicity, we think this is one way of eliminating ethnicity as a campaign or political tool,” he added.

Waruru says Monday’s debate will give prospective voters the opportunity to vet the candidates before next month’s vote.

He says the candidates will be questioned about the role they are willing to play to ensure the election is peaceful.

### Kenyan court to decide over possible bus crash inquest

Monday February 11, 2013 /Source: ONE News

The question of who was driving the school mini-van which crashed in Kenya killing three New Zealand volunteers, is a matter for Kenyan police, says Tauranga's Bethlehem College.

Four people, including three Kiwis volunteering in the African country, were killed when the mini-van rolled off the road and crashed, injuring 12 more.

Tauranga teenager David Fellows confessed to driving the van when the crash happened, after he and other volunteers returned to New Zealand.

But police in Kenya say they have found that local man, and driver, Christopher Mmata was behind the wheel at the time.

Mmata was the fourth person to die in the crash, after he was thrown out of the vehicle.

A court in Kenya will now decide if the case will be heard in a public inquest.

Bethlehem College is continuing its own private investigation into the fatal crash, but says it will be leaving the details of what caused it to Kenyan investigators.

#### **Kenya: I Believe Obama More Than Carson - Kimemia**

By Francis Mureithi and Samuel Otieno/The Star/9 February 2013

PUBLIC service boss Francis Kimemia yesterday said that he prefers to believe President Barack Obama rather than his Africa envoy Johnny Carson on how the United States would react if Uhuru Kenyatta and William Ruto win in the presidential elections.

On Tuesday Obama said the US would respect the will of the Kenyan people but on Thursday Carson clarified that "choices have consequences."

Yesterday French ambassador Etienne de Poncins reiterated that the outcome of the election will have "consequences" and that the French government will have "limited contact with Kenya" if Uhuru and Ruto are elected.

Uhuru and Ruto are due to go on trial at the International Criminal Court on April 10 and 11, the date also scheduled for a second round run-off in the presidential election.

Kimemia said though Obama and Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Carson appeared to have issued contradictory statements, he believes the statement by the President is superior.

"I believe we should go with what the President said. He indicated they will respect the will of Kenyans," said Kimemia during a media breakfast meeting at Intercontinental hotel yesterday.

Kimemia chairs the government Committee on the Assumption of the Office of the President said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been asked to get in touch with the American embassy to find out the exact position.

"We want to welcome the statement issued by the President of the United States of America, I know there has been contradictions since then, with the statement issued yesterday, and I think we shall leave that to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to check which view is supreme. They should get the

clarification from the ambassador himself but I believe we should go by what the president said," said Kimemia.

He termed Obama's statement as "very balanced" and said the Foreign Affairs ministry should establish "what that is all about" in reference to Carson's warning of "consequences".

"The choice of who will lead Kenya is up to the Kenyan people. The United States does not endorse any candidate for office, but we do support an election that is peaceful and reflects the will of the people," Obama said on Tuesday.

At a press conference on Tuesday evening, Uhuru and Ruto welcomed Obama's statement saying it showed that they were free to run. They repeated the statement at a rally on Wednesday.

However on Thursday, Carson warned Kenyan voters that "choices have consequences" while reiterating President Obama's statement that America is not supporting any particular candidate.

In his statement, Carson clarified that Obama's message to Kenyans was not an endorsement of Uhuru and Ruto. He warned in a tele-conference that "choices have consequences" and that Kenya "lives in inter-connected world" where "people should be thoughtful about the impact of their choices on the nation and the world."

Yesterday French ambassador to Kenya Etienne de Poncins also cautioned Kenyans.

"There will be consequences, based on characters elected. Many programmes and international relations will also be determined by who Kenyans choose", said the ambassador.

The ambassador said that if Uhuru and Ruto are elected, France, like any other country, "will have limited contact with Kenya as it is the policy of other countries who are signatory to the Rome Statute."

"It is not a surprise. The choice of leaders to be elected will greatly determine the place of Kenya with other countries within and outside the continent", he said.

De Poncins was meeting with civil society members during his visit to Kisumu to launch of the French cultural and film week..

"We are not going to take sides with any of the coalition. Our concern is free and transparent election process and we will do all we can to ensure that the process is free and fair", said de Poncins.

The ambassador said France supported the stand of the American Government that all electoral disputes should be resolved in court since the judicial system has now reformed.

"It is very difficult to concede defeat but is also democratic to concede defeat as part of moral obligation and the character of the individuals".

