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BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

Pistorius reportedly spotted partying in South Africa
Yahoo!7/ April 15, 2013

On bail awaiting a murder trial, South African Olympian Oscar Pistorius was reportedly spotted partying with friends in Johannesburg last weekend.

Pistorius challenged his bail conditions in March limiting restrictions on travel and drinking alcohol, which gave greater freedom to the sprinter.

The man dubbed 'Blade Runner' was out and about for the first time since he was charged with the murder of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp.

A report in the Sunday Times said the double-amputee was "relaxed-looking" last weekend, downing drinks at a swanky restaurant, but did not stay in the venue for long.

The athlete's publicist Anneliese Burgess reportedly said Pistorius was forced to leave when "public interest became overwhelming" and he was unable to remain in a neighbouring restaurant because of the unwanted attention.

"The place went quiet when people realised it was Oscar and (the mood) never really recovered from there," one venue manager told the Sunday Times.

One report also speculated that Pistorius was "being flirtatious" with others.

On June 4 Pistorius will face charges of premeditated murder in court.

Take meat suppliers to task - group

April 15 2013/Sapa

Johannesburg - Action should be taken against those found to be involved in the country's meat labelling scandal, Parliament's portfolio committee on agriculture said on Sunday.

"We call for harsher punitive measures against all those involved in this scandal, be it the butchery or the retailer," chairperson Lulu Johnson said in a statement. "Much as we call for food security in the country, we equally call for food safety for our consumers."

The City Press newspaper reported that popular supermarkets including Pick n Pay, Shoprite, Fruit and Veg City, Woolworths and Spar have been identified as stocking incorrectly labelled meat products.

A University of Stellenbosch study found that nearly 60 percent of 139 products tested contained ingredients which were not listed on their labels, including donkey, water buffalo, goat and pork.

The newspaper reported that the retailers had largely suggested that the findings could be blamed on cross-contamination, where one type of meat was transferred to another on chopping boards, saws, hands and utensils.

Johnson also called for the return of health inspectors.

He said the committee would also look at several laws such as the Meat Safety Act and the Consumer Protection Act to find out if they are being "enforced accordingly" to ensure sustainable safe and healthy goods. - Sapa

Mpofu released from hospital

April 15 2013/Sapa

Johannesburg - Lawyer Dali Mpfu was on Sunday released from an East London hospital after he was stabbed and robbed while walking along a beach in the coastal city.

"I have been released and I am fine, however doctors advised me not to fly because I have a lung problem," said Mpfu.

He said he would have to travel by road to Johannesburg.

Mpfu, who is representing miners involved in last year's police shootings in Marikana, North West, was attacked by two people while walking on a beach in East London on Thursday.

He was stabbed in the upper and lower body.

The former SABC CEO was believed to be on a short break before the Farlam Commission of Inquiry into the Marikana shootings resumes next week.

Eastern Cape police spokesperson Brigadier Miranda Mills said investigations were continuing and no arrests had been made. - Sapa

TANZANIA :

Tanzania: Candidate for Chief of WTO Pushes for End to Tarrifs On Agriculture Goods

By Jaffar Mjasiri/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/13 April 2013

A CANDIDATE for the post of Director General for the World Trade Organisation, Dr Herminio Blanco, says that his vision is to see that International Free trade represents leverage for development and that he will strive to reach an agreement on elimination of tariffs for agriculture products and subsidies.

Dr Herminio Blanco from Mexico is in Tanzania campaigning. Speaking to reporters at the Mexico Honorary Consul offices in the city on Friday, Dr Blanco said that the lack of progress in the Doha Round on the tariffs since 1984 has tainted the perception about the otherwise successful performance of the organization.

He stressed the need to decrease the barriers of trade and behaviour of governments that discriminate products of other countries. He said that one of his priorities is to address the issues concerning economic growth in African countries.

"Africa is now among the world's most rapidly growing economic regions. Although a substantial component of this growth potential is dependent on trade and much is still needed for trade to become really a powerful tool for development in the region," said Dr Blanco.

He said that he would promote on trade of products which are environmental friendly as well as protect intellectual rights. He expressed appreciation for all the support he has been accorded by the government of Tanzania during his three-day visit in the country, where he held talks with ministers and top government officials.

KENYA :

Kenya: Uhuru Offers Raila Special Envoy Post

13 April 2013/The Star

PRESIDENT Uhuru Kenyatta has asked former Prime Minister Raila Odinga to become a special envoy for Kenya.

