



[POPE Benedict XVI's resignation has sparked calls for his successor to come from Africa, home to the world's fastest-growing population and the front line of key issues facing the Roman Catholic Church. Around 15 per cent of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics live in Africa and the percentage has expanded significantly in recent years in comparison to other parts of the world. Much of the Catholic Church's recent growth has come in the developing world, with the most rapid expansions in Africa and Southeast Asia. Names such as Ghana's Peter Turkson and Nigerian John Onaiyekan have been mentioned as potential papal material, as has Francis Arinze, also from Nigeria and considered a possibility when Benedict was elected, but who is now 80.]

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

### Protests in Rwanda Over Genocide Acquittals

February 11, 2013 / (AP)/abcnews.go.com

KIGALI, Rwanda

Hundreds of Rwandans on Monday marched to the offices of the United Nations tribunal set up to try key cases related to Rwanda's 1994 genocide to protest the court's decision to acquit two former cabinet ministers accused of masterminding killings.

The protesters, bearing placards denouncing the Arusha, Tanzania-based International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda (ICTR), mainly constituted of survivors of the genocide, youths and students who accused the tribunal of denying justice to genocide victims.

"The international community failed in their response to protect the Tutsi from being killed and now it is failing to provide justice to survivors," one of the banners read.

More than 500,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed during Rwanda's 1994 genocide. The genocide tribunal has been trying leaders of the killings for several years.

Monday's march, which was organized by the Association of Genocide Survivors IBUKA, voiced opposition to the decision by the tribunal's appeals chamber to acquit Justin Mugenzi, a former minister of commerce, and Prosper Mugiraneza, who was the minister of public service when the killings erupted. The two were originally sentenced to 30 years but their sentences were overturned.

"We implore the ICTR to stop disrespecting the survivors of the genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi. IBUKA stands against any judge who disrespects the survivors," said the president of the group, Jean Pierre Dusingizemungu. "The ICTR receives an annual budget of \$250 million annually but regardless of this, the court has failed to deliver justice as it would have. Clearing the two former ministers of any wrong doing is tantamount to genocide denial,"

Efforts to reach the court spokesman for comment failed.

Last week, Rwanda's top prosecutor expressed dismay over the acquittals.

### **Le Rwanda organise 1er grand festival d'Afrique de l'Est** 2013-02-12/xinhua

Au total 500 danseurs du Rwanda et de la région sont rassemblés à Kigali au Rwanda pour la première édition du Festival des arts et de la culture de la Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est (CAE), visant à promouvoir l'intégration socioculturelle et à offrir une plateforme pour mettre en valeur la culture comme moteur premier de cette intégration.

Organisé à l'initiative de la Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est, cet événement culturel d'une semaine présentera différentes oeuvres de poésie, de musique, de performances folkloriques, de théâtre ou encore de cinéma des pays membres de la Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est. .

Ce festival doit réunir la participation de quelque 500 artistes et la projection d'une centaine de films, dont 50 rivaliseront pour une récompense en vue de proposer, par des images, une vision nouvelle sur les aspects multiples des défis principaux de la lutte contre la pauvreté, selon la présidente du Comité d'organisation local, Lauren Makuza.

Parmi ces participants, artistes, musiciens, danseurs et réalisateurs figureront 78 Burundais, 180 Ougandais, 50 Tanzaniens et près de 100 Kenyans, a déclaré Mme Makuza.

Un défilé de carnaval aux costumes spectaculaires, accompagné de danses est-africaines, a ouvert cet événement lundi en parcourant les rues principales de Kigali avant de se diriger vers le stade d'Amahoro dans les faubourgs de la capitale rwandaise.

### **Rwanda: Disorganisation and Rain Mar Jamafest Carnival** By Grace Gatera/The New Times/12 February 2013

The East African Arts and Culture Festival (JAMAFEST), which started yesterday, has not begun with a bang but rather a whisper.

The week-long event started off with a Grand Carnival entailing a procession around Kigali. However, the Carnival, which was supposed to commence at 9am-2pm, kicked off much later to

many peoples chagrin.

Other JAMAFEST participants, confused by the Ibuka protest march which occurred at the same time, ended up joining the wrong procession.

To make matters worse, rain drenched the small number of people who did join the Carnival on time.

Members of JAMAFEST from Kenya, whose names were withheld on request, were visibly agitated by the lack of organisation and headed straight to Petit Stade Amahoro in Remera where the hoisting of the flag was to occur later that day.

The turn-up is expected to improve after the official opening today.

RDC CONGO :

**RD Congo : Kinshasa et le M23 en désaccord quant à la stabilisation de l'est de la RDC**  
11 fév. 2013/operationspaix.net

RD Congo : Kinshasa et le M23 en désaccord quant à la stabilisation de l'est de la RDC

RFI rapporte aujourd'hui que les délégations du M23 et du gouvernement congolais sont toujours en désaccord concernant le deuxième point à l'ordre du jour des négociations, qui porte sur la stabilisation de l'est de la RDC. Le M23 propose notamment de se joindre à l'armée gouvernementale afin de combattre « les FDLR, les Mai-Mai et autres forces négatives » dans l'est du pays, explique un dirigeant du M23 s'exprimant sous couvert de l'anonymat. « Nous sommes incontournables », poursuit-il, soulignant que « le gouvernement de Kinshasa n'a pas d'armée ». Pour Kinshasa, « la plupart des revendications du M23 sont illégitimes », explique un représentant de la délégation gouvernementale s'exprimant également sous couvert de l'anonymat. « Il n'est pas question qu'il (le M23) se transforme en partenaire », poursuit-il. Et d'ajouter qu'il n'y a qu'une issue possible au dialogue : « que le M23 dépose les armes ». (Source : RFI)

UGANDA :

**Fantino defends Uganda grant decision against anti-gay claims**  
The Canadian Press/ Feb 11, 2013

International Co-operation Minister Julian Fantino is defending the Conservative government's decision to provide funding to an Ontario evangelical group that has described homosexuality as a perversion and a sin.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) provides money for aid projects abroad on the basis of results, not religion, Fantino said Monday as he came under opposition fire in the House of Commons.

The Canadian Press reported Sunday that Crossroads Christian Communications, a group that

produces television programs, received \$544,813 in federal money to help dig wells, build latrines and promote hygiene awareness in Uganda through 2014.

"We fund results-based projects, not organizations," Fantino said. "Projects are delivered without religious content, including this particular project."

A spokeswoman for Fantino added: "The government of Canada has funded projects by this organization since 1999."

In an email to CBCNews.ca late Monday, CIDA said it has completed a review of Crossroads Christian Communications' funding and said it does comply with its contribution agreement, so the money would continue to flow. On Sunday, Fantino had tweeted that the funding would be reviewed.

New Democrat MP Helene Laverdiere said Fantino's office has become a "black hole" for aid proposals, with many simply disappearing, while those that do get funding don't align with Canadian values.

"Those that are funded are increasingly out of step with Canadians," she said.

"How did Christian Crossroads, an anti-gay organization, get sign-off from the minister to operate in a country which Canada has strongly criticized for persecution of its gay citizens?"  
Uganda plans bill that could see gays executed

Uganda has been shaken by virulent homophobia in the past; Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird has condemned plans for an anti-gay bill there that could potentially include the death penalty for homosexuals..

Crossroads recently listed homosexuality as a perversion and a sin on its website, although the post disappeared after questions were asked about it.

Laverdiere said a number of groups which the government dislikes have been cut off, but "religious groups that promote their ideology have Conservative connections."

"This is absolutely bogus," Fantino retorted. "Religion has nothing to do with any of that."

Fantino's response left New Democrat Leader Tom Mulcair incredulous.

"It's shocking to hear Minister Fantino defending the indefensible, standing up today and defending a group that on its website is attacking something that's recognized and protected by Canadian law," Mulcair said after question period.

"It goes against Canadian values. It goes against Canadian law. And he can't defend that."

Francois Audet, director of the Montreal-based Canadian Research Institute on Humanitarian Crisis and Aid, said he believes Crossroads is far from the only group with controversial opinions that receives CIDA money.

"There is, for sure, other hidden treasures, other organizations who do ideological propaganda with public funding from Canadian aid — and what is worrying is that CIDA does not check this," Audet said in an interview.

Audet said that his own research on how CIDA allocates its funds shows that between 2005 and 2010, funding for religious non-government organizations increased 42 per cent, while secular groups saw an increase of just five per cent.

"I have the clear impression — and I am not the only one in the scientific community — that behind this, there is a deliberate strategy to finance the groups ideologically close to the actual Conservative government," he said.

### Uganda seeks to deport Briton linked to 'gay play'

By Philippa Croome, Reuters/12022013

KAMPALA — Ugandan authorities said on Monday they plan to deport a British theatre producer who was charged last year with staging a play about homosexuality.

Homosexuality is illegal in Uganda and David Cecil, 35, was charged with disobeying a public official last September after ignoring official orders to cancel a theater production with a gay leading character.

A court dropped the charges against him last month due to lack of evidence. Cecil, who denied being a gay rights activist, would have faced two to four years in jail if convicted.

Even so, "the process of removing him from the country is on," Uganda's director for immigration, Godfrey Sasagah, told Reuters on Monday.

"He's going to be removed from the country ... this was a decision that was taken by the minister (of internal affairs) ... and we have prepared the relevant papers."

British High Commission spokesperson Chris Ward said it was aware of Cecil's detention and providing him with "consular assistance."

Fridah Mutesi, one of Cecil's lawyers and a gay rights activist, told Reuters she would file an appeal against deportation in the high court this week. Mutesi said Ugandan officials had not allowed the lawyers to see the grounds for the deportation.

"We're in the process of challenging the whole deportation," she said. "If they're relying on the previous case, that case was dismissed."

Florence Kebirungi, Cecil's partner, said he was arrested at her business premises in the capital, Kampala, on Wednesday, and that immigration officers have told her to book him a ticket out of the country.

She said Cecil was being held in a Kampala prison that wasn't allowing visitors over the weekend, and that his phone has been switched off.

Cecil had planned to stay in Kampala, where he helps Kebirungi run a cultural centre that stages plays and concerts.

He had applied for a work permit which was being processed, and had planned to take the contested play, *The River and the Mountain*, on tour including to Kenya, South Africa and Washington, Kebirungi said.

Uganda's commissioner for immigration and legal services, Josephine Ekwang, said the country's immigration act allows the deportation of any foreigner "declared by the government as an undesirable immigrant."

Countries including the United States have criticised an anti-homosexuality bill currently before the Ugandan parliament.

The bill seeks to impose jail terms of up to life imprisonment for some homosexual activities. Germany cut off aid to Uganda late last year citing the bill as one of its concerns.

SOUTH AFRICA :

### Rising up against rape in South Africa

2013-02-12/[Guest Column] Lauren Hess/news24.com

The brutal rape and murder of 17-year-old Anene Booysen in the Western Cape left South Africans not only outraged but wondering how to properly respond to the country's rape crisis.

Last week, as the story of Anene's last hours grabbed the nation's attention, the top two trending topics on Twitter were "Stop Rape" and "Say No 2 Rape".

Some radio stations ran a campaign to signal each time a woman was being raped somewhere in the country (according to statistics) with a beep. Radio presenters offered rape and sexual abuse survivors the opportunity to share their stories.

It seemed as if South Africa had finally started having a much-needed conversation.

But the outcry was met with something of a backlash from others. Pierre de Vos wrote a blog stating why he wouldn't be "joining the chorus of voices protesting against rape".

Many felt that people were merely paying lip service to the anti-rape cause and felt that nothing tangible was being done. In fact, by Monday this week, the rape hashtags had disappeared from the top trending topics in the country.