### **Kenya: Uhuru, Ruto Avoid Debate Over Sanctions By U.S., Britain**

By Mathews Ndanyi/The Star/9 February 2013

Jubilee presidential aspirant Uhuru Kenyatta and his running mate William Ruto avoided debate over possible sanctions by the US and Britain if they win the elections as they campaigned in the

Rift Valley region on Friday.

Uhuru and Ruto dwelt on their promises in their Jubilee manifesto urging voters to back their bid because they are the best placed to transform the country.

US top envoy to Africa Johnny Carson said there will be 'consequences' if Kenyans elect the two leaders who are facing international crimes charges at The Hague.

Uhuru and Ruto exuded confidence that they will the March 4 election and form the government. "We are focused on winning the elections and giving Kenyans a government that will deal with real issues affecting them," said Uhuru during the rallies held at Kapsowar and Iten in Keiyo.

They took issue with their Cord coalition competitors for engaging in mudslinging and empty rhetoric. "Let them tell Kenyans what they plan to do for this country instead making Jubilee their topic wherever they go," said Ruto.

Uhuru said it is unfair for the Cord leaders to target him and outgoing Eldoret North MP with insults instead of selling their policies. The leaders accused Cord of dwelling on divisive politics as they vowed to address the economic and security challenges among others which the country has been facing.

At Kapsowar, Iten townships during their campaign to rally support for the Jubilee coalition in the next polls, Uhuru asked the local community to vote for Jubilee aspirants during the polls so that the coalition wins with a strong team.

Present also were the Minister for Information and Broadcasting Samuel Poghio, immediate former Mps Aden Duale, ( Dujis ) Linah Jebii Kilimo ( Marakwet East ) Boaz Kaino ( Marakwet West ) and a host of aspirants for the seats of senators, governors Mps and county wards representatives drawn from North Rift.

Ruto said old generation leaders should step aside from leadership and let the young general take over. Ruto asked the National Vision Party leader Nicholas Biwott who is seeking the county senate seat in the region to retire from active politics because younger leaders in the region were ready to take over.

He campaigned for former Moi university law don Kipchumba Murkomen, the URP torch bearer for the senate seat in the area among other aspirants.

"Murkomen is young and energetic and he is also equal to the task a head. Biwott should leave the seat for him," said Ruto. He said there was no doubt about Jubilee's victory on March 4th and challenged their rivals to be ready for defeat.

"We are the coalition to form the next government and therefore do not be swayed by voting for small parties that have no direction," stated Ruto.

ANGOLA :



AU/AFRICA :

### **Mali rebels launch guerrilla attack on Gao**

11 Feb 2013/Source:Al Jazeera and agencies

French general says armed rebels used canoes to cross Niger River for surprise strike on Malian army in northern city.

An armed rebel group, the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa, or MUJAO, has claimed responsibility for an attack on the city of Gao in northern Mali and a suicide bombing the day before.

Fighters armed with AK-47 automatic rifles sneaked into Gao on Sunday to launch a surprise attack on the Malian army in the most populous city in northern Mali, two weeks after French and Malian troops routed the al-Qaeda-linked fighters.

The attackers used canoes to cross the Niger River to penetrate Gao, according to French General Bernard Barera, who cited Malian officials.

The combat started at about 2:00pm local time (14:00 GMT) in Gao's commercial hub and the fighting was continuing as night fell.

Later, the sound of gunfire was replaced by the clattering of helicopters overhead. The AFP news agency, citing Malian troops, reported that a loud explosion was also heard on Sunday morning in the north of the town.

On Saturday night, a suicide bomber detonated his explosives at a checkpoint at the northern entrance to Gao, killing himself and injuring one Malian soldier.

Another suicide bomber, on a motorcycle, blew himself up at the same security post on Friday, killing only himself and injuring a Malian lightly.

Troops at the checkpoint where both suicide attacks occurred said no one else was wounded in Saturday's blast.

### **MUJAO's claim**

In a statement to AFP news agency on Sunday, Abou Walid Sahraoui, spokesman for MUJAO, which had already claimed responsibility for Friday's blast, said: "Today God's faithful successfully attacked the Malian army, which let the enemies of Islam come to Gao. MUJAO also claims [Saturday's] suicide bombing ... that made the Malian soldiers flee.

"The combat will continue until victory, thanks to God's protection. The mujahedeen are in the city of Gao and will remain there."

A witness describing Sunday's fighting in Gao said the attackers hid in the city's empty central police station, then attacked Malian soldiers when they arrived.

When reinforcements came, snipers hidden in surrounding buildings opened fire on them.

Fighting also erupted around the governor's offices.

Rocket-propelled grenade explosions and fire from heavy machine guns and light weapons could be heard in Gao late in the afternoon.