The initial offer was made on Easter Monday at a private evening meeting at the home of a city businessman in Muthaiga. The meeting was also attended by Deputy President William Ruto.

On Thursday morning Ruto called Raila to repeat the offer and spoke to him for more than ten minutes. He reportedly told Raila that it was important that he worked with Uhuru's administration to unite the country.

The Deputy President emphasized that he and Uhuru were keen to have Raila play the role of an eminent Kenyan locally, in Africa, and around the world.

"He appealed to Raila to consider the role because the Kenyatta administration did not want his experience and international connections to go to waste," said an associate of the Deputy President.

Raila reportedly wished Ruto and the President success as they start their term in office and promised to do whatever he could to help them succeed.

Ruto and Raila agreed to speak again on Thursday evening together with President Kenyatta and agree on a possible second meeting with a clear agenda. It is not known if they did in fact speak again on Thursday evening.

Raila's spokesman Dennis Onyango has confirmed that the two spoke and said the discussion on the issue was ongoing.

"The Deputy President thanked the former PM for his statement on arrival from South Africa to the effect that he and the CORD team were ready to engage constructively. He told Raila that he personally has no hard feelings against the former PM and neither does Uhuru," said Onyango.

Yesterday Raila's aides were in meetings ahead of the Cord retreat this weekend at Great Rift Valley lodge.

The retreat will discuss how CORD will conduct itself inside and outside of Parliament as the official opposition, as well as the role of Raila for the next five years.

At the Easter Monday meeting, the President reportedly wanted to hold a joint press conference with Raila to assure their supporters that they would work together to unite the country.

Uhuru and Ruto were concerned about an interview by Raila broadcast by the BBC shortly after the Supreme Court ruling on Easter Saturday.

Raila told the BBC that Uhuru's victory on March 4 was "predetermined and manipulated by a few technocrats".

"It is a replica of what exactly happened in 2007. What is the point of going to polls if results are

going to be pre-determined? Voter apathy will be high in the next five years and Kenyans may look for other ways. We want to avoid people looking for other means," Raila told the BBC.

Uhuru and Ruto won the election with 50.07 percent, just 8,000 votes more than needed for a simple majority, but a considerable 800,000 votes ahead of Raila who received 43.7 percent.

Kenya: Odinga and Musyoka Meet Kenyatta and Ruto At State House

14 April 2013/Sabahi (Washington, DC)

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy William Ruto on Saturday (April 13th) met with outgoing Prime Minister and presidential competitor Raila Odinga and his running-mate Kalonzo Musyoka at the State House to discuss national unity, Kenya's Capital FM reported.

The leaders called on Kenyans to move past conflicts that arose during the election period and join hands in nation-building.

Odinga and Musyoka of the Coalition for Reform and Democracy (CORD) party congratulated Kenyatta and Ruto and wished them the best in their leadership tenure.

They said they intended to attend the opening of the 11th Parliament, in which Kenyatta's Jubilee Coalition controls both houses.

Kenyatta and Ruto pledged that the Jubilee Coalition was committed to ensuring strong opposition party involvement in parliament as a necessary tool for democracy and to ensure steady check on the government.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Gunmen launch deadly attack on Somalia courthouse

14 April 2013/bbc.co.uk

At least 19 people have been killed in bomb and gun attacks in the Somali capital, Mogadishu.

Sixteen people, including nine attackers, are believed to have died after gunmen stormed the city's main court buildings.

Later a car bomb was detonated on the road to the airport, killing three, including two Turkish aid workers and the attacker.

The Islamist militant group al-Shabab says it carried out the attacks.

Al-Shabab, which has links with al-Qaeda, has been blamed for a series of attacks in Mogadishu in the last two years.

But correspondents say Sunday's violence is the worst seen in the city since al-Shabab was pushed out of the city by AU and Somali forces in August 2011.

The Islamist group still controls most villages and rural areas of Somalia.

BBC reporter Mohamed Ibrahim at the scene says armed intruders entered the court in the capital and began firing, after which there was an explosion.

A gunfight followed as security forces exchanged fire with the attackers.

Witnesses said at least one car bomb was used in the attack.

"Armed men entered the court and then we heard a blast. Then they started opening fire," witness Hussein Ali, who works at the courts, told Reuters news agency.

Ugandan troops - part of the African Union force stationed in Mogadishu - arrived at the scene shortly after the shooting started.