So how do we make a real difference against women and children abuse?

One possible answer? One Billion Rising.

One Billion Rising is a bold, positive global movement that aims to address violence against women and children.

It was started almost a year ago by US activist and Vagina Monologues playwright Eve Ensler.

The campaign takes its name from statistics which show that one billion people, or one in three women, will be raped or beaten in her lifetime.

Feminist and activist, Gillian Schutte, started the largely under-reported South African movement in July 2012.

Numerous events have taken place since then and various South African public figures and NGOs such as Sonke Gender Justice Network have joined the campaign.

But OBR wants its big day to be on 14 February 2013 - the day of the opening of Parliament and the State of the Nation speech - when it wants followers to "walk out, dance, rise up, and demand an end to violence against women".

Hollywood celebrities including Kerry Washington, Anne Hathaway, Dylan McDermott and Robert Redford have joined the movement.

Activities have been planned for rural areas, towns and cities around the country, including Marikana, Cape Town, Durban, Grahamstown and the main event at Constitution Hill in Johannesburg.

Hopefully the violence suffered by Anene won't be in vain. Hopefully South Africans will take part.

"People should go apeshit in the streets," Schutte says.

### Where to for telecoms in South Africa?

11 Feb 2013/Faranaaz Parker/mg.co.za

With an axe hanging over the head of Communications Minister Dina Pule, the country's beleaguered communications strategy is once again at risk.

Over the weekend the Independent reported that President Jacob Zuma plans to axe Pule, after it was discovered that her alleged boyfriend Phosane Mngqibisa benefited improperly from the Cape Town Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Indaba last year to the tune of R6-million.

According to reports, Pule met with Zuma over the weekend and is to be redeployed as an ambassador.

Although the presidency has dismissed the reports as "rumour and speculation", industry experts have warned that further delays and setbacks in the department could have dire consequences for the economy.

Spiwe Chireka, telecoms analyst for the International Development Corporation, said ICT is just as important as banking or mining but doesn't get the priority that it should.

"ICT is no longer just telephone calls and SMSes. It has the potential to impact on the economic development of any country and it has become a core economic sector," she said.

"There needs to be prioritisation of ICT, put in the minister that is just as answerable and taken to task as you see with ministers of labour, mining or finance."

#### Problem department

Pule's axing would mean four ministers in less than four years for the department, so it's unsurprising that it has failed to make progress on a number of key projects.

Among these are the challenge of allocating spectrum, unbundling of the local loop of copper cabling that provides services to homes and businesses to allow for greater competition in the

sector, addressing low broadband penetration and the switch to digital terrestrial television.

World Wide Worx founder Arthur Goldstuck agreed that government appeared to have little appreciation for the importance of ICT to the business environment in the country.

"Our government sees communication as a luxury, as the province of the privileged. It's certainly not that. It's a basic human right but also a basic building block of the South African economy," he said.

"It's been proven again and again that the more advanced your telecoms infrastructure, the more competitive your economy."

Goldstuck said that the single biggest challenge will be developing a sense of urgency regarding all of its most pressing tasks – from rolling out universal broadband, to speeding up deregulation, and licensing and transitioning to new technologies.

Right person for the job

But Khulekani Dlamini, head of research at Afena Capital, said that the first concern for the department going forward was even more basic: finding the right candidate for the job, someone with a good balance of technical expertise, political palatability and foresight.

"The problem here is to find an Andile Ngcaba, a person who is palatable to the party and an expert in telecoms.

"There's been quite a few people who've headed this ministry who, in my mind, had no business being there at all."

One area that would need immediate attention, Dlamini said, was the question of digital migration.

"The issue of digital migration has to [be resolved] fairly swiftly," he said.

However, he added, the question of the strength of the regulator, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (Icasa), would also need to be addressed.

"Policy already exists, it's not like you have to make new policy, it's more the implementation of the policy and the monitoring of compliance," he said.

Regulator

Implementing policy and monitoring compliance would only be possible if Icasa was independent and well resourced.

"If you had a regulator who's got teeth, can afford the appropriate skills and cannot be pushed around by the operators, in the end you'd get vision 2020 manifesting," he said, with reference to the Planning Commission's National Development Plan.

Dlamini said there had been big policy execution blunders in the department over the years – among them Nyanda's decision to dismiss the European standard for digital television in favour of the Japanese standard, only for Pule to scrap this decision and return to the European standard again.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Alliance's communications spokesperson Marian Shinn spoke scathingly of the department's lack of progress, and described the department as "floundering" as a result of years without effective leadership.



"The whole economy of the country is suffering because of this," she said, rattling a list of the department's failures, including broadband policy, spectrum allocations, the move to digital broadcasting.

"There's a whole lot of stuff that should have been done that hasn't been done. The chaos at SABC, the turmoil at Icasa, the huge unsolved corruption at [the Universal Service and Access Agency of South Africa], the entire board of which was suspended last year, huge qualified reports, misspending of money – the department is in turmoil. It doesn't get anywhere and doesn't seem to do anything," she said.

#### Misunderstanding of communication

Shinn said rumours of Pule's axing, which originally began circulating last year, were "an indication that the ANC doesn't really understand what the role of communications is in the economy".

Meanwhile, TechCentral editor Duncan McLeod said that based on the department's troubled history, it was easy to draw the conclusion that the ANC doesn't take the ministry seriously.

"Maybe it's unfair criticism but it's a perception that government sees this department as the department that looks after the SABC and nothing else," he said.

"Some of the decisions it needs to make can impact the economy to the tune of tens of billions of dollars a year."

McLeod said he believes it would make more sense for the department to be folded into the department of trade and industry and be run by a group of technocrats rather than politicians.

"There needs to be stability, which we haven't seen for years in this department and the department needs to be staffed with the right people to make the right decisions, rather than the politicking we've seen to date," he said.

#### Ministerial fail

After an initial stabilisation under competent ministers like Pallo Jordan and Jay Naidoo, the department was led by a series of lame duck ministers.

Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri, who ran the department for almost a decade was known for being more talk than action.

When Matsepe-Casaburri died, the department was turned over to Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, who had just been removed from her post as health minister.

The move was only meant to be temporary, and she was soon replaced by Sipiwe Nyanda, a man known more for his expensive hotel stays and squandering of public funds than for his communications know-how.

Nyanda's taste for the finer things – financed via the public purse – soon cost him his job.

He was one of a handful of ministers axed when President Zuma cleaned house in a cabinet reshuffle at the end of 2010. At the time, the communications department was considered by some to be on the verge of collapse.

Nyanda was replaced by the well-respected Roy Padayachie, then the deputy minister of the

department. Padayachie won the support of communications industry insiders with his plans for a turnaround, and seemed committed to righting the ship but was redeployed to public works after less than a year.

The communications department was then handed over to Pule.

### South Africa Reacts With Surprise as Pope Resigns

Anita Powell/voanews.com/February 11, 2013

JOHANNESBURG — A senior Catholic Church leader in South Africa says the resignation of Pope Benedict came as a surprise, but that he will be well remembered for his work. Could Benedict's departure signal the coming of an African pope? On that decision, Archbishop William Slattery said he defers to a higher power.

News of the pope's resignation caught most people off guard in southern Africa, where the Catholic Church claims a healthy following and is active in a range of social and charitable programs.

Benedict is the first pope to resign in six centuries. He cited his advanced age - he's 85 years old - as the main factor.

In South Africa, Archbishop William Slattery, the archbishop of Pretoria, said the news took him by surprise. He said the continent's 170 million Catholics will remember the pope fondly.

"So we have a great sense of gratitude, because he was an excellent teacher and preacher. He was a totally committed and simple person, even though he was highly intelligent. And he will be remembered from a long time, with gratitude. And the Catholics of Africa in general, there are 170 million Catholics in general, we have great respect for the pope and we understand the reasons he gave for moving on," said Slattery.

Eighteen of the 120 cardinals who will choose the next pope are African, and the archbishop said they will have a chance to put forward the candidate they want. He said that South America, which has an estimated 400 million Catholics, also might put up a candidate, as could Asia, where the Catholic Church is enjoying fast growth.

"Everything is open, we'll just pray and ask for the guidance of God's spirit," said Slattery. "The election of an African to the task would be a great joy to Africa, and also he would bring the gifts of Africa - the gifts of a deep faith, the gifts of a people who are responding to crisis very very generously at the moment. And so we just have to see and pray that the right decision will be made."

World Catholic population, 2012.

Slattery praised Pope Benedict for visiting Africa several times and paying attention to the continent's faithful and needy.

"Remember that in South Africa, where I am, 27 percent of the care of people suffering from AIDS is carried on by the Catholic Church. And this area Benedict spoke a lot to encourage us, and to enable us to respond to the needs of our people here in South Africa, and all over Africa, the same," he said. "Everywhere you go in Africa, every single country, you'll find hospitals and clinics, education, the like... offered by the Catholic Church to the people of Africa, and Benedict would have been behind that."

Benedict chose Angola for his first visit to Africa in 2009. The coastal nation is 60 percent Catholic, but that dominance is being threatened by the growth of evangelical churches. One million faithful came to see the pontiff in Angola, the largest turnout of his tour.

South Africa's Christians are predominantly Protestant, but about seven percent of South Africans are Catholic. In neighboring Mozambique, about 28 percent of the population is Catholic.

### South African Markets - Factors to watch on Feb 12

2013-02-12/xe.com

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

#### DIARY

For South Africa corporate diary, click on

For southern and South Africa diary, click on

#### ECONOMIC EVENTS

- South Africa sells 2.1 billion rand spread over the 2036 , 2041 and 2048 bonds. 0900 GMT

#### COMPANIES

- Super Group Interim earnings

- Kumba Annual results

- Absa Annual results

- DRD Gold Q2 earnings

- Spar Group AGM

- Tiger Brands AGM

#### SOUTH AFRICAN MARKETS

South African stocks edged back from record highs on Monday, with shares of platinum mining companies hit after Impala Platinum warned of lower earnings.

The rand fell against the dollar in a quiet session on Monday, weighed down by a gold sell-off, and was expected to remain rangebound ahead of retail sales data later this week.

#### GLOBAL MARKETS

The yen hovered near fresh lows against the dollar and Tokyo stocks jumped back near a 33-month high on Tuesday after markets took comments from a U.S. official as giving Japan the green light to pursue policies that weaken the yen as long as they help beat deflation.

## WALL STREET

U.S. stocks ended a quiet session with slight moves on Monday as investors found few reasons to keep pushing shares higher following a six-week advance, though the longer-term trend was still viewed as positive.

## GOLD

Gold extended losses to hit its weakest in more than a month on Tuesday as the Lunar New Year break in Asia curbed physical demand, while Tokyo bullion futures softened after hitting a record-high last week.

## EMERGING MARKETS

For the top emerging markets news, double click on

----

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

### BUSINESS DAY

- New storm hits SAA as acting CEO suspended
- State, municipal financial controls 'regressive', warns auditor-general

### BUSINESS REPORT

- ArcelorMittal SA issues force majeure after fire
- Sibanye Gold trades in narrow range after split from Gold Fields

Keywords: MARKETS SAFRICA FACTORS/

## TANZANIA :

### Tanzania: Battle in Tanzania's Skies Intensifies

By Abduel Elinaza/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/12 February 2013

THE arrival of the budget airline is seen as a blessing as the numbers of air passengers has increased. Local airlines claim that December was good month for their businesses, taking the cabin load factor as the benchmark of gauging businesses prospects.