A French Tiger attack helicopter circulated over the neighbourhood and French and Malian forces conducted joint patrols, warning residents that snipers could be hidden in the city.

A death toll could not immediately be established. A Malian officer said "many" rebels had been killed, and a witness reported seeing a body that appeared to be a civilian hit by a stray bullet.

The fighting appeared to centre near the police headquarters, where Malian soldiers with rocket-propelled grenades traded fire with the MUJAO fighters.

Soldiers were positioned at every corner in the neighbourhood of mud-walled buildings.

### Ongoing clashes

Since French forces took Gao on January 26, rebels have clashed with security forces on the city's outskirts.

This was the first time they succeeded in entering the strategic city.

The al-Qaeda-linked fighters seized the northern half of Mali in April 2012, sending poorly disciplined and equipped Malian forces retreating in disarray.

France launched its military intervention in its former colony on January 11 when the fighters, many of whom had fought for ex-Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, began encroaching on the south, threatening the capital Bamako, which lies deep in southern Mali, 1,200km from Gao.

France has said that it wants to hand over responsibility to the Malian military and other African nations who have contributed troops and has raised with the UN Security Council the possibility of establishing a UN peacekeeping operation in Mali.

### Dispute plunges Tunisia into political limbo

10 Feb 2013/Al Jazeera and agencies

Withdrawal of cabinet ministers deals further blow to PM's government, already weakened by last week's assassination.

The secular party of Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki has withdrawn its three ministers from the country's government, saying that its demands for changes in the cabinet have not been met.

The decision on Sunday by Marzouki's Congress for the Republic Party deals a further blow to Prime Minister Hamadi Jebali's government, already weakened by last week's assassination of secular opposition leader Shokri Belaid.

"We have been saying for a week that if the foreign and justice ministers were not changed, we would withdraw from the government," Samir Ben Amor, a Congress for the Republic Party official, told the Reuters news agency.

"This decision has nothing to do with the prime minister's decision to form a government of

technocrats," he said, referring to Jebali's declared intention to name a non-partisan cabinet to run day-to-day affairs until elections can be held.

Jebali has himself threatened to resign unless his Ennahda party and other parties accept his proposals for an interim government of technocrats.

Jebali, who is in dispute with his party over his proposal for a new government, said on Saturday he would present his new cabinet "by the middle of next week by the latest", the official TAP news agency reported.

Jebali's terms

If the team was accepted by parties represented in the country's constituent assembly without being put to a vote, he would remain on as prime minister, Jebali said.

Otherwise, he said, he would resign.

Jebali first made the announcement on Wednesday, hours after the Belaid's assassination outside his home by an unknown assailant.

Ennahda rejected that idea soon afterwards.

Jebali said on Friday that he was confident he could gain his party's support. It remains unclear how he plans to pull enough support to his side.

"I am convinced this is the best solution for the current situation in Tunisia," Jebali said late on Friday.

Al Jazeera's Hashem Ahelbarra, reporting from Tunis, said: "Since its emergence as the biggest political party after the elections of 2011, Ennahda has said they would like to pick up on that legitimate backing they have of the people.

"They think that a transitional period is very crucial, when they have to draft a new constitution, agree on the political establishment and set a final date for the elections. To do that, you have to have a very strong government.

"So will the prime minister convince Ennahda to back his proposal? It's going to be extremely difficult for him to do that. If Ennahda refuses his offer, Tunisia will just plunge into further uncertainty."

Ennahda demonstration

Sunday's developments came a day after thousands of supporters of Ennahda demonstrated in Tunis.

The demonstrators chanted "The people still want Ennahda" and "The revolution continues" as they marched along the central Avenue Bourguiba on Saturday.

Some of the protesters shouted anti-French slogans.

The government has accused France of meddling over critical comments by Manuel Valls, French interior minister, who denounced the killing as an attack on "the values of Tunisia's Jasmine

revolution".

"France get out!" and "The people want to protect the legitimacy" of the government were among slogans chanted by Ennahda supporters who numbered more than 3,000, AFP journalists estimated.

"Enough, France! Tunisia will never again be a French colony," proclaimed some of banners waved by protesters.

The pro-Ennahda demonstration took place on Habib Bourguiba Avenue, epicentre of the 2011 revolution that toppled long-time President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, close to the French embassy.

Ennahda had called supporters to gather in central Tunis to show support for the constitutional assembly, whose work on a new constitution suffered a severe setback when leftist parties withdrew their participation following the killing of Belaid.