The Somali government said that nine gunmen had been involved in the assault, and all had now been killed.

Six of them detonated suicide vests, it said.

Aid workers killed

Other witnesses said the attackers were dressed in Somali military uniform.

People were seen trying to escape the violence from the upper floors of the court buildings by breaking windows and climbing out of the buildings. Some were said to be senior officials.

Our reporter says the courts are located in one of the busiest parts of the city, and were full of people when the attacks happened - Sunday is a normal working day in Somalia.

A second car bomb was detonated later, outside a building housing security forces on the road to the airport.

It was set off as a convoy carrying Turkish aid workers passed, killing two of them.

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud condemned the latest attacks as "nothing but a sign of desperation by the terrorists".

"Somalia is moving and will keep moving forward and will not be prevented [from achieving] a peaceful and stable Somalia by a few desperate terrorists," he said in a statement.

Central African Republic: AU walking on a time bomb, as Nigerian envoy urges calm
Sunday, 14 April 2013/From Oghogho Obayuwana/nrguardiannews.com

THREE weeks after renegades truncated yet another African democratic government in the Central African Republic (CAR), that country continues to slide towards possible anarchy in the absence of an African Union (AU) intervention.

But it was learnt by The Guardian at the weekend that a sensible AU intervention beyond condemnations and imposition of ineffective sanctions is the most potent panacea to the political crisis in that country. Landlocked CAR, a country of some 4.2 million people and surrounded by unstable countries, including Chad, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Incidentally, attempts by some African countries, including South Africa to intervene fell through in a manner that highlights a possible Nigerian success had Africa's giant been involved as has repeatedly been demonstrated in flashpoints where she took up the gauntlet or led other states to achieve a peacekeeping goal. South Africa quickly withdrew its 200 troops stationed in Bangui, after 13 of their soldiers died during the insurgency leaving the country more vulnerable to external (beyond Africa) manipulation.

The number of people who have fled from the Central Africa Republic has risen to 37,000 since the start of a rebellion in December last year according to the United Nations (UN) figures. Over the last four months, another 173,000 people have become internally displaced owing to the unrest. And there are genuine fears that the situation could get out of hands if democratic order is not quickly restored.

As the Michael Djotodia- led junta tries to stabilise, the Nigerian ambassador to CAR, Prince Roland Ola Omowa, has urged about 3,000 Nigerians living in that country to remain calm as the Federal Government has and will "continue to do" everything to secure their lives and property.

When the rebels ousted former President Francois Bozize himself (Who then fled to Cameroon) last month, about 180 people including the country's head of Parliament and two army Generals sought refuge in the Nigerian embassy in the country's capital-Bangui.

Speaking with The Guardian at the weekend, Ambassador Omowa who was in Nigeria to deliver a special message from the ousted Bozize to President Goodluck Jonathan when the rebels struck, said Africans must find solutions to African problems.

According to him, the colonial interests in the country have meant that it is constantly watched over and while the discovery of oil and the entrance of China as a player in the CAR economy have not gone down well with entrenched interests.

"Yes, there is nothing wrong if Nigeria stations troops in CAR. That country and its leaders adore Nigeria and looks to Nigeria for continental leadership. But it has been abandoned over the years. Those who are of the opinion that we should build on our healthy bilateral relations are correct. We can have a security partnership. And why not? If France, a former colonial power always has troops stationed on the ground," he added".

It was further learnt at the weekend Nigeria has decided to focus more on the West African Sub-region for interventionist purposes especially with its security challenge at home.

A high-level source at the ministry of foreign affairs said that, "It is imperative that we allow the continental instrument to take care of that. Remember, our ambassador is here. It has been discussed and this is the federal government's position"

But so far, the United Nations (UN)'s reaction to the CAR crisis has been a warning that the region has little absorptive capacity. The AU had in January this year warned against any form of coup in CAR.

The AU has maintained that the rebels should consider holding elections in one year. African

leaders including South African President Jacob Zuma met last week in Chad's capital N'Djamena to hash out a regional response to the coup in the face of attacks of its troops by rebel forces. The aftermath of the storming of Bangui insurgent fighters, who accused the government of failing to honour an agreement.

Encouragingly, the AU's commissioner for peace and security Ramtane Lamamra, said that, "the best transitions are those that are short,"

"There have been other examples in Africa where just a year was needed to return to constitutional order. We think this is possible, but it is left to the Central Africans to decide," He added.