Precision Air said its services are not shaken by the coming of the budget airline, but has rather "consolidated" its position at the poll as the leading carrier in the country. On other hand, FastJet also said their first month in business last December was "fantastic" which demonstrated the demand for budget airline in the country.

Some quarters in the society have it that the traditional carriers would suffer a huge passengers shift

from the existing ones to the low cost airline but the travellers trend prove them wrong. Precision Air's Head of Revenue Management Elvis Ndomo said the coming of the new player did not interrupt their frequencies to any route, but instead achieved a load factor of over 80 per cent.

"We did not reduce frequencies in December," Mr Ndomo said "as a matter of fact our frequencies are intact while we achieved a good number of uplifted passengers, during that period." It is estimated that PW has over 300 departures a week from Dar es Salaam to 18 destinations in and outside the country, the majority being from Dar es Salaam to Kilimanjaro, Dar-Arusha, Dar-Mwanza and Dar-Nairobi.

Commenting on the December services, FastJet Chief Executive Officers Mr Ed Winter, said the budget carrier achieved a 78.9 per cent load factor by carrying almost 30,000 passengers. "This is a fantastic result for the first month of FastJet operations and clearly demonstrates the latent demand for low cost reliable air travel in Africa," Mr Winter said.

He added: "Press concerns over infrastructure have proved unfounded with no scheduled Fast-Jet flights cancelled and 99.6 per cent arriving within 15 minutes of schedule." Despite being outdated the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) data shows that at the end of 2011 Precision Air had a lion market share of 58.8 per cent. The second on line was Coastal Travel controlling 21.8 per cent while Air Tanzania managed to bagged 0.4 per cent in 2011.

The chart, however is expected to change after the entry of FastJet late last year. The third and fourth were Zan Air and Auric Air controlling 4.2 and 2.0 per cent respectively while the remaining 12.8 per cent is shared with other airlines. According to Wolfganghthome's Blog , that captures air travel and hospitality service, Precision Air has a solid market base already and offers more flights to both Kilimanjaro and the Arusha Municipal air field, as well as Mwanza.

"A further benefit of (PW) having a sizeable turboprop fleet is the ability to fly to a number of destinations where larger jets cannot land, leaving a company like FastJet out in the cold as they only operate Airbus aircraft which are restricted to the main airports," the Blog indicates. Wolfganghthome's Blog added: "I think we shall see a strategic game of chess in the skies now.

FastJet will only be able to offer two or three, at best perhaps four departures between Dar and Kilimanjaro and Mwanza. "But with their fares they need almost full house on every flight to make the ends meet. Precision has the flexibility to use ATR's and offer a lot more departure times because they use smaller planes in Tanzania and the region". On other hand the blogger said Air Tanzania's fares right now are not much higher over those top fares by FastJet and who knows what government will scheme up to give the national airline competitive advantages.

TCAA Director General Mr Fadhili Manongi said one of the authority's responsibilities to create conducive economical environment to enable air players to offer competitive prices. "Fair competition at the end of the day benefit passengers-and this is our end goal," Mr Manongi said. The favourable environment includes maintaining the Dar es Salaam air safety to the highest standard according to the International Civil Authority Organisation benchmarks.

For instance, last year, the country experienced a total of 16 accidents and incidents with no casualties registered. "This makes our air space safer. Actually, we are ranked above average by ICAO that puts us at par with many first world airspaces, the likes of UK, US and Canada," Mr Manongi said. TCAA data shows that on average there is an increase of 4.5 per cent of total flights handled per year.

The Dar es Salaam centre leads with 2.5 per cent increase that is 206,334 flights handled. "True that

is, but let's wait for that battle in the Tanzanian skies to commence and see how all this will unfold," the blogger Wolfgangthome's concluded.

KENYA :

### Candidates in Kenya's First Presidential Debate Condemn Ethnic Politics

By JEFFREY GETTLEMAN/nytimes.com/February 11, 2013

NAIROBI, Kenya — With a hotly contested, anxiously awaited presidential election only three weeks away, Kenya tried something new on Monday night: it held a debate.

Just after sunset, millions of Kenyans sat down in front of television sets or grabbed transistor radios to witness the first time presidential candidates faced off against one another in a public forum in Kenya's nearly 50 years as an independent nation.

Kenya may be one of the most developed and powerful countries in Africa, known for its safaris and historically close to the West, but its politics have been bedeviled by corruption, impunity and bitter ethnic rivalries, often exploding into widespread violence during contested elections.

Human rights groups, intellectuals and the Kenyan media are now doing all they can — like setting up social media watchdogs and organizing presidential debates — to make sure that this time history does not repeat itself.

The two front-runners are Raila Odinga, the prime minister, who says he was cheated out of winning last time in 2007, and Uhuru Kenyatta, the son of Kenya's founding father. Mr. Kenyatta has been charged by the International Criminal Court with crimes against humanity connected to the widespread bloodshed that convulsed Kenya after the last election.

The debate, held at a school in Nairobi and moderated by Kenyan journalists, started out with a hand grenade: why are politics in Kenya so ethnically charged, and what would the eight candidates — seven men and one woman — do about it?

"Ethnicity is a disease of the elite," Mr. Odinga said, adding that he stood for a "Kenya for all, not just for a few elite."

Mr. Kenyatta hit a similar note.

"Tribalism is a cancer that has afflicted this country for a very long time," he said. "It has been a source of conflict, a source of death."

The debate then turned to the equally thorny subject of the International Criminal Court and what it would mean if Mr. Kenyatta won the presidential race. Several Western countries have already threatened to distance themselves from Mr. Kenyatta, raising the prospect that Kenya, which depends on hundreds of millions of dollars of foreign aid, could be partly isolated if its next president faced war crimes charges in international court.

Mr. Kenyatta, a deputy prime minister and a confident public speaker, tried to smooth over those worries, reassuring voters that he was innocent and that he could juggle defending himself at The Hague while presiding over Kenya.

But Mr. Odinga shot back: "I know it's going to cause serious challenges to run the government by Skype from The Hague."

The audience laughed.

Public service advertisements during the debate urged Kenyans to come together this election cycle, driving the point home with beautiful shots of Kenya's savannas, mountaintops and azure coastline, accompanied by swelling orchestra music. One question in the second half of the debate was what the candidates would do to make sure this election was peaceful.

"Kenya is one of the most beautiful countries in the world," said Peter Kenneth, a presidential hopeful respected for his independence but considered a long shot. "We must never try to destroy it."

### Kenya rebukes US, EU countries over poll comments

February 11, 2013 / By TOM ODULA — Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Kenya's foreign affairs minister on Monday criticized European Union ambassadors in person for what he called an orchestrated attempt to favor a presidential candidate in Kenya's upcoming elections.

Kenya will hold the election on March 4. One of the top contenders for president is Uhuru Kenyatta, who faces charges before the International Criminal Court related to postelection violence that killed more than 1,000 people after Kenya's last presidential election in 2007.

The top U.S. State Department official for Africa, Johnnie Carson, appeared last week to warn Kenyans from voting for Kenyatta. Shortly afterward, France and Switzerland said they would have only essential contact with Kenya's top leadership if Kenyatta wins the presidency.

Foreign Minister Sam Ogeri - a key ally of Kenyatta - on Monday summoned EU ambassadors to relay his displeasure over those statements. The U.S. ambassador was not at the meeting but Kenya sent a diplomatic note to the U.S. asking for an explanation of Carson's statement.

"This is a major exercise which is being done in the history of this country and therefore Kenyans must be left to ponder slowly and carefully how they are going to choose their leaders, not be imposed. This is a democratic state ... we least expect any interference at this level by anybody from any quarter and Kenyans must be left to make their choices," Ogeri said.

The remarks made by EU envoys are clearly inflammatory and could have the effect of polarizing the country, said Ogeri, who is Kenyatta's point man for election efforts in the western Kenya region of Kisii.

The EU ambassadors informed the foreign affairs ministry that they rejected allegations of interfering with Kenya's elections, said a statement from the EU. Continued cooperation with the ICC is of vital importance, regardless of who is elected as president, the statement said.

Ogeri said elections will be closely contested and statements warning of consequences of a Kenyatta win could amount to taking sides and even allegations of advance rigging. Ogeri noted that the EU is an accredited observer of Kenya's elections, but he said the statements from member countries put into doubt whether the EU delegation can be counted as impartial.

ANGOLA :

### Angola: Nation Attends 54th Session On Discrimination Against Women

11 February 2013/AngolaPress

Geneva — Angola is attending since Monday, in Geneva, Switzerland, the 54th Session of the Committee for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, which is ongoing until March this year, at the United Nations Palace.

During the meeting, Angola is to defend its sixth periodical report on the implementation of the Convention on Women's Rights, at the session scheduled for February 20, which is to be attended by the secretary of State for Family Issues and Promotion of Women, Ana Paula Sacramento.

The report will be assessed by 23 members of the committee, with highlight on Nicole Ameline, who has been appointed to elaborate the final observations on Angola.

The Angolan delegation to the gathering comprises technicians from the Ministry of Family Issues and Promotion of Women, Inter-ministerial Commission for the elaboration of the periodical report and from Angola's Permanent Mission to the UN Offices in Geneva.

### Angola: Governor of Luanda Predicts Victory of Two Carnival Groups

11 February 2013/AngolaPress

Luanda — The governor of Luanda Province, Bento Bento, said last Sunday at the end of the Adult B carnival parade that the groups União Povo da Samba and União Twabichila, respectively from Samba and Viana municipalities are likely to ascend to category A.

According to the governor, speaking to the press, the two groups interpreted well their songs and he also praised the way the Dizanda dance was revived by União Twabichila, thus demonstrating a new way of performing at the carnival.

"There was a positive evolution in the organisation of the carnival groups in B category," the governor considered.

In this category, 13 carnival groups competed, representing their respective districts and municipalities of Luanda.

The main parade (Adults A Category) will happen on Tuesday.

AU /AFRICA :

### African Markets - Factors to watch on Feb. 12

2013-02-12/xen.com



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

-----

#### EVENTS:

**BOTSWANA** - The central bank is scheduled to sell 14-day Treasury certificates.

#### GLOBAL MARKETS

The yen hovered near fresh lows against the dollar and Tokyo stocks jumped back near a 33-month high on Tuesday after markets took comments from a U.S. official as giving Japan the green light to pursue policies that weaken the yen as long as they help beat deflation.

#### WORLD OIL PRICES

Brent crude futures rose to stay above \$118 a barrel on Tuesday in thin trade due to Lunar New Year holidays in Asia, with investors focusing on seismic activity in North Korea that South Korea said indicated Pyongyang had carried out a promised nuclear test.

#### EMERGING MARKETS

For the top emerging markets news, double click on

#### AFRICA STOCKS

For the latest news on African stocks, click on

#### SOUTH AFRICA CURRENCY, BONDS

The rand fell against the dollar in a quiet session, weighed down by a gold sell-off, and was expected to remain rangebound ahead of retail sales data later this week.

## SOUTH AFRICA SHARES

South African stocks edged back from record highs, with shares of platinum mining companies hit after Impala Platinum warned of lower earnings.

## NIGERIA MARKETS

The Nigerian naira eased against the U.S. dollar on the interbank market, reflecting strong demand for the greenback from importers, traders said.

## NIGERIA RATES

Nigeria's central bank will not be pressured into cutting interest rates anytime soon despite expectations January figures will meet its broader target of cutting inflation to single-digits, the bank's chief said.

## NIGERIA POLIO WORKER KILLINGS

Three Nigerian journalists have been arrested for inciting violence by saying on a radio show that polio immunisations were an anti-Islam Western conspiracy, just days before health workers administering the vaccines were killed.