### Tunisie: menacé, le gouvernement sous extrême tension

lundi 11 février 2013/rtdfr.be

Après les violences des derniers jours à la suite de l'assassinat de l'opposant Chokri Belaïd, le calme est revenu. Mais la crise politique semble s'accroître. Les interrogations se multiplient sur un éventuel remaniement, promis par le chef du gouvernement. La coalition au pouvoir semble au bord de la rupture.

Le Congrès pour la République (CPR), parti de centre-gauche au sein de la troïka, pourrait démissionner du Gouvernement. C'est un responsable du CPR qui l'a déclaré, mais pas de confirmation officielle: le parti devrait se prononcer dans la matinée.

Le CPR avait déjà lancé un ultimatum, il y a une semaine, avant l'assassinat de Chokri Belaïd. Il réclamait des changements à la tête des ministères des Affaires étrangères et de la Justice, aux mains des islamistes Ennahda.

Des changements, c'est ce que promet Hamadi Jebali, premier ministre, qui insiste pour former un nouveau gouvernement de technocrates apolitiques et met même sa propre démission en jeu.

Sseulement, difficile de savoir quelle est sa marge de manœuvre. Beaucoup assurent qu'il ne peut pas décider seul, il pourrait cependant jouer sur un flou juridique.

Son annonce en tout cas ne passe pas dans son propre parti Ennahda. Plusieurs responsables ont dénoncé une décision prise sans consultation. L'aile dure du parti islamiste ne semble pas prête d'abandonner les ministères de souveraineté, les critiques viennent aussi de l'opposition qui réclame un débat national.

RTBF, une correspondance de C. Lafrance

### Tunisie: une crise au sommet

Julie Schneider, Correspondante à Tunis/lalibre.be/le 11/02/2013

La Tunisie connaît sa plus grave crise politique depuis le départ de Zine Ben Ali il y a deux ans. Et, pour l'heure, la confusion règne au sein de la coalition au pouvoir.

Désavoué par son propre parti, le Premier ministre et secrétaire général du mouvement Ennahda, Hamadi Jebali, avait proposé le 6 février, date de l'assassinat de l'opposant Chokri Belaïd, la composition d'un "gouvernement de compétences nationales", soit un gouvernement d'experts sans couleur politique. "Hamadi Jebali a pris ses responsabilités, mais en tant que parti nous devons répondre aux attentes de nos électeurs. Nous voulons un gouvernement d'union nationale. Le peuple nous a élus pour le représenter politiquement, pas avec des technocrates", explique Ferjani Doghmane, député Ennahda et membre de l'Achoura (parlement du parti) qui se réunissait ce week-end. Une décision devrait être rendue dans la semaine. La frange radicale d'Ennahda s'est dite prête à descendre dans la rue pour défendre la "légitimité des urnes". Samedi, quelque 3000 manifestants pro-Ennahda foulaient le pavé de l'avenue Habib Bourguiba.

Depuis juillet, ce remaniement ministériel est évoqué. Mais faute d'accord au sein de la troïka, qui réunit deux partis laïcs et Ennahda, il était sans cesse repoussé. Soutenu par l'opposition laïque, Hamadi Jebali a persisté samedi en menaçant de démissionner s'il ne parvenait pas à former avant le milieu de cette semaine son cabinet. Samedi soir, sur France 24, il a précisé que "tous les ministres seront des indépendants, y compris à l'Intérieur, la Justice et aux Affaires étrangères", alors qu'Ennahda refuse de renoncer à ces ministères clés. Une décision accueillie positivement par l'opposition.

De son côté le CPR, parti de Moncef Marzouki, le président, avait indiqué le 2 février que ses membres démissionneraient si les ministres des Affaires étrangères et de la Justice, issus d'Ennahda, restaient en place. Ce week-end, une information faisait état de cette démission, mais le parti devrait se prononcer définitivement en début de semaine.

"Un semi-putsch"

Si la présidence avait déclaré jeudi que l'approbation d'un nouveau gouvernement devait passer le vote de l'Assemblée constituante, les constitutionnalistes ne semblent pas s'accorder. "C'est un semi-putsch", estime Walid Haddouk, chercheur au sein de l'Institut des études stratégiques et militant du CPR, le parti de Moncef Marzouki. "Il se base sur un article qui lui permet d'effectuer des changements dans son administration sans passer par l'Assemblée. Cela arrange les personnes qui ont appelé à la dissolution de l'ANC car cela permet d'avoir un pouvoir exécutif qui n'émane pas du pouvoir élu le 23 octobre 2011." Le 6 février, Béji Caïd Essebsi, ancien Premier ministre de transition et leader du parti Nida Tounes, a appelé à la dissolution de l'Assemblée nationale constituante.