The Seleka rebels, an alliance of armed groups, seized power after a peace deal negotiated with Bozize collapsed. Their leader Djotodia has already tried to contain international condemnation by creating a transitional government headed by civilian Prime Minister Nicolas Tiangaye and promising elections in three years.

But, conflict resolution experts say more is needed beyond condemnation of the coup in the mineral-rich former French colony. The AU had until the weekend only suspended CAR (routine action) and imposed sanctions on rebel chief Michel Djotodia.

Nigeria established diplomatic relations with CAR in 1960. The mineral rich country gained independence from France just two months earlier than Nigeria.

Somalie: 34 civils tués dans un raid suicide et un attentat à Mogadiscio
(AFP)/14042013

MOGADISCIO — Un raid suicide d'islamistes contre le principal tribunal de Mogadiscio et un attentat à la voiture piégée ont tué 34 civils et entraîné la mort des neuf membres du commando dimanche dans la capitale somalienne qui a connu une de ses pires journées de violences depuis plusieurs mois.

Dans une spectaculaire attaque revendiquée par les insurgés shebab, des hommes armés ceints d'explosifs ont lancé un assaut contre le complexe de tribunaux, certains se faisant sauter tandis que d'autres tiraient sur les civils.

"La force de l'Union africaine, l'armée nationale somalienne et la police locale ont déblayé le bâtiment. Les derniers chiffres indiquent que 29 civils ont été tués, que 9 militants shebab sont morts et que 58 personnes ont été blessées", a dit le responsable donnant un nouveau bilan sous couvert de l'anonymat.

L'attentat à la voiture piégée au passage d'un convoi humanitaire turc près de l'aéroport de Mogadiscio a tué cinq autres civils, selon un témoin, portant le bilan total des violences de la journée à 43 morts.

Un précédent bilan faisait état de 19 morts, dont les neuf membres du commando qui a attaqué le tribunal et s'y est retranché pendant trois heures avant que les forces africaines et somaliennes reprennent le contrôle.

"Neuf assaillants sont morts dans l'incident. Six se sont fait exploser et trois ont été tués par les forces de sécurité", a précisé le ministre de l'Intérieur Abdikarin Hussein Guled à la presse.

L'attaque du complexe de tribunaux dont de hauts responsables judiciaires sont sortis indemnes a été revendiquée par les insurgés islamistes shebab qui contrôlaient Mogadiscio avant d'en être chassés en août 2011.

"Ce fut une action sacrée qui visait les infidèles qui se réunissaient dans le tribunal. Nous continuerons jusqu'à ce que la Somalie soit libérée des envahisseurs", a déclaré à l'AFP un porte-parole, Sheikh Ali Mohamed Rage.

Le président somalien Hassan Sheikh Mohamud a estimé que "cette attaque n'était rien qu'un signe de désespoir des terroristes qui ont perdu tous leurs bastions et sont sur le déclin partout en Somalie".

Le ministre britannique des Affaires étrangères William Hague a "vivement condamné" des actes qui "ne font que prolonger les souffrances du peuple somalien".

Le représentant spécial de l'ONU en Somalie Augustine Mahiga s'est dit "choqué et scandalisé" mais a souligné que le pays allait poursuivre ses progrès vers la stabilisation après deux décennies de conflits.

Une voiture a aussi explosé en face du complexe judiciaire alors que le chaos régnait avec des échanges de tirs et le suicide de kamikazes.

Le ministre de l'Intérieur, M. Guled, a assuré que le calme était revenu et que les autorités cherchaient à dresser un bilan définitif.

Quelques minutes après le début de l'attaque du tribunal, cinq personnes ont été tuées, selon un témoin, par l'explosion provoquée à distance d'une voiture piégée au passage du convoi d'aide humanitaire turque sur la route de l'aéroport.

"Cinq personnes, dont deux passantes, ont été tuées. Deux des cadavres n'ont pas pu être identifiés en raison de la gravité de leurs brûlures", a dit à l'AFP le témoin, Hassan Moalim.

Le responsable du Croissant-Rouge turc, Ahmet Lutfi Akar, a précisé à la chaîne turque NTV que le chauffeur somalien avait été tué et trois Turcs blessés.

Le tribunal visé est situé dans un quartier administratif où est habituellement déployé un important dispositif de sécurité

Selon des témoins, les assaillants vêtus d'uniformes des forces de sécurité gouvernementales ont pénétré dans le bâtiment en ouvrant le feu.