## KENYA MARKETS

Kenyan shares extended a two-week rally on Monday to hit a new 25-month high as investors expecting strong full-year corporate results bought stocks ahead of the earnings season.

## KENYA ELECTIONS

Raila Odinga, the frontrunner in Kenya's presidential election, taunted his rival Uhuru Kenyatta in a debate,

asking how he would be able to rule from the Hague, where Kenyatta goes on trial shortly on charges of crimes against humanity.

#### KENYA EU ENVOYS

Kenya's foreign minister summoned European Union ambassadors on Monday after Britain, France and others said they would have only limited contact with one presidential candidate.

#### ANGOLA INFLATION

Angola's annual consumer inflation slowed to 8.9 percent year-on-year in January from 9.02 percent in December, the National Statistics Institute (INE) said.

#### UGANDA HUMAN RIGHTS

Ugandan authorities said on Monday they plan to deport a British theatre producer who was charged last year with staging a play about homosexuality.

#### SUDAN REBELS

The Sudanese government signed a Qatar-sponsored ceasefire with a splinter Darfur rebel group, Sudanese and Qatari state media said, in an attempt to revive a stalled peace process to end a decade-long conflict.

For the latest precious metals report click on

For the latest base metals report click on

For the latest crude oil report click on

((Compiled by Nairobi Newsroom))

Keywords: AFRICA FACTORS/

**Mali troops hunt for rebel holdouts in Gao**

12 Feb 2013/aljazeera.com

House-to-house search leads to arrests of suspected fighters involved in Sunday's surprise attack on northern city.

Malian troops have hunted house-to-house in the northern city of Gao for rebels involved in a brazen raid on the city.

Police made two arrests on Monday, according to reports, and one of the men detained was a suspected fighter involved in Sunday's surprise attack.

"The Malians are checking house-by-house, block-by-block," a French officer, who asked not to be named, told reporters.

Soldiers in armoured vehicles also reinforced locations and sandbagged road checkpoints at the entrances to Gao, alert for further attacks from bands of rebels who were reported to be hiding in the surrounding desert scrub.

French and Malian government forces regained control of the strategic city on Sunday. After the attack, rebels hiding in the police central station opened fire on Malian troops, sparking an hours-long street battle.

The surprise strike by the fighters came after two suicide bombers tried to attack military checkpoints on Gao's outskirts.

In response, a French attack helicopter destroyed the police headquarters in Gao in a pre-dawn assault.

Early on Monday, hundreds of Gao residents gathered around the heavily damaged police headquarters where body parts lay strewn about.

Sunday's battle

Fighters from the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa, or MUJAO, had ruled Gao for nearly 10 months before they were routed out at the end of January.

The rebels, armed with AK-47 automatic rifles, returned to the city by crossing the Niger River in wooden boats to launch their assault on Sunday afternoon, French General Bernard Barrera said citing the Malian military.

The gun battles lasted more than five hours.

Malian Lieutenant-Colonel Nema Sagadam said that it was unclear how many fighters had penetrated the city in Sunday's attack, though at least 10 were killed by Malian forces.

Malian soldiers fired on the police building because the fighters were hiding inside, she said.

Two civilians died from bullet wounds, while 10 others were wounded, according to Dr Moulaye Djiteye at the Gao hospital.

The body of a third man was carted away later Monday morning; residents said he had been hit by a stray bullet while riding by on his motorcycle.

Ten other people were treated for their wounds at the hospital, Djiteye said.

The rebels had previously clashed with Malian forces on the outskirts of Gao, but their latest attack was the first time of fighting in the city centre.

The attack highlighted the challenges ahead for the Malian and French forces, who initially drove the fighters out of the city after facing little resistance.

### Tunisia leader says unity government imminent

12 Feb 2013/aljazeera.com

Head of powerful Ennahda party expects new government to be announced in two or three days, ending political crisis.

An agreement is imminent on a new national unity government for Tunisia to resolve the political crisis brought on by the assassination of an opposition politician, the leader of the powerful Ennahda party has said..

Rachid Ghannouchi said late on Monday that a new government is expected to be announced in two or three days, as the country that kicked off the 2011 pro-democracy uprisings of the Arab Spring teeters on the edge of a political crisis.

"We are on the road to an understanding," he said. "We are moving toward forming a government of national union."

Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki's secular party had earlier said it would remain in the ruling coalition, but demanded the resignation of two ministers amid deepening political uncertainty.

The centre-left Congress for the Republic (CPR) party had demanded the resignation of the justice and foreign ministers, who belong to Prime Minister Hamadi Jebali's Islamist Ennahda party.

"Two days ago we presented the resignation of our ministers, but we were contacted yesterday evening by the leaders of Ennahda, who replied favourably to all our demands," Mohamed Abbou, CPR party head, said on Monday.

Political tensions have escalated in the North African country after the assassination on February 6 of Shokri Belaid, a leftist politician and fierce critic of Islamist groups.

### Tensions simmering

Tensions between liberals and Islamist groups have been simmering for months over the future direction of the once avowedly secular Muslim country, and stoked by a pro-Ennahda militia blamed for attacks on secular opposition groups.

Abbou stressed that the CPR opposed the planned formation of a non-partisan government of technocrats, announced by Jebali in the wake of public outrage at Belaid's assassination.

The killing led to three days of violent protests in which one policeman was killed and 59 others wounded, according to the interior ministry.

"We are against a government of technocrats as it would allow for the return of figures from the former regime" of the toppled President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Abbou said.

Ennahda, which heads the coalition government, has already rejected Jebali's plan, laying bare the divisions within his party, in which he is considered a moderate, and fuelling a political crisis.

Against this backdrop of ongoing crisis, hundreds of Tunisians on Monday protested outside the national assembly demanding the government's resignation, among them Belaid's wife Besma Khalfaoui.

"This government must resign today, not tomorrow or the day after tomorrow," she told AFP news agency, while those around her shouted "Resign, resign," and "The people want the regime to fall".

"When a government fails, it must take responsibility."

### Un accident d'avion au Liberia décapite l'armée guinéenne

le 11-02-2013/Reuters

MONROVIA/CONAKRY (Reuters) - Le chef des forces armées guinéennes, proche allié du président Alpha Condé, ainsi que cinq autres hauts gradés ont été tués dans un accident d'avion survenu lundi près de Monrovia, la capitale du Liberia, a-t-on appris à la présidence guinéenne.

Le général Souleymane Kelefa Diallo, en mission au Liberia, avait été nommé par le président Condé après les élections de 2010 avec pour tâche de reformer une armée rétive après deux ans de pouvoir militaire.

Sous sa conduite, l'armée de cette ancienne colonie française a poursuivi un plan de réduction des effectifs mené sous supervision de l'Onu : les forces armées guinéennes ont ainsi perdu 4.000 hommes depuis 2008.

L'accident, dont on ignore pour l'heure la cause selon le ministre libérien de la Défense, Brownie Samukai, s'est produit à Charlesville, à une quarantaine de km au sud-est de Monrovia.

Alphonso Toweh à Monrovia, Saliou Samb à Conakry, Corentin Dautreppe pour le service français, édité par Gilles Trequesser

### Liberia: un accident d'avion fait 11 morts, dont le chef de l'armée guinéenne

mardi, 12 février 2013/french.irib.ir

Liberia: un accident d'avion fait 11 morts, dont le chef de l'armée guinéenne  
IRIB- L'accident d'avion, survenu, lundi matin, au Liberia, près de l'aéroport international de Monrovia, a fait onze morts, dont le chef d'état-major de l'armée guinéenne, qui voyageait avec d'autres responsables militaires guinéens, selon un nouveau bilan officiel, communiqué, à Conakry.

"Cet accident a coûté la vie aux six membres de la délégation conduite par le général de division, Souleymane Kéléfa Diallo, chef d'état-major général des armées, et aux cinq membres de l'équipage", a affirmé le ministère guinéen de la Défense, dans un communiqué, sans préciser l'identité des autres victimes.

Le chef de l'Etat guinéen, Alpha Condé, a nommé, à la suite de ce crash, le général Namory Traoré,

à la tête de l'armée guinéenne, dont il était le chef d'état-major adjoint, a indiqué la présidence guinéenne, dans un communiqué séparé.

### Tunisie : le parti du président reste allié aux islamistes d'Ennahda

le 11.02.2013/leparisien.fr

Dimanche, ils étaient au bord de la démission. Lundi, ils maintiennent leur présence au gouvernement. La grave crise politique que connaît la Tunisie depuis l'assassinat mercredi 6 février de l'opposant Chokri Belaïd connaît un nouveau rebondissement.

Le Congrès pour la République (CPR), le parti laïc du président Moncef Marzouki, souffle le chaud et le froid depuis quelques jours. Dans l'immédiat, il a décidé de maintenir son alliance avec les islamistes d'Ennahda et a rejeté la proposition du Premier ministre Hamad Jebali de former un gouvernement apolitique de technocrates.

«Nous avons décidé de geler notre décision de retirer nos ministres du gouvernement. Mais si dans une semaine nous ne voyons aucun changement nous quitterons le gouvernement définitivement, a déclaré le chef du Congrès pour la République (CPR), Mohamed Abbou. Nous avons présenté il y a deux jours la démission de nos ministres mais nous avons été contactés hier soir par les dirigeants d'Ennahda qui ont répondu favorablement à toutes nos demandes.»

Eviter le retour «des figures de l'ancien régime» de Ben Ali

Le CPR demande depuis longtemps le départ de deux ministres de premier plan d'Ennahda, ceux des Affaires étrangères et de la Justice. Le parti islamiste n'a pas confirmé pour le moment leur limogeage. Mohamed Abbou s'est aussi prononcé contre l'initiative du Premier ministre Hamadi Jebali, de former un gouvernement de technocrates, rejoignant la ligne du parti islamiste qui s'oppose aussi à son numéro deux. Selon lui, la constitution d'une telle équipe «permettrait le retour des figures de l'ancien régime» de Zine El Abidine Ben Ali renversé par la révolution de 2011.

En revanche, le troisième parti de la coalition au pouvoir, Ettakatol (centre-gauche), a apporté son soutien à Hamadi Jebali. L'une de ses figures, le ministre des Finances Elyes Fakhfakh, a jugé qu'il fallait «assurer les meilleurs succès à cette initiative».

Le Premier ministre, soutenu par l'opposition laïque et en conflit avec son propre parti, a réitéré, dans un entretien au «Monde», qu'il n'avait «pas d'autre choix que de former un gouvernement transitoire, indépendant des partis», arguant de «l'urgence» de la situation et du «danger de violence» en Tunisie.

### Gao en état de siège après l'offensive des djihadistes

Par Thierry Oberlé/lefigaro.fr/le 11/02/2013

L'incursion des combattants islamistes signe l'entrée du conflit malien dans une phase de guérilla urbaine.

Envoyé spécial à Gao

Feutre noir pour se protéger du soleil, chevalières en or aux doigts pour l'apparat et costume dépareillé à l'élégance toute personnelle, Salou Diallo, le maire de Gao, n'est pas surpris du retour des islamistes armés car ils ne sont, selon lui, jamais vraiment partis. L'élus se veut alarmiste. «La

ville est dangereuse car les djihadistes nous ressemblent. Ils ont rasé leur barbe et abandonné leur tenue noire. Maintenant ils portent des turbans comme tout le monde. Ils circulent à moto et peuvent se faire exploser en causant des dégâts», assure-t-il.