Cette crise au sommet se tient dans un contexte de multiplication des conflits économiques et sociaux. Les travaux d'écriture de la Constitution sont aussi arrêtés à la suite du retrait de plusieurs députés de l'opposition.

#### **MALI. Nouvelle explosion cette nuit dans le nord de Gao**

le 11-02-2013/Le Nouvel Observateur avec AFP

De violents combats ont par ailleurs opposé dimanche les forces françaises et maliennes à un commando islamiste. Les habitants craignent une intensification des attaques.

Une explosion a retenti vers 4 heures locales du matin (3 heures en France) lundi 11 février à Gao, la grande ville du nord du Mali, cible d'attaques répétées des islamistes depuis vendredi, a constaté un journaliste de l'AFP.

L'explosion a été confirmée au reporter par des soldats maliens qui ont estimé qu'elle semblait venir

du nord de la ville, "peut-être du check-point sur la route de Bouren" qui avait été attaqué vendredi matin par un kamikaze islamiste, puis de nouveau samedi soir, également par un kamikaze.

L'attaque de ce poste de contrôle survenue samedi soir aurait permis l'infiltration du commando qui a harcelé les troupes maliennes dimanche.

La sécurité du poste de contrôle avait été fortement renforcée depuis qu'un homme portant un uniforme de la gendarmerie malienne s'était fait exploser vendredi à proximité, dans le premier attentat-suicide enregistré au Mali et revendiqué par le Mujao

### Scènes de guérilla urbaine

Par ailleurs, des combats ayant duré plusieurs heures dimanche se sont interrompus à la tombée de la nuit, les forces françaises et maliennes ayant a priori éliminé le groupe islamiste qui les harcelait dans le centre de Gao.

Des sources françaises et maliennes ont toutefois confié leur crainte de la poursuite de la présence de francs-tireurs dans la ville.

Les échanges de tirs entre soldats maliens et islamistes avaient éclaté en début d'après-midi dimanche au coeur de Gao, près du commissariat central, qui était le siège de la police islamique quand les jihadistes occupaient Gao.

"Après des échanges de tirs nourris, l'armée française est intervenue", a-t-il ajouté, affirmant avoir vu un cadavre, "probablement un civil tué par une balle perdue".

### Commando islamiste

Une source de sécurité a évalué à "plusieurs dizaines" le nombre d'assaillants, et selon un officier de l'armée malienne, "beaucoup d'islamistes" auraient été tués lors de ces combats, mais des journalistes sur place n'étaient pas encore en mesure de vérifier cette information.

L'attaque a été revendiquée par le Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest (Mujao), l'un des groupes armés qui occupait depuis des mois Gao et le nord du Mali, y multipliant les exactions.

Les islamistes armés, pilonnés par des frappes aériennes françaises, chassés quasiment sans combats des villes du nord du Mali qu'ils occupaient depuis près de dix mois, multiplient depuis plusieurs jours les actions: attentats suicides, pose de mines le long des routes et désormais opérations armées en pleine ville.

### Déluge de couleurs au carnaval des Seychelles

Clicanoo.re/le 10 février 2013

La ville de Victoria avait des airs de Rio de Janeiro hier ! La plus petite capitale du monde a vibré au rythme de la troisième édition du carnaval des Seychelles, qui a débuté vendredi.

C'est en présence du président des Seychelles, James Michel, qu'a été donné le coup d'envoi du défilé en milieu d'après-midi. Danseurs, jongleurs, musiciens se sont succédé dans un déluge de couleurs pour le plus grand plaisir des Seychellois et des touristes venus en masse exprès pour l'événement qui bénéficie d'une renommée internationale.

Le Waki Band, venu de La Réunion

Le carnaval de Victoria a rassemblé une cinquantaine de délégations venues de pays de la zone océan Indien et du monde entier. Parmi les participants, de nombreux artistes venus du Brésil, de Corée du Sud, d'Italie, de Belgique et... de La Réunion, à l'image du Waki Band, des Tambours Sacrés, du cirque Saoufet, des Tambours des docks... Le président de la Région, Didier Robert, la députée Jacqueline Farreyrol et Pascal Viroleau, le président des « Iles Vanille », ont également fait le déplacement.