"Il y a eu alors plusieurs explosions, une voiture a également explosé, toute la zone est sens dessus-dessous", a raconté l'un d'eux, Ali Moalem.

Un journaliste de l'AFP a vu des blessés évacués par les fenêtres brisées au milieu des cris de collègues et des hurlements de sirènes des ambulances.

Le 18 mars, un attentat suicide revendiqué par les shebab avait fait au moins dix morts à Mogadiscio.

Il s'agissait de l'attaque la plus meurtrière depuis un attentat suicide qui avait fait 18 morts en septembre 2012 dans un restaurant.

Les islamistes ont multiplié les violences dans la capitale après en avoir été chassés par les forces africaines alliées au gouvernement somalien. Ils ont ensuite essuyé une série de revers militaires dans le sud et le centre.

Somalie: les shebab revendiquent une attaque sanglante

14/04/fr.euronews.com

Une attaque contre le principal tribunal de Mogadiscio et un attentat à la voiture piégée a entraîné la mort d'une trentaine de civils ce dimanche en Somalie. Des hommes armés portant des explosifs ont lancé un assaut contre le complexe judiciaire. Certains se sont fait sauter pendant que d'autres tiraient sur les civils. Neuf membres du commando ont été tués. Une voiture a également explosé près du tribunal. L'attaque a été revendiquée par les insurgés islamistes shebab. Les shebab ont multiplié les actions de guérilla et les attentats depuis qu'ils ont été chassés en août 2011 de la capitale par l'Amisom, la force de l'Union africaine.

Le tribunal visé par les islamistes est situé dans un quartier administratif de Mogadiscio où est habituellement déployé un important dispositif de sécurité.

Une voiture piégée a également explosé dans un autre quartier de la capitale au passage d'un convoi d'aide humanitaire d'une ONG turque. Un Somalien a été tué et trois Turcs ont été légèrement blessés.

Le président somalien a estimé que ces attaques n'étaient qu'un signe de désespoir des terroristes.

Avec AFP

Ahmadinejad in Benin for first stop on West Africa tour

April 14, 2013/By Benjamin Agon/dailystar.com.lb

COTONOU: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad arrived in Benin on Sunday on the first stop of a west African tour that will also take him to Niger -- the world's fourth-largest uranium producer -- and to Ghana.

Energy issues will be high on Ahmadinejad's agenda during the trip. Benin said talks with President Thomas Boni Yayi would also focus on education and agriculture.

According to the World Nuclear Association industry group, uranium from landlocked Niger is trucked to ports in neighbouring Benin for export, with most of it sent to Areva subsidiary Comurhex in France.

Iran is in need of uranium for its disputed nuclear programme. But Benin's foreign minister said Ahmadinejad's visits to the two countries were not linked.

The Iranian leader, set to leave office after June elections following his constitutionally limited two terms, will depart Benin on Monday and travel to Niger.

He then heads to Ghana on Tuesday for his final stop before departing Wednesday. Ghana, seen as a rare example of stable democracy in often volatile West Africa, is a major producer of gold and cocoa with a nascent oil industry.

"We have decided to advance relations in all areas," Ahmadinejad told reporters through a translator after arriving in Benin's economic capital Cotonou, greeted by Yayi and others.

"Benin has great potential... President Yayi and I have a lot of experience and we are now going to develop our relations in the areas of energy, trade, industry and engineering."

A statement from Benin's foreign ministry on Sunday said Ahmadinejad's visit to the country of some nine million people was in connection with his position as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement of countries.

Iran has also financed the construction of an amphitheatre at Benin's University of Abomey-Calavi, according to Foreign Minister Nassirou Arifari Bako.

Bako told AFP Ahmadinejad's talks in Benin were not linked to his visit to Niger.

"The Iranian president's visit today in Cotonou has no link with uranium and no related issues are on the agenda for the two leaders during this official visit," said Bako.

Niger is one of the world's top producers of uranium, which Iran has requires for its controversial nuclear programme, which is under several UN and Western sanctions.

Western powers suspect Tehran of developing a covert programme aimed at having the capacity to produce a nuclear bomb.

Iran denies this and says its work is being conducted for energy and medical purposes, though it is blocking the UN atomic watchdog from broadening inspections to verify that.

Niger has recently criticised a longstanding agreement it has with France, which gets most of its uranium from the former colony, and has demanded a bigger share of the profits from uranium ore mining.