La tutelle du Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest (Mujao) sur la capitale du nord de Mali a laissé des séquelles. Les islamistes armés ont gagné des appuis dans la population. Ils ont acheté des complicités et ont fanatisé des élèves coraniques. «Gao est plein de ces gens. Ils veulent tuer ou enlever des Occidentaux pour faire un coup d'éclat», croit savoir ce maire élu voici trois ans, que son engagement contre les islamistes durant son exil à Bamako a rendu célèbre.

Lundi, au lendemain des combats qui ont opposé les forces françaises et maliennes à des assaillants, sa ville est en quasi-état de siège. Des soldats se rendent dans chaque quartier, dans chaque rue, dans chaque maison pour recenser les habitants. Des pick-up gorgés de militaires maliens et nigériens sont sur le qui-vive.

Une frappe chirurgicale

Dimanche, les affrontements ont commencé lorsque des passants ont signalé un suspect à des gardes. La course-poursuite s'est engagée à pied puis les premiers coups de feu ont éclaté. Très vite la fusillade a enflé. Des djihadistes venaient de se regrouper dans un commissariat. Les RPG répondaient aux grenades. Les fusillades étaient souvent obliques. Des tireurs étaient embusqués sur les toits tandis que les militaires ripostaient depuis les coins de rue. Ce n'est qu'en fin de soirée qu'une frappe chirurgicale contre une maison où s'était retranché un groupe de terroristes a mis fin aux affrontements. Un hélicoptère Tigre a tiré cinq obus de 30 mm dans les pièces pour s'en débarrasser.

Des sources militaires estiment à seulement une dizaine le nombre d'islamistes qui sont passés à l'action. Un chiffre surprenant dans la mesure où des tirs intenses ont été échangés avec des armes de gros calibres pendant plus de quatre heures en plusieurs points. Le maire de Gao le juge cependant crédible. «Il y a eu une époque, il suffisait de peu de monde pour s'emparer de la ville», se souvient-il. Si ce n'est que l'armée malienne était cette fois, malgré ses lacunes, bien équipée et encadrée et soutenue par la puissance de feu française.

Selon l'armée française, la configuration des lieux explique la durée des combats. Le centre-ville est un écheveau de ruelles, un labyrinthe bien connu des djihadistes. Il a fallu au final employer les grands moyens avec l'intervention des hélicoptères pour abattre certains insurgés et disperser les autres.

La journée marque, un mois après le début de l'opération «Serval», l'entrée du conflit dans une phase de guérilla urbaine. Les membres du Mujao avaient jusqu'à présent choisi la stratégie de l'évitement par crainte d'un choc frontal avec l'armée française. Le choix de Gao pour lancer un changement tactique ne doit rien au hasard. Très étendue et située à un croisement de routes, l'agglomération est difficile à boucler. Elle est également proche de zones d'implantations djihadistes. Des voyageurs auraient croisé des éléments du Mujao entre Tombouctou et Gao.

Démonstration de force

«Il y a des poches résiduelles près de Boulem, notamment. Notre mission à venir est complexe car il va falloir rayonner autour de nos bases. Cette fois on est entré dans le dur», explique un officier français. Très discrète sur ces activités dans le nord, à proximité de la frontière algérienne où elle traque les Touaregs islamistes d'Ansar Dine et al-Qaida au Maghreb islamique (Aqmi) de l'émir Abou Zeid, l'armée française a finalement été vue en situation de combat par la presse. Le paradoxe de cette démonstration de force était qu'elle était destinée à évacuer provisoirement, en fin de journée dimanche, une cinquantaine de journalistes étrangers vers le camp militaire français de



l'aéroport de Gao.

### Égypte : deux ans après la chute de Moubarak, les violences continuent

12/02/fr.euronews.com

Deux ans jour pour jour après la chute d'Hosni Moubarak, plusieurs centaines de personnes se sont rassemblées lundi soir aux abords du palais présidentiel au Caire pour réclamer des réformes et demander le départ du président Morsi. Des groupes de manifestants ont jeté des pierres sur le palais d'Héliopolis, avant d'être repoussés par les gaz lacrymogènes et les canons à eau des forces de l'ordre.

Pour ces Égyptiens, le nouveau président, issu des Frères musulmans, n'a pas réalisé les objectifs de la révolution : ils demandent la mise en place d'un gouvernement d'union nationale et des réformes sociales pour faire face à la crise et au chômage.

Deux ans après le départ de Moubarak, l'Égypte est dans une situation économique très difficile en raison de la baisse des investissements étrangers et de la fréquentation touristique.

### Egyptians Protest on Anniversary of Mubarak's Fall

By SARAH EL DEEB and AMIR MAKAR Associated Press/February 11, 2013

CAIRO February 11, 2013 (AP)

Security forces sprayed protesters with water hoses and tear gas outside the presidential palace as Egyptians marked the second anniversary of the fall of autocrat Hosni Mubarak's with angry demonstrations against his elected successor.

The forces were trying to disperse a small crowd of protesters on Monday evening, after some of them attempted to cross a barbed wire barrier meant to block them from the palace gate. Some protesters chanted: "The people want to bring down the regime." Others threw stones.

Graffiti scribbled on the palace walls read: "Erhal" or "Leave," the chant that echoed through Cairo's central Tahrir Square during the 18-day uprising that ended with Mubarak stepping down on Feb. 11, 2011.

Earlier, masked men briefly blocked trains at a central Cairo subway station and a dozen other protesters blocked traffic with burning tires on a main overpass in Cairo. Hundreds rallied outside the office of the country's chief prosecutor, demanding justice and retribution for protesters killed in clashes with security forces after Islamist President Mohammed Morsi took office last summer.

The protesters lobbed plastic bags filled with red liquid at the prosecutor's office to recall the blood spilled by civilians in clashes with security forces. The prosecutor's appointment by Morsi was criticized as a violation of the judiciary's independence. Another group of protesters locked shut the doors of the main administrative building for state services just outside the subway station at Tahrir Square.

Egypt has been gripped by political turmoil since Mubarak's ouster, in an uprising driven largely by anger over widespread abuse at the hands of state security agencies. After he stepped down, Mubarak was replaced by a ruling military council that was in power for 17 months. The rule of the generals was marred by violence and criticism that the council mismanaged the transitional period.

Morsi won the first free elections in June. But he and his Muslim Brotherhood, which rose to be Egypt's most powerful political group post-Mubarak, are now facing the wrath of Egyptians who drove the 2011 revolt but who say few of their goals have been realized.

For many in Egypt, the past two years have only increased frustration, with the economy deteriorating as political bickering between a largely secular opposition and a tightly organized and conservative Islamist bloc obstructed progress.

Protesters are particularly angry over the continued heavy handedness of security services, claiming little has changed since the Mubarak era. Many accuse Morsi and the Brotherhood of trying to monopolize power and ignoring the demands of the secular and liberal groups who were the backbone of the uprising.

On Monday, government opponents marched to Tahrir Square, the epicenter of the uprising, which has been sealed off by protesters since November. Others went to the presidential palace. Hundreds also marched through the streets of Alexandria, Egypt's second largest city.

"Of course I feel disappointed. Every day it's getting worse," said Ahmed Mohamed, a 20-year-old engineering student protesting outside the presidential palace. "The economy is even worse and all government institutions are collapsing. Morsi won't even acknowledge this."

Doaa Mustafa, a 33-year-old housewife, said she is willing to stay on the streets until Morsi steps down, as Mubarak did.

"We're here so that Mohammed Morsi, the dictator, will leave. He is just as bad as Mubarak, if not worse."

The protesters are also demanding the amendment of the country's new constitution. They claim that Islamists rushed the charter through the approval process despite disagreement with the opposition. The result, they say, was a charter that undermines freedoms of expression and belief and chips away at women rights.

Some protesters are also demanding a new Cabinet, accusing the current government of being ineffective and failing to rein in police abuses or institute economic reforms. One of the most heated issues for protesters remains a lack of accountability for those responsible for the deaths of hundreds of civilians during protests against the state.

Morsi and his supporters have repeatedly dismissed the opposition's charges, accusing the opposition and Mubarak supporters alike of trying to topple a democratically elected president.

After seven months in office, Morsi's popularity has fallen some 10 percent to 53 percent, according to pollster Magued Osman of the Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research. The poll was conducted via telephone interviews with more than 2,300 participants and had a margin of error of less than 3 percent. Only 39 percent of those polled said they would elect Morsi again if there were new elections, compared to 50 percent a month earlier.

Prominent opposition figure Amr Moussa urged Morsi to reconsider his views of the opposition, telling a late night TV program on Sunday that it is "the wrong assessment" to view the rising street anger against Morsi as a "conspiracy" to topple him.

An increasingly violent wave of protests has spread outside of the capital in recent weeks as

political initiatives failed to assuage the anger.

The recent explosion of violence began on the second anniversary of the start of the uprising on Jan.25.

It accelerated with riots in the Suez Canal city of Port Said by youths furious over death sentences issued against local soccer fans over a bloody stadium riot a year ago. Around 70 were killed in this wave of clashes, while violent mob attacks against women protesters increasingly marred gatherings at Tahrir Square.

On Monday, members of the human rights commission of the Islamist-dominated legislative assembly said women should have specific areas for protesting, criticizing them for rallying among men and in areas considered unsafe. They called for the passing of a new law to regulate protesting, and enable the police to protect women, according to the state news agency MENA.

Crowds at Monday's protests were relatively small and the violence muted.

Also on Monday, the U.S. urged protesters and security forces to show restraint and renewed a call for dialogue.

"We continue to support a broad dialogue between Egypt's leaders and the various political stakeholders to work through the various issues of concern, because there needs to be a strong national consensus in Egypt about the way forward," said U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland. "We want to see peace on the street."

---

AP writer Matt Lee contributed from Washington

### Tunisian security distinguish facial features of Belaid's alleged murderer

Tuesday, 12 February 2013/By Al Arabiya with AFP

Tunisian security sources revealed late on Monday that they were able to identify the facial features of the suspect allegedly involved in the assassination of Tunisian opposition politician Chokri Belaid, reported Al Arabiya.

An investigative team disseminated a rough picture depicting the suspect to security centers in a number of Tunisian cities and provinces to facilitate the arrest process, a source said.

Tunisian Interior Minister Ali Areed previously noted that the ministry holds important information regarding the crime but will not reveal details due to the "confidentiality of the investigations." The minister strongly denied media reports saying that there are foreign teams aiding in the investigation.

However, the Popular Front (PF), a coalition of opposition groups of which Belaid was a member, had said earlier that it "lacks confidence" in the authorized investigative teams looking into Belaid's case.

Belaid's killing last week triggered three days of violent protests in which one policeman was killed and 59 others wounded, the interior ministry says.

Earlier on Monday, hundreds of Tunisians protested outside the national assembly demanding the government's resignation, among them Belaid's widow, Bisma Khalfaoui.

"This government must resign today, not tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. It must not wait," she told AFP.

"Those are the rules of the political game: when a government fails, it must take responsibility," she added.

She also denounced the authorities' failure to respond to her request for protection for her family.  
New government

Meanwhile, Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki's secular party said Monday it would stay in the ruling coalition, but maintained its call for key Islamist ministers to resign.

Prime Minister Hamadi Jebali announced plans to form a non-partisan government of technocrats by the middle of this week in the wake of public outrage at Belaid's murder last Wednesday.

However, Jebali's own party Ennahda, which heads the coalition government, has already rejected his plan for a technocrats' government, exposing the divisions within the party where Jebali is considered a moderate.

Rached al Ghanouchi, head of Tunisia's Islamist Ennahda party, said that a new government will be announced within two or three days, but insisted that a government of technocrats will not succeed after being rejected by Tunisian political parties.

The center-left Congress for the Republic (CPR) had threatened to pull out of the Islamist-led government, which would have plunged the country deeper into political crisis.