Car si le carnaval de Victoria est un événement festif, il s'agit avant tout d'une vitrine permettant de vanter la destination Seychelles ainsi que celle des « Iles Vanille ». Lors de l'inauguration de la manifestation, Didier Robert a rappelé l'importance de la coopération régionale en soulignant : « Nous devons être attentifs au marché européen mais aussi être offensifs envers les nouveaux marchés que représentent l'Asie, l'Afrique Australe et Orientale. Toutes les îles des « Iles Vanille » seront représentées lors de la conférence internationale sur le tourisme insulaire que nous accueillerons du 10 au 14 septembre, sous l'égide de l'IRT ».

Tous les carnivals du monde en un carnaval

Cette année, le carnaval comptait quatre coorganisateurs : aux côtés des Seychelles, de La Réunion et de Madagascar, tous membres des « Iles Vanille », le Zimbabwe. De nombreux artistes de l'île Maurice étaient présents même si le pays n'a pas pris part à l'organisation de l'événement.

Alain St-Ange, le ministre du Tourisme et de la Culture seychellois, s'est félicité de la tenue de cette troisième édition du carnaval international. « Nous accueillons une délégation du Brésil, pour la première fois. Pour l'édition suivante, nous espérons obtenir une délégation du Nigeria, qui est le plus grand carnaval d'Afrique. Nous rassemblerons ainsi tous les carnivals du monde en un carnaval ». Rendez-vous l'année prochaine !

Cynthia Ramalingompoullé

### Tunisie, Égypte, Libye : des révolutions en sursis ?

le 11/02/2013/lalsace.fr/par Xavier Frère

Le 10 février 2011, Hosni Moubarak était chassé du pouvoir en Égypte, moins d'un mois après Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali en Tunisie. Deux ans plus tard, la liesse des Printemps arabes est retombée. Mais les soubresauts continuent.

Deux ans après le séisme qui a secoué le monde arabo-musulman, les interrogations pleuvent sur l'avenir de ces pays. L'assassinat de l'opposant tunisien Chokri Belaïd l'a rappelé violemment : l'élan de démocratisation de 2011 peut déboucher aujourd'hui sur le chaos.

Le Printemps arabe a-t-il viré en « hiver islamiste », comme cela est régulièrement évoqué en France ?  
En Tunisie

Après la fuite de Ben Ali, des élections libres ont vu l'arrivée au pouvoir des islamistes d'Ennahda en octobre 2011. Problème : le pays n'a toujours pas de Constitution, et les milices islamistes sont accusées de faire régner la terreur dans les rangs des opposants et des syndicats. Ces violences, en nette hausse, depuis quelques mois, peuvent traduire la crainte de ces extrémistes de perdre les

élections.

La grève générale de vendredi et la marée humaine qui a accompagné au cimetière le dirigeant de gauche Chokri Belaïd assassiné témoigne-t-elle d'un sursaut, ou seulement d'une émotion sans débouché politique ?

En Égypte

Depuis le départ de Moubarak, la violence n'a jamais totalement quitté la rue égyptienne. Les militaires, qui ont assuré l'interim, ont favorisé la tenue d'élections qui ont vu l'émergence des Frères musulmans. Comme dans les autres pays, la question de l'identité religieuse a pris le pas sur la question constitutionnelle. Avec des coups de force des salafistes. Autre inquiétude : l'ancienne sécurité d'État n'a pas totalement disparu. Elle est même soupçonnée par les activistes de la Révolution d'être derrière tous les drames récents, dont Port-Saïd (74 supporters de football tués). Les élections législatives (en avril) seront cruciales, mais l'opposition – le Front de salut national en tête – ne parvient pas à toucher le petit peuple, plus favorable aux islamistes. Il menace même de boycotter le scrutin.

En Libye

Même si les milices règnent sur le pays depuis la chute de Kadhafi en octobre 2011, un calendrier démocratique a été préservé : le Conseil national de transition a passé la main à une assemblée élue. Et malgré la violence endémique, liée entre autres à la circulation des armes, des signes d'espoir se font jour : le Conseil général national libyen a pris, la semaine dernière, la décision de constituer une assemblée chargée de rédiger la nouvelle Constitution libyenne. En réalité, l'État libyen est en morceaux.

En Syrie et ailleurs

La guerre civile syrienne, démarrée dans la foulée du Printemps arabe, ne trouve pas d'issue. Bachar al-Assad s'accroche au pouvoir et réprime, tandis que l'opposition a du mal à se structurer pour achever sa « révolution ». Le Conseil national syrien a rappelé récemment sa conviction que « le régime tombera par les armes et non par la négociation ». En Jordanie, au Bahreïn, et au Yémen, les pouvoirs en place ont vacillé mais ne rompent pas. En Algérie et au Maroc, des réformes constitutionnelles ont été promises.