Niger's foreign minister visited Tehran in February.

Ahmadinejad has previously visited around a dozen African countries.

Most of these have been to seek diplomatic support for Iran in the face of the UN sanctions.

On Tuesday, Iran unveiled a new uranium production facility and two mines, only days after talks with world powers on its nuclear programme again ended in deadlock.

Iran's relations with African countries have not always been smooth.

A diplomatic dispute hurt ties between Iran and Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and largest oil producer, when weapons shipped from Iran were seized at a Lagos port in October 2010.

An alleged Iranian Revolutionary Guard member was accused of being one of the suspects behind the shipment, which Iran said was destined for Gambia, though Banjul denied being the intended recipient. The weapons had been labelled as building materials.

Two Iranians, also said to be Revolutionary Guards members, were arrested in Kenya last year and led police to a cache of bomb-making chemicals suspected to be meant for use in an attack against Israeli targets in the country.

JCB Digs Big Profit In Africa And Middle East

Monday 15 April 2013/news.sky.com

The machinery firm sees profit rise amid the global construction downturn, spurred by stronger trade in Africa and Middle East.

Digger manufacturer JCB has defied a slump in the global construction market to record the highest profit in its 67-year history.

The family-owned company saw its 2012 earnings rise to £365m on turnover which remained virtually unchanged from the previous year at £2.7bn.

Although the Staffordshire-based manufacturer experienced weak construction equipment sales in some areas of the world, it saw business in Africa double and registered growth of 12% in the Middle East.

Announcing the results, JCB chairman Sir Anthony Bamford said: "In view of the continued fragility of the global economy, which has led to renewed slowdowns in emerging and developed markets, JCB's results in 2012 are extremely encouraging.

"They not only demonstrate the resilience of our business, but highlight the importance of continued investment in products, facilities and customer service.

"While construction equipment markets in many parts of the world remained weak, that has been more than offset by strong growth for our agricultural products, particularly in materials handling."

Despite continuing uncertainty, particularly in European economies, 2013 had started satisfactorily, JCB said.

Sir Anthony added: "We are expecting some growth this year but how much will depend on the pace of the global recovery."

Last year's record results eclipsed earnings of £355m in 2011.

Figures for sales of machines also rose slightly to 69,250, from 69,100 in 2011, amid a global market which is estimated to have contracted by around 10%.

During 2012, JCB opened a new factory in Sao Paulo, Brazil and announced plans for a new £62m plant in Jaipur, India, which is due to open next year.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

Woman deliberately infected with HIV by African boyfriend, court told

by: Sarah Elks/From: The Australian/April 15, 2013

A ZIMBABWEAN circus acrobat deliberately infected his Australian girlfriend with HIV, after lying and promising her he was disease-free, a jury has been told.

Godfrey Zaburoni has today pleaded not guilty to one charge of intending to transmit a serious disease, but pleaded guilty to a lesser, alternate charge of grievous bodily harm.

Opening the case against Mr Zaburoni on the first day of his Gold Coast trial, prosecutor Mark Whitbread said the acrobat had repeatedly lied to his Australian girlfriend about his HIV-status.

Mr Whitbread said Mr Zaburoni came to Australia as a member of a travelling circus and was diagnosed as being HIV-positive in 1998 in South Australia.

At the time, local doctors warned him to have safe sex and told him to inform his sexual partners of his HIV status.

The court was told Mr Zaburoni met his girlfriend - who cannot be named for legal reasons - at a New Year's Eve party on the Gold Coast in 2006.

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The woman will testify that before they had sex for the first time, she asked Mr Zaburoni whether he had been tested for AIDS because of its prevalence in Africa.

The prosecution argues he told her he would not have been allowed in Australia without being tested.

Mr Zaburoni and his girlfriend began having protected sex, but he soon told her it was more "pleasurable" for him without a condom.

They had unprotected sex many times, the court heard.

The couple's relationship continued until September 2008, when the woman ended it to move to Western Australia. The following year, she was tested for sexually transmitted diseases and told she was HIV-positive.

Mr Zaburoni was arrested in 2010, after his ex-girlfriend made a complaint to police.

The key issue in the trial will be intent: whether he intended to transmit the disease to her.

He has formally admitted that he was HIV positive during their relationship and that he transmitted

the disease to his then-girlfriend.

The trial continues.

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 15 Avril 2013... AGNEWS/DAM,NY, 15/04/2013