But party chief Mohamed Abbou told reporters Monday: "we have decided to freeze our decision to withdraw our ministers from the government, but if in one week we don't see any changes, we will quit the government."

The CPR opposed PM Jebali's plans to form a non-partisan government of technocrats, arguing it would allow the return of figures from the former regime of ousted president Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, Abbou added.

UN/AFRICA :

### **Sudan and Darfur Rebel Group Sign Ceasefire Under UN-African Union Auspices**

11 February 2013/UN News Service

The Government of Sudan and one of the main rebel factions in Darfur have signed a ceasefire agreement to move the peace process forward, the United Nations-African Union mediator announced today.

"This is a major breakthrough in the road towards a comprehensive and lasting peace accord in Darfur," said Aichatou Mindaoudou, who is also the Acting Joint Special Representative in the UN-AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID).

The Government, represented by State Minister and Head of the Darfur Follow-up Office, Amin Hassan Omer, signed the ceasefire with Arko Sulaiman Dahiya, Vice Chairman and Head of Delegation from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), on 10 February in Doha, Qatar.

The agreement now lays the groundwork to start negotiations on other substantive issues, such as power and wealth-sharing and return of internally displaced persons and refugees.

The negotiations for the ceasefire had begun last month in Qatar under the parameters set in the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD). The DDPD forms the basis for a permanent ceasefire and comprehensive peace agreement to end the fighting that began in Darfur ten years ago, pitting government forces and allied militiamen against rebel groups.

JEM is the second rebel group to commit to the DDPD, after the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) signed it last year.

Following the signing, Ms. Mindaoudou congratulated both parties and said she hoped that the agreement would attract the non-signatory movements to join in the peace process.

"The road to peace is challenging and needs a great deal of resolve, perseverance and concessions from both sides," said Ms. Mindaoudou, reiterating her commitment to continue to work with the parties to the conflict towards achieving a comprehensive peace in Darfur.

US/AFRICA :

### **Militant Threats Test Role of a Pentagon Command in Africa**

By ERIC SCHMITT/[nytimes.com/February 11, 2013](http://nytimes.com/February 11, 2013)

NIAMEY, Niger — Created five years ago to focus on training the armed forces of dozens of African nations and strengthening social, political and economic programs, the Pentagon's Africa Command now finds itself on a more urgent mission: confronting a new generation of Islamist militants who are testing the United States' resolve to fight terrorism without being drawn into a major conflict.

Some military and Congressional critics question whether the command is up to dealing with its dual mission, and some influential lawmakers warn that Africom, with its headquarters in Germany, is understaffed and poorly financed for challenges that include countering Al Qaeda's fighters in Mali, Islamic extremists in Libya, drug traffickers in West Africa and armed rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The leader of the command, Gen. Carter F. Ham, must straddle the new and the old missions, as he demonstrated one day last month when he flew to the northern reaches of this largely desert nation to watch United States troops train Niger's fledgling border corps in basic skills to help combat Al Qaeda's branch in North and West Africa. Then, within hours, he was back here in the capital for an urgent secure phone call from Washington to weigh what kind of advanced military support or surveillance the Pentagon could provide a French-led operation to blunt an Islamist offensive in neighboring Mali.

"The command is searching to find the right balance between the press of current military

operations and the vision of longer-term engagement, helping Africans develop greater capacity for themselves,” said Christopher W. Dell, a former United States ambassador to Angola and Zimbabwe, who is General Ham’s deputy for civil-military activities.

Africom has an annual budget of about \$300 million and 2,000 employees worldwide — an operation that Senator Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat who is chairman of the Armed Services Committee, calls “an ‘economy of force’ effort.” By comparison, the military’s Central Command, which oversees Afghanistan and the Middle East, has a yearly budget of about \$800 million and 5,000 employees.

With no assigned forces in the region except for those at a base in Djibouti, in the Horn of Africa, the command was caught napping last Sept. 11, critics contend, when it had no military forces poised to respond to the attack on the diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four Americans, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens. An independent review of the attack concluded that events had unfolded too quickly for any American forces to make a difference.

Still, controversy has dogged the command since its creation in 2008. Initial statements about its mission and scope of activity alarmed some African leaders and State Department officials, who feared that the Pentagon was trying to militarize diplomacy and development on the continent. These concerns led the command to set up its headquarters in Stuttgart.

The command’s first boss, Gen. William E. Ward, left two years ago under a cloud. Pentagon investigators later found that General Ward had lavishly overspent on official trips. He was ordered to repay the government \$82,000 and was forced to retire as a lieutenant general, a one-rank demotion.

Enter General Ham, who turns 61 this week and is the rare Army officer to have risen from private to four-star commander in a 40-year career. He has led troops in northern Iraq, overseen military operations at the Pentagon’s Joint Staff and helped lead reviews into the Defense Department’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy and the fatal shootings at Fort Hood, Tex.

His combat mettle was tested almost immediately. Within days of assuming command in March 2011, General Ham was leading the initial phase of the Libya air campaign, for which he earned high marks from his civilian bosses at the Pentagon and the White House.

But the general, who will retire this spring, acknowledged in one of three interviews during his recent trip to Niger that the command’s ability to address the terrorist threat in Africa had been “mixed.”

His grades? “Pretty good” in Somalia, where the Shabab, Islamist militants, have been dealt several setbacks in the past year. “Less good” in Libya, Mali and other parts of North and West Africa, where the United States is hunting Mokhtar Belmokhtar, a militant leader who claimed responsibility for the attack on a gas field in Algeria last month. And lacking in Nigeria, where an Islamist extremist group, Boko Haram, poses a major threat.

“Frankly, the intelligence community has not focused a lot on this part of the world,” General Ham said. “But we are starting to, out of necessity.”

With the war in Afghanistan winding down, senior Pentagon officials are scrambling to address the growing threat in North and West Africa by repositioning spy satellites and shifting surveillance aircraft from other theaters, all at a time when shrinking military budgets are forcing the Obama administration to make difficult choices on where to accept more risk.

The Pentagon is preparing to establish a drone base in Niger so that it can increase surveillance missions on the local Qaeda affiliate, Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, and associated groups. Starting this year, the Africa Command will also send small teams from a 4,000-member brigade in Kansas to conduct nearly 100 exercises and training programs in 35 African countries.

“We’re going to see more and more demands on Africom,” Hillary Rodham Clinton, then secretary of state, said in January.

As for Benghazi, General Ham said he did not request any additional forces to be on hand in the region for the anniversary of the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, saying there was no specific intelligence indicating an imminent attack.

He acknowledged that “knowing what I know now would I make different decisions? Absolutely.” A special emergency force, which all combatant commands have but that the Africa Command did not until Oct. 1, now splits time between Europe and its base in Colorado. General Ham said he is drawing up plans to have other forces in Europe, West Africa or Djibouti ready to respond quickly to a crisis.

“Instead of responding in a day,” he said, “they could respond within some number of hours.”

But with the Obama administration wary of putting American boots on the ground, General Ham and his lieutenants are sticking to the philosophy “African solutions to African problems.”

“The underlying ethos remains the same: We’re not looking to be the security provider for Africa,” said Mr. Dell, General Ham’s deputy.

American training programs have not always worked. As insurgents surged across Mali’s northern desert last year, United States-trained commanders of the country’s elite army units defected at a critical time, taking troops, trucks, weapons and their newfound skills to the enemy.

A confidential internal review completed last July by the Africa Command concluded that there were critical gaps in the American training for Malian troops and senior officers.

“We’ve focused exclusively on tactical and technical,” General Ham said in a speech in January in Washington. “We didn’t spend probably the requisite time focusing on values, ethics and a military ethos that says when you put on the uniform of your nation, then you accept the responsibility to defend and protect that nation, to abide by the legitimate civilian authority.”

In Niger, officials reached a status-of-forces agreement in January that clears the way for greater American military involvement in the country, including the drone base.

“The U.S. should do more in the area training, equipment, land and air, and intelligence capability,” Niger’s president, Mahamadou Issoufou, said in an interview. “African countries face threats beyond their means.”

General Ham insists that the command can carry out both combat operations and its original “soft power” missions, taking cues from envoys in the region like Bisa Williams, the United States ambassador in Niamey.

Ms. Williams said the command responded to her request a year ago to help train Niger’s troops to improve relations with its citizens. The command ended other practices at her request, like

financing the purchase of T-shirts urging Nigeriens to vote, money that could be better spent elsewhere, she said in an interview.

“That’s what I need from you,” Ms. Williams recalled General Ham telling her later. “I need for you to tell me if we’re tone deaf or in the wrong lane.”

### **Barclays to Cut Jobs, Focus on UK, US, Africa in New Strategy**

By Max Colchester and Margot Patrick/Dow Jones Newswires/foxbusiness.com/ February 12, 2013

Barclays PLC (BCS) Tuesday said it will slash thousands of jobs to cut its costs in the next three years as part of a strategy overhaul outlined by Chief Executive Antony Jenkins.

The bank posted a net loss for 2012 of GBP1.04 billion, after a GBP3 billion net profit in 2011, mainly because of a non-cash charge from the rising value of its own debt. Revenue, net of insurance claims, rose slightly to GBP29.04 billion, from GBP28.5 billion the year before.

The bank outlined a strategy that will see Barclays refocus investment in Africa, the U.S. and the U.K. Under Mr. Jenkins' plan, the bank will cut at least 3,700 jobs, mostly in its investment bank, as it looks to slice GBP1.7 billion from its cost base down to around GBP16.8 billion by 2015.

Barclays aims to deliver a return-on-equity above its cost-of-equity in 2015. The bank assumes its cost-of-equity will remain at the current 11.5% level.

"We expect to make good progress towards our financial commitments by 2014 and deliver them fully during 2015," the bank said. From 2014, the bank said it would up its dividend payouts, targeting a payout ratio of 30% "over time."

The moves come as the bank tries to strengthen its tattered reputation with regulators and reassure investors about future profitability. Last summer, several top managers left the bank after the lender admitted to trying to rig interbank lending rates.

Meanwhile, analysts complained that Barclays' cost base had become too large. This was in part due to the fact that Barclays' main revenue generator, its investment bank, faces growing regulatory pressure and muted a economic backdrop.

The lender has also taken steps to burnish its reputation with regulators and the government. On Tuesday, it said it would scale back its tax advisory business in an effort to distance itself from more controversial business lines.

### **BC-U.S.-AFRICA-COMMAND-1052&ADD-NYT**

February 11, 2013/newsok.com/c.2013 New York Times News Service<

NIAMEY, Niger — Created five years ago to focus on training the armed forces of dozens of African nations and strengthening social, political and economic programs, the Pentagon's Africa Command now finds itself on a more urgent mission: confronting a new generation of Islamist militants who are testing the United States' resolve to fight terrorism without being drawn into a major conflict.

Some military and congressional critics question whether the command is up to dealing with its dual mission, and some influential lawmakers warn that Africom, with its headquarters in Germany,



is understaffed and poorly financed for challenges that include countering al-Qaida's fighters in Mali, Islamic extremists in Libya, drug traffickers in West Africa and armed rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The leader of the command, Gen. Carter F. Ham, must straddle the new and the old missions, as he demonstrated one day last month when he flew to the northern reaches of this largely desert nation to watch U.S. troops train Niger's fledgling border corps in basic skills to help combat al-Qaida's branch in North and West Africa. Then, within hours, he was back here in the capital for an urgent secure phone call from Washington to weigh what kind of advanced military support or surveillance the Pentagon could provide a French-led operation to blunt an Islamist offensive in neighboring Mali.