Est-ce suffisant pour calmer les aspirations de peuples, et surtout d'une jeunesse en quête de nouveaux horizons ?

le 11/02/2013/par Xavier Frère

**Egypte : au moins 120 blessés dans des manifestations contre le pouvoir**

09/02 /fr.euronews.com

Un nouveau vendredi de la colère dans plusieurs villes d'Égypte et notamment au Caire. Des heurts ont éclaté entre policiers et manifestants, en particulier aux abords du palais présidentiel à Héliopolis dans la banlieue de la capitale. Les slogans sont toujours les mêmes : "le peuple veut la chute du régime", "Assez du président Morsi et des Frères musulmans" dont il est issu.

Des manifestants ont lancé des feux d'artifice et des cocktails Molotov sur le palais. Les forces de l'ordre ont riposté à coup de gaz lacrymogène et de canons à eau. Des fourgons ont aussi été lancés sur la foule pour la disperser. Dans tout le pays, ce sont plus de 120 personnes qui ont été blessées, dont certaines à Alexandrie et Tanta dans le nord.



Le Premier ministre Hicham Qandil a condamné des violences jugées injustifiables.

Ces nouvelles manifestations interviennent après plusieurs incidents liés aux brutalités policières et à deux fatwas appelant au meurtre de certaines figures de l'opposition.

“Un autre vendredi de la colère en Egypte, plus précisément au Caire, où les manifestations ont débuté dans le calme avant de tourner à l'affrontement avec les forces de sécurité qui entourent le palais présidentiel. Dans le même temps, quelques personnalités de l'opposition et du gouvernement ont appelé au dialogue pour mettre un terme à la crise.”

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

Canada's modest response to the 'terrorist priority' in northern Africa

By David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen /February 10, 2013

By the summer of 2012, the population of northern Mali was beginning to face the stark realities of life under strict Islamic law.

In July, members of Ansar Dine — a group whose aim is an independent state that follows Sharia law — destroyed 16 mausoleums in Timbuktu and smashed the entrance to an ancient mosque, considered a world heritage site by the United Nations. Ansar Dine didn't believe the sites corresponded to the teachings of Islam.

A short time later, members of Ansar Dine stoned a couple to death in the town of Aguelhok. They had been accused of engaging in an extramarital affair. The Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa cut off the hand of an alleged cattle thief in village of Ansongo in August. Another had a hand cut off after he was accused of being a spy. Nine amputations were conducted in Gao alone.

Maliens who didn't follow Shariah law were flogged in public.

Landmines were planted around Gao, prompting the secularist Tuareg rebels to accuse the Islamists of holding the population in the town as hostages.

By September, those militant Islamist groups — Ansar Dine, al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and the Movement for Oneness — were ready to further expand their territory and began seizing towns that were under the control of the secular Tuareg independence group, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad or MNLA.

To fill their ranks, the Islamists started recruiting child soldiers, with some as young as 10. The

recruits were offered what was seen as princely sums to destitute Malian youths: \$30 a day to join the Islamic force, with money also going to their families. AQIM instructors from Algeria were brought in to conduct the training.

Mali requested that West African nations provide troops to intervene in the crisis, eventually securing a commitment for around 3,000 soldiers. But little actually happened. Some African leaders suggested at the time it would take until early 2013 before the troops could be on the ground.

In Ottawa, meantime, government officials were coming to the realization that the situation in Mali was spiralling out of control. In October, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird met with his French counterpart Laurent Fabius.

“We must not allow the same problems that the world allowed to happen in Afghanistan to show their face in the Saharan region and Mali,” Baird said after the meeting. “The territorial integrity ... the humanitarian situation, the fight against terrorism must remain a priority.”

In late December, Defence Minister Peter MacKay offered a sign of hope to the besieged Malians that Canada might offer something besides words. The Canadian Forces was looking into some kind of mission.

“We are contemplating what contribution Canada could make,” MacKay told journalists. “Training is something that Canadian Forces are particularly adept at doing. We have demonstrated that repeatedly.”

MacKay would not say how many troops Canada could send. But Baird’s office quickly shot down that suggestion. Canada, it repeated in a statement, was not contemplating a military mission in Mali.

That was the same message that Prime Minister Stephen Harper gave to African Union chairman Boni Yayi when he visited Ottawa soon after to ask for Canadian help for a proposed Mali intervention force.

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

“The development of essentially an entire terrorist region in the middle of Africa is of great concern to everybody in the international community,” Harper said.

Yet while similar concerns were used to justify Canada’s military mission in Afghanistan, Harper stressed that Canada was not interested in what he called a direct military mission in Mali. Rather, the prime minister said Canada would continue to provide humanitarian aid to the region and “work diplomatically with our allies and our friends on how best to address that situation.”

But Yayi, who is also the president of Benin, warned that diplomatic talks with the Islamic extremists would not work.

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

Yayi warned that the jihadists posed a threat to global security and responsibility for dealing with them lay with the entire international community, including NATO members like Canada.

In Paris, French officials watched with unease as the Islamists continued their conquest of Malian territory. On Jan. 10, 2013, Ansar Dine fighters captured Konna, a strategic town, near the dividing line between the north and south of the country.

Tired of waiting for the international community to take action and worried that Mali's existence was in jeopardy, the French launched military strikes the next day. Fighter jets hit Islamist training camps, armoured vehicles and fuel and supply depots.

An initial ground force of 400 French troops went into battle, leading the way for the Malian army. Two French helicopters were shot down in the fighting and a pilot was killed. Niger, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Nigeria agreed to send soldiers in support of the French military action while the U.S. and Britain provided air transport for French equipment and troops.

Canadian officials were also quietly in contact with the French, but Canadians themselves would learn about their country's involvement in supporting the war effort from the politician of another country.

On Jan. 17, less than a week after Harper claimed that Canada would not provide any direct military aid to the mission, Mali's President Dioncounda Traore used his Twitter account to announce that Canada was on board with the mission. He noted that Canada had agreed to provide logistical support.

Less than 12 hours after the Malian president's tweet, Harper announced that a Canadian Forces C-17 aircraft would transport military equipment into the Malian capital of Bamako. But Harper emphasized that at no time would Canadian military members take part in direct action against Islamic forces.

A short time later, a Canadian special forces team arrived in Mali but their job was only to provide security for Canada's embassy in Bamako and protect the diplomats there.

The reaction from the Harper government was seen as puzzling to some. Baird continued to recite his view that, "Terrorism is the great struggle of our generation."

Yet when al-Qaida insurgents successfully carved out a vast territory of their own in Mali where they established training camps, Canada's response was arguably modest.

In justifying Canada's role in intervening in the Libyan civil war, Harper placed great emphasis on the need to stop forces who would abuse civilians. Countries who "talk the talk of human rights" must at times be prepared to "walk the walk," he said. And Canada was the kind of nation that walked the walk, he added.

Except in Mali, it seemed to some.

As the French continued to fight, diplomat Robert Fowler — who learned first hand about the grip of terrorism when he and another Canadian were kidnapped and held by AQIM for 130 days in 2008-09 — was making to case to anyone who would listen that Canada needed to help Mali. At the very least it should provide military trainers, said Fowler.

He argued that Canada needed to accept that it was partially responsible for creating the crisis when it led the war in Libya. The upheaval caused by that conflict made possible the wholesale looting of Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi's arsenals, which in turn, allowed Islamic militants in the region

to re-arm, he noted.

His arguments fell on deaf ears.

Within weeks of their initial attack, French and Malian forces had pushed deep into rebel-held territory in the north. They were supported by more than 1,000 troops from AFISMA, the African-led International Support Mission to Mali.

As they retreated, some Ansar Dine leaders said they were willing to negotiate, while other Islamists from AQIM and the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa vowed to fight on.

Few expect the Islamists to disappear from Mali. With the vast expanses of the desert and the mountains in the north, there are many places they could hide and continue on with their war.

A report produced by the U.S. Congressional Research Service in January outlined the extent of the problem: “Given that the Malian Army is internally divided, lacks the capacity to effectively project force, has been implicated in human rights abuses, and is very small, it is uncertain whether Malian forces will be able to effectively follow up on French military strikes by securing and holding territory.”

During a Jan. 31 meeting of the Commons Foreign Affairs committee, both the NDP and Liberals questioned why Canada wasn’t doing more.

The Conservative government had announced it would provide \$13 million in humanitarian aid but opposition MPs suggested that was hardly enough, considering the gravity of the situation.

Other nations announced funding for the African-led International Support Mission to Mali. The U.S. would contribute \$96 million to fund the African mission until September. France has pledged \$54 million to the force and \$9 million to train Malian forces. The European Union pledged to contribute more than \$55 million for training of the Malian army. Britain was also offering up to 240 military training personnel. The French have called for a UN peacekeeping force.

Kerry Buck, a Foreign Affairs assistant deputy minister, responded that Canada was contributing in other ways, such as with humanitarian assistance and contributing to security programs in the overall region known as the Sahel.

“The government will continue to reflect on the contributions Canada can and should make to address the situation in Mali,” she said.

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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