"The command is searching to find the right balance between the press of current military operations and the vision of longer-term engagement, helping Africans develop greater capacity for themselves," said Christopher W. Dell, a former U.S. ambassador to Angola and Zimbabwe, who is Ham's deputy for civil-military activities.

Africom has an annual budget of about \$300 million and 2,000 employees worldwide — an operation that Sen. Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat who is chairman of the Armed Services Committee, calls "an 'economy of force' effort." By comparison, the military's Central Command, which oversees Afghanistan and the Middle East, has a yearly budget of about \$800 million and 5,000 employees.

With no assigned forces in the region except for those at a base in Djibouti, in the Horn of Africa, the command was caught napping Sept. 11, critics contend, when it had no military forces poised to respond to the attack on the diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four Americans, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens. An independent review of the attack concluded that events had unfolded too quickly for any U.S. forces to make a difference.

Still, controversy has dogged the command since its creation in 2008. Initial statements about its mission and scope of activity alarmed some African leaders and State Department officials, who feared that the Pentagon was trying to militarize diplomacy and development on the continent. These concerns led the command to set up its headquarters in Stuttgart.

The command's first boss, Gen. William E. Ward, left two years ago under a cloud. Pentagon investigators later found that Ward had lavishly overspent on official trips. He was ordered to repay the government \$82,000 and was forced to retire as a lieutenant general, a one-rank demotion.

Enter Ham, who turns 61 this week and is the rare Army officer to have risen from private to four-star commander in a 40-year career. He has led troops in northern Iraq, overseen military operations at the Pentagon's Joint Staff and helped lead reviews into the Defense Department's "don't ask, don't tell" policy and the fatal shootings at Fort Hood, Texas.

His combat mettle was tested almost immediately. Within days of assuming command in March 2011, Ham was leading the initial phase of the Libya air campaign, for which he earned high marks from his civilian bosses at the Pentagon and the White House.

But the general, who will retire this spring, acknowledged in one of three interviews during his recent trip to Niger that the command's ability to address the terrorist threat in Africa had been "mixed."

His grades? "Pretty good" in Somalia, where the Shabab, Islamist militants, have been dealt several

setbacks in the past year. "Less good" in Libya, Mali and other parts of North and West Africa, where the United States is hunting Mokhtar Belmokhtar, a militant leader who claimed responsibility for the attack on a gas field in Algeria last month. And lacking in Nigeria, where an Islamist extremist group, Boko Haram, poses a major threat.

"Frankly, the intelligence community has not focused a lot on this part of the world," Ham said. "But we are starting to, out of necessity."

With the war in Afghanistan winding down, senior Pentagon officials are scrambling to address the growing threat in North and West Africa by repositioning spy satellites and shifting surveillance aircraft from other theaters, all at a time when shrinking military budgets are forcing the Obama administration to make difficult choices on where to accept more risk.

The Pentagon is preparing to establish a drone base in Niger so that it can increase surveillance missions on the local al-Qaida affiliate, al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, and associated groups. Starting this year, the Africa Command will also send small teams from a 4,000-member brigade in Kansas to conduct nearly 100 exercises and training programs in 35 African countries.

"We're going to see more and more demands on Africom," Hillary Rodham Clinton, then secretary of state, said in January.

As for Benghazi, Ham said he did not request any additional forces to be on hand in the region for the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, saying there was no specific intelligence indicating an imminent attack.

He acknowledged that "knowing what I know now would I make different decisions? Absolutely." A special emergency force, which all combatant commands have but that the Africa Command did not until Oct. 1, now splits time between Europe and its base in Colorado. Ham said he is drawing up plans to have other forces in Europe, West Africa or Djibouti ready to respond quickly to a crisis.

"Instead of responding in a day," he said, "they could respond within some number of hours."

But with the Obama administration wary of putting U.S. boots on the ground, Ham and his lieutenants are sticking to the philosophy "African solutions to African problems."

"The underlying ethos remains the same: We're not looking to be the security provider for Africa," said Dell, Ham's deputy.

(STORY CAN END HERE. OPTIONAL MATERIAL FOLLOWS.)<

U.S. training programs have not always worked. As insurgents surged across Mali's northern desert last year, U.S.-trained commanders of the country's elite army units defected at a critical time, taking troops, trucks, weapons and their newfound skills to the enemy.

A confidential internal review completed in July by the Africa Command concluded that there were critical gaps in the U.S. training for Malian troops and senior officers.

"We've focused exclusively on tactical and technical," Ham said in a speech in January in Washington. "We didn't spend probably the requisite time focusing on values, ethics and a military ethos that says when you put on the uniform of your nation, then you accept the responsibility to defend and protect that nation, to abide by the legitimate civilian authority."

In Niger, officials reached a status-of-forces agreement in January that clears the way for greater U.S. military involvement in the country, including the drone base.

"The U.S. should do more in the area training, equipment, land and air, and intelligence capability," Niger's president, Mahamadou Issoufou, said in an interview. "African countries face threats beyond their means."

Ham insists that the command can carry out both combat operations and its original "soft power" missions, taking cues from envoys in the region like Bisa Williams, the U.S. ambassador in Niamey.

Williams said the command responded to her request a year ago to help train Niger's troops to improve relations with its citizens. The command ended other practices at her request, like financing the purchase of T-shirts urging Nigeriens to vote, money that could be better spent elsewhere, she said in an interview.

"That's what I need from you," Williams recalled Ham telling her later. "I need for you to tell me if we're tone deaf or in the wrong lane."

CANADA/AFRICA :

### Cardinals From Canada, Africa Lead in Papal Betting

By Svenja O'Donnell & Fergal O'Brien/bloomberg.com/Feb 11, 2013

Cardinals from Canada, Nigeria and Ghana are among the leading candidates to succeed Benedict XVI as pope, according to bookmakers' odds.

Nigeria's Francis Arinze, 80, is the 2-1 favorite at London-based William Hill Plc, meaning a 1-euro (\$1.34) winning wager would return a 2-euro profit. Peter Turkson, 64, of Ghana is second favorite at 5-2. At Paddy Power Plc, Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet, 68, is the 5-2 frontrunner, while Turkson is 3-1 and Arinze is 7-2.

Pope Benedict, formerly Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, announced today that he will resign on Feb. 28, two months before his 86th birthday, for health reasons, after serving for almost eight years. This is the first such abdication of a leader of the Roman Catholic Church in almost 600 years.

The surprise resignation may reopen rifts within the church as pressure builds to name a pope from the developing world where Catholicism is growing, offsetting declines in Europe and the U.S. Arinze, Turkson and Ouellet are also the favorites at Ladbrokes Plc, according to the bookmaker's website.

"When Joseph Ratzinger took over as pope, Francis Arinze ran him close in the betting," Graham Sharpe, a spokesman for William Hill, said in an e-mailed statement. "We think he may be well placed to succeed him now, although age could be against him."  
African Pope

Paddy Power is also offering odds of 6-4 that the next pontiff will be Italian, with an African at 2-1 and a Central or South American at 10-3. The German-born Pope Benedict became the 265th leader of the Catholic Church after succeeding John Paul II of Poland. John Paul was the first non-Italian pope since Adrian VI in the 16th century.

The Italian candidate on the shortest odds at Paddy Power is Gianfranco Ravasi, at 7-1. William Hill has Angelo Scola, another Italian and the archbishop of Milan, at 5-1.

A traditionalist, Benedict became pope after spending a quarter century as the enforcer of doctrine in an office formerly known as the Inquisition.

“After having repeatedly examined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry,” the pontiff said today.

The new pope will be chosen through a conclave, a special gathering of cardinals who are sequestered in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican until they agree on a successor. Pope Benedict will have no role in choosing his successor, Vatican spokesman Father Federico Lombardi said at a news conference in Rome. He will initially retire to his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo before transferring to live in a convent.

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

**Kenya says EU trying to influence vote**

February 11 2013/By George Obulutsa/iol.co.za

Nairobi - Kenya's foreign minister summoned European Union ambassadors on Monday after Britain, France and others said they would have only limited contact with one presidential candidate, who is wanted by the war crimes court, if he wins the March 4 vote.

The minister accused the envoys of stoking tensions and attempting to divide the country ahead of the elections by making remarks last week that “are clearly inflammatory and could have the effect of polarising the country”.

Kenyans cast their ballots in the first presidential poll since ethnic clashes erupted after a disputed 2007 vote after which more than ,200 people were killed. Alliances forged by the main presidential contenders have lined up a repeat of a largely ethnically based contest.

Presidential contender Uhuru Kenyatta and William Ruto, who have formed one alliance, have both been summoned to face the International Criminal Court (ICC) in April for their alleged role in directing the violence at the last polls.

Both deny any wrongdoing.

Kenyan Foreign Minister Sam Ongeru said he had called in the ambassadors to register his “utmost displeasure” over what he said appeared to be an orchestrated attempt by the EU to influence Kenyan's voting during the elections.

“You will appreciate that with the impending elections just three weeks away, this is a tense moment of national reflection,” Ogeri said in a statement after the meeting with the ambassadors.

“The question that begs an answer therefore is whether the EU has an interest in the outcome of the elections.”

Britain, France and other EU states said last week that if Kenyatta is elected, they would have only limited contact with him because he is indicted by the ICC.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Johnnie Carson, the country's top diplomat to Africa, last week said in a teleconference that Kenyans should be careful who they elect, warning that “choices have consequences”.

Prime Minister Raila Odinga leads in the polls to replace retiring President Mwai Kibaki, while Kenyatta, son of Kenya's first president, is running a close second in a tight race.

Lodewijk Briet, the EU's head of delegation, said the bloc does not favour any candidate.

“We have reiterated that we strongly support the Kenyan government and that we do not in any way favour any particular candidate. It is up to the Kenyans to make that choice,” Briet told reporters after the meeting.

“And we are very keen to make sure that cooperation with the ICC continues.”

Should Kenyatta not cooperate with the ICC, Western countries are likely to treat him in a similar way as they have Sudanese President Omar Hassan. Bashir was ostracised by foreign governments after defying a 2009 ICC indictment for alleged war crimes committed by his forces in the western Darfur region.

Kenyatta has repeatedly said he will cooperate with the ICC, but should he not do so, it would cause concerns for foreign investors and Western governments, which want Kenya to be tough against impunity to prevent further election violence. - Reuters

### Démission du pape : le récit de la journée de lundi

12.02.2013/leparisien.fr

Dans une annonce sans précédent dans l'histoire moderne de l'Eglise catholique, le pape Benoît XVI, 85 ans, a annoncé ce lundi qu'il démissionnerait le 28 février, n'ayant plus «les forces» de diriger l'Eglise en raison de son âge. Il a fait part de sa décision lors d'un discours prononcé en latin au cours d'une réunion de cardinaux au Vatican. Un nouveau pape devrait être désigné pour Pâques, selon le Vatican.

Elu en avril 2005, le cardinal Joseph Ratzinger a alors succédé à Jean Paul II après le décès de ce dernier. «Le pape a annoncé qu'il renoncera à son ministère à 20 heures, le 28 février. Commencera alors la période de sede vacante (siège vacant)», a précisé le porte-parole du Saint-Siège, le père Federico Lombardi.

Dès l'annonce de cette démission prochaine, les réactions se sont multipliées à travers le monde. Chefs d'Etat, responsables religieux ou simples citoyens, la plupart font part de leur surprise et rendent hommage à Benoît XVI, saluant une décision «courageuse et raisonnable».

## Speculation on pope's successor turns to Africa, Latin America

By Carol J. Williams/latimes.com/February 11, 2013

Pope Benedict XVI's decision to resign has rekindled debate within the Catholic Church and worldwide speculation about the possibility that the church will reach beyond the European clergy who have long held power in the Vatican to choose the next pope.

With an eye to vibrant Catholic communities in Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia, the Sacred College of Cardinals may weigh the pros and cons of selecting the next pope from another continent.

Here are cardinals believed to be possible choices:

Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson of Ghana is an African prelate seen as a top contender, and at 64 would be better positioned than older candidates to carry on the doctrine of John Paul II and Benedict XVI through what could be a time of growing Catholic influence in the developing world. Currently president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Turkson has spent much of his career in religious academia. He has a doctorate in sacred scripture and has been a professor at St. Teresa's Seminary in his home country as well as vice rector at St. Peter's Seminary. His negative views on the merits of using condoms to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, though, have alienated reformists within the church. In 2009, he reaffirmed the church's position against contraception, urging abstinence and fidelity instead.

Francis Arinze of Nigeria was considered a strong possibility to succeed Pope John Paul II in 2005 and has emerged again in the speculation over who will follow Benedict XVI. A former prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, he served as a key advisor to Pope John Paul II and succeeded Benedict as Cardinal Bishop of Velletri-Segni in 2005. Arinze became the youngest bishop in the world in 1965 when he was ordained and assigned to prepare to become Archbishop of Onitsha, a post he assumed two years later. Now 80, Arinze may be considered too old to head the Vatican, especially in the wake of Benedict's short tenure.

Odilo Scherer, 63, a Brazilian of German descent, is head of the Vatican Department for Eastern Churches and archbishop of the massive Sao Paulo diocese, the world's largest Catholic congregation. He could be considered the front-runner if the cardinals choose to recognize Latin America's strength within the church, a region encompassing 42% of the world's Catholics. Made a cardinal by Benedict less than six years ago, Scherer has urged the church hierarchy to more vigorously practice evangelism and has spoken favorably of liberation theology's focus on social justice and the needs of the poor.

Joao Braz de Aviz, a 65-year-old Brazilian, is another forceful advocate for the poor in Latin America. He is seen as having reinvigorated the Vatican department for religious congregations since his appointment two years ago. A former archbishop of Brasilia, Braz was elevated to cardinal less than a year ago. He has been critical of the church's slide into doctrinal and ideological infighting, urging the clergy to "rebuild trust" and to heed the concerns of the faithful.

Marc Ouellet of Canada serves as prefect of the Congregation of Bishops, essentially the Vatican's chief of staff. He is also president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America. Ouellet spent most of his religious career as a professor in Canadian seminaries and was Primate of Canada when John Paul II elevated him to the cardinalate a decade ago. Ouellet, 68, has been critical of what he suggests has been an overly liberal interpretation of the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, which he says has led to many Catholics drifting from core tenets of their faith. His name surfaced

as a long-shot possibility to succeed John Paul II in 2005, and is seen as having moved up in the list of papal contenders. He is multilingual and spent years in missionary work in South America.

Luis Tagle, at 55 the youngest of the cardinals whose name comes up in succession speculation, is a native of the Philippines and as such represents the strongest Catholic congregation in Asia. He is often compared with John Paul II in personality and charisma, and has also been closely associated with Benedict through his work at the International Theological Commission. But his relative youth and inexperience in the hierarchy – he was promoted to cardinal just a year ago -- could push down his prospects.

Other names that appear in the list of potential successors:

Leonardo Sandri, 69, Argentinian of Italian descent, head of Vatican department for Eastern Churches

Timothy Dolan, 62, U.S., archbishop of New York

Angelo Scola, 71, Italian, archbishop of Milan

Dionigi Tettamanzi, 78, Italian, archbishop emeritus of Milan

Gianfranco Ravasi, 70, Italian, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture

Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, 70, Honduran, archbishop of Tegucigalpa

Claudio Hummes, 78, Brazilian, former prefect for the Congregation for the Clergy

Christoph Schoenborn, 67, Austrian, archbishop of Vienna with reformist profile

### Renewed calls for an African pope

M.J. Smith/AAP/dailytelegraph.com.au/February 12, 2013

POPE Benedict XVI's resignation has sparked calls for his successor to come from Africa, home to the world's fastest-growing population and the front line of key issues facing the Roman Catholic Church.

Around 15 per cent of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics live in Africa and the per centage has expanded significantly in recent years in comparison to other parts of the world.

Much of the Catholic Church's recent growth has come in the developing world, with the most rapid expansions in Africa and Southeast Asia.

Names such as Ghana's Peter Turkson and Nigerian John Onaiyekan have been mentioned as potential papal material, as has Francis Arinze, also from Nigeria and considered a possibility when Benedict was elected, but who is now 80.

Some analysts see the issue as one of justice since Africa has contributed to the Catholic Church to such a large degree, as well as a reflection of a changing world.

"I think that, with the black community's representation in the larger Catholic community, it is legitimate that we have a black pope," said Rene Legre Hokou, head of the Ivory Coast League of

Human Rights.

"An African pope could give more vitality to the Catholic Church in the black world. It would demonstrate the universal character of the religion."

A number of African Catholic Church members had a mixed view however, saying they would like to see a fellow African elected pope, but wanted the most qualified person, no matter where he is from.

Pat Utomi, a prominent Catholic in Nigeria who is an economist and former presidential candidate, said he would take pride in seeing an African elected, "but we must take that away."

"I think what matters is the right person with the vision for the moment," Utomi said.

At the same time, he said Africa in several ways was representative of major challenges facing the Church, particularly its relationship with an evangelical movement with explosive growth on the continent as well as with Islam.

"I think in some ways a John Paul II was a response to the Soviet Union," Utomi said. "In some ways the challenge of the Church must be to reach an accommodation ... an understanding with Islam and the Pentecostal movement."

Africans have flocked to evangelical religions, with many seeing them as more relevant to their daily lives, posing a challenge to the Catholic Church.

Also in countries like Nigeria, roughly divided between a mainly Muslim north and predominately Christian south, religious and ethnic tensions have led to violence.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

**Could the next pope be from Africa or Latin America?**

By Eric Marrapodi and Catherine E. Shoichet, CNN/February 11th, 2013

(CNN) – Hours after Pope Benedict XVI's resignation announcement Monday, speculation was surging over who might be his successor and what part of the world the new pontiff could be from.

The 118 cardinals who will pick the next pope are also in the running for the job. Those cardinals are from around the globe, but more than half of them hail from European nations, according to Vatican statistics.



Worldwide, the demographic trends among the Roman Catholic Church's nearly 1.2 billion members show a different breakdown, with the church seeing only a trickle of new members in Europe, while membership has grown significantly in Africa.

So this time around, could the pope be from Africa, where growth has surged significantly, or from Latin America, a longtime bastion for the church?

"It's always one of those exciting things. I bet there will be a line in Vegas, there probably already is," said Randall Woodard, an associate professor of theology at Saint Leo University.

"Especially based on the growth of Catholicism and ... the geographic shifts that have taken place, a lot of smart money would be on Africa or Central America."

Some stressed that the pope's geographic background shouldn't be a factor.

"All of the questions about nationalities are nonsense," said Michael Sean Winters, a visiting fellow at the Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies. "There are 118 men, and all of them have gotten to know one another. ... Their questions are going to be 'who can we see in that chair?'"

For many in Italy, the choice is already clear, according to John Allen, CNN's senior Vatican analyst.

"Around the dinner tables today in Rome, Cardinal Angelo Scola has the pole position," Allen said Monday.

Scola, an Italian, is the archbishop of Milan.

Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet, who heads the Vatican's office of bishops, is also a likely frontrunner, said Allen. And Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, an Argentinian who works as the Vatican prefect overseeing eastern churches, is well-known for his leadership and administrative skills, Allen said.

'The face of Catholicism'

Another top contender for the papacy could be Cardinal Peter Turkson of Ghana, said Woodard, the managing editor of the International Journal of African Catholicism. The 64-year-old cardinal currently heads the pope's council for justice and peace and has experience working with people of different faiths, Woodard said.

"He would be able to respond to global needs and ... the reality of what the face of Catholicism is," Woodard said.

In Brazil - which leads the world with more than 133 million Catholics, according to the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life - many were buzzing about Benedict's resignation announcement Monday.

"The country has a tradition of Catholicism, and any news related to the pope is very important news in Brazil. ... There are those experts saying that maybe the time has come for a cardinal from the developing world, Africa or Latin America, to ascend to the papacy," said Paulo Sotero, director of the Brazil Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington.

Catholic faithful gathered at a religious celebration in Brazil's capital Monday said they were surprised by the news of Benedict's resignation and hopeful that Brazilian Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz might be picked for the papacy, the state-run Agencia Brasil news agency reported.

But choosing the next pope is an issue that must rise above geographic borders, said the Reverend Emmanuel Katongole, a Catholic priest from Uganda's Kampala archdiocese who is an associate professor of theology and peace studies at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

"Part of the frustration for me is that there is a thinking that Africa's challenges and the opportunities and the interests can only be advanced if we have an African pope," Katongole said. "I find it extremely frustrating when in my vision, the church is a transnational communion of believers whose identity and loyalty cuts across these geopolitical boundaries."

Cardinals prepare to decide

While people outside the church may focus on nationalities and race, within the church's top ranks, cardinals have "a very global vision," Woodard said.

"The pope has to be the visible shepherd of 1 billion Catholics in the world," said Bishop Thomas Paprocki of Springfield, Illinois. "I don't think going into the conclave the pope has to be of a certain nationality."

Other factors are important, Paprocki said, like the age of the next pope.

"It's a grueling and demanding schedule to keep up with," he said.

Pope Benedict, who is 85 years old, said Monday that he will resign at the end of the month "because of advanced age."

"Strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfill the ministry entrusted to me," the pope said, according to the Vatican.

Age is also a factor for cardinals. Once a cardinal reaches 80, he is no longer able to participate in the election of the pope or enter the secret conclave where cardinals gather to select the next pope.

Of the 118 cardinals of voting age, 28 are from Italy, 34 are from elsewhere in Europe, 19 are from Latin America, 14 are from the United States and Canada, 11 are from Asia, 11 are from Africa and 1 is from Australia.

Cardinals will meet to choose Benedict's successor sometime after his official resignation on February 28, the Reverend Federico Lombardi, a Vatican spokesman, said at a news conference.

"Before Easter, we will have the new pope," he said.

Benedict won't be involved in the decision, Lombardi said. But his influence will undoubtedly be felt. Benedict appointed 67 the 118 cardinals who will make the decision.

It's a choice that Cardinal Donald Wuerl said he doesn't take lightly.

"When we go into the conclave, what has to be upper in the minds of all of us is what is God asking of us in making a choice. Who will fill the chair of Peter? And I think that's going to be the only

consideration," said Wuerl, the archbishop of Washington. "Who among this body has the qualifications, the characteristics, the spiritual gifts to fill that chair?"

Wuerl told reporters that he was in his study at 5 a.m. Monday preparing a homily for Ash Wednesday when he found out about the pope's decision.

"This is very startling," he said. "I was totally unprepared for it."

Wuerl is a top American contender for the papacy, according to Allen. Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the archbishop of New York, could also be considered, but both Americans would be on the "C or D list" of candidates, Allen said.

While only the church's inner circle will know what goes on inside the conclave, bookmakers were quick to set the odds over who will be the top contenders.

Two online betting sites listed Turkson as a favorite Monday. London-based William Hill plc and Dublin-based Paddy Power both gave him 3-1 odds.

CNN's Michael Pearson, Hada Messia and Kyle Almond contributed to this report.

EN BREF, CE 12 Février 2013 ... AGNEWS/DAM ,NY, 12/02/2013