



[Un bateau transportant environ cinq cents migrants a fait naufrage, jeudi 3 octobre, près de Lampedusa, une île proche de la Sicile qui fait souvent office de porte d'entrée pour l'immigration illégale en Europe. Un bilan diffusé par les gardes-côtes a été porté à au moins cent trente morts, après la découverte de 40 nouveaux cadavres dans et autour de l'embarcation qui git retournée à une quarantaine de mètres de profondeur. Selon les médias italiens, seuls cent cinquante passagers ont été sauvés jusqu'à présent.]

UGANDA :

Jungle horror: A survivor of Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army tells his story

By Perry Chiaramonte/FoxNews.com/October 03, 2013

Ocitti "David" Okech was just 17 when rebels invaded his tiny village in northern Uganda, beating his father to death as he watched, taking away the rest of his family and forcing him to become one of thousands of soldiers in the army of wanted warlord Joseph Kony.

It was 2003, and Okech still vividly recalls his involuntary induction into a world of unfathomable brutality, back-breaking labor and hopeless misery. Rebels serving in Kony's Lord's Resistance Army, a violent cult that mixes a warped Christian fundamentalism with African mysticism and violence, swarmed the rural village of Pabbo. They rounded up the young -- some no more than 10 years old -- and started to break them down.

"They asked me what I valued most," Okech told FoxNews.com. "They then killed him in front of me."

Okech recalled that a rebel then asked him what else he valued, and he said his mother. The rebels then hauled her away.

"That is how the LRA works," he said. "They destroy everything valuable to you so you have no option. I was by myself. I felt alone. That is a powerful brainwashing for any child."

The LRA terrorized northern Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic and what is now South Sudan in the 1990s and well into the last decade, initially forming during a bloody civil war for control of Uganda. Members believe Kony, one of the world's most-wanted men, is a prophet. Its influence has dwindled in recent years, with Kony in hiding, or, some believe, dead. But even as the LRA's power wanes, its legacy of a generation of thousands of mainly Ugandan children initiated into a twisted world of violence that includes rape and murder in the name of spirituality and nationalism.

For the next six months, Okech, whose two brothers were also abducted that night, traveled through the rugged jungles of Uganda, hauling cargo on his back as the rebels duplicated the horror they'd visited upon Pabbo. Okech witnessed many of his fellow captives and people from other villages murdered by the LRA.

"You didn't know if you would make it to the next day or not," Okech said. "Seeing people killed... it hit me the most every time I saw someone die."

Half a year into his ordeal, Okech witnessed an act so brutal he decided to risk his life to escape.

"A [captive] woman's baby was crying," he recalled. "She was about to feed him and they grabbed the baby and slammed the child against the tree."

"I just lost my mind at that point," he added. "If a young baby can be killed for no reason, what chance did we have?"

Okech rallied a handful of fellow captives, young men at the very crossroads of survival, being forced closer and closer to becoming full-fledged LRA rebels.

"I said to them, 'What about us? We have to do something,'" he recalled.

As their LRA caravan plodded through the jungle, Okech and the others made their move, running from the path as their captors shouted in alarm and sent bullets whizzing overhead. Two of Okech's friends were left behind, mortally wounded. Alone in the jungle, they continued to move, not knowing if they were being pursued.

"I thought I was going to die when I got out because I had no one," Okech said. "I had no home," he said. "It keeps haunting me every day."

Okech eventually made it back to Pabbo, but found himself ostracized by villagers who no longer understood or trusted him. Unable to depend on the community for protection, Okech again went on the move, traveling to various safe havens and many times narrowly avoiding recapture. He was reunited with his mother but still has not found the rest of his family.

As the LRA's bloody grip on Uganda loosened, Okech went to Gulu University in northern Uganda, where, aided by a scholarship from a charity benefiting international refugees, he graduated last year with a degree. Over the last year, Okech has been working with several organizations, mentoring and counseling other youths who survived the horrors of Kony's army.

Okech is currently in the U.S. working with the advocacy group Invisible Children, which shined a

light last year on the atrocities of the LRA with the viral “Kony 2012” campaign. Okech has been travelling across the U.S. with the activist group as part of their #zeroLRA campaign, speaking to students in an attempt to build even more awareness about Kony and his LRA group.

A recent report claims that attacks by the LRA have dropped by more than half since 2012, and another report from August suggests that many of the LRA combatants are becoming increasingly disillusioned with Kony due to his failure to maintain contact among the fragmented group. But Okech cautions that the LRA is still at work, and children are still being forced into murderous slavery.

“The war is still going on,” he said. “Children are still being abducted and killed.”

Uganda police hunts for German terrorist

Friday 4 October 2013/sudantribune.com

October 3, 2013 (KAMPALA) – The Uganda police has said it is on the lookout for a terrorist of German origin who entered the country by bus on Tuesday morning from Limuru, Kenya.

"Police ... received information from very credible sources that a wanted terrorist of German origin, Mueller alias Ahmed Khaled, entered the country yesterday [Tuesday], the police said in a statement to the media on Wednesday.

"As the Police, together with sister security agencies, hunt down this individual, we again call upon the public to take our terror alerts seriously..."

On Thursday management of the bus company suspected to have been used by the terrorist were questioned by police. The bus company denied aiding any acts of terrorism.

Last year the Uganda police issued a similar terror threat on Mueller alias Ahmed Khaled and another suspected terrorist only identified as Erogon. Elgon is said have been arrested in Tanzania after sneaking out of Uganda.

The Uganda police has circulated a picture of Mueller alias Ahmed Khaled with a call on members of the public to report to the police if they see someone with features resembling that of the German.

After the recent Westgate terror attack in Kenya, Uganda security agencies say they have been on an alert to avoid such attacks from taking place in Uganda.

Uganda like Kenya has forces in Somalia under the an African Union mission. Al-Shabaab said they attacked Kenya for the alleged killings carried out by Kenyan forces in Somalia.

In 2010, Al-Shabaab claimed carrying out a twin attack in Ugandan capital Kampala which killed 74 people and injured many more.

(ST)

Uganda Holds Key Lending Rate as Inflation Uptick Seen Temporary

By Fred Ojambo /bloomberg.com/Oct 2, 2013

Uganda's central bank left the benchmark interest rate unchanged, after raising it last month, saying inflationary pressures stemming from rising food prices are temporary and may start abating by next year.

The Bank of Uganda kept the key lending rate at 12 percent, central bank Governor Emmanuel Tumusiime-Mutebile told reporters today in Kampala, the capital. Two of four economists in a Bloomberg News survey predicted the decision, while the others forecast a 50 basis-point to 1 percentage-point increase.

"Inflation has continued to edge up, largely driven by a temporary rise of food-crop prices," according to a monetary policy report e-mailed today by the central bank. "In the second half of 2013-14, food price inflation is expected to decline somewhat owing to downward base effects and the decline in international food commodity prices." Uganda's financial year runs July through June.

The central bank in August increased its policy rate for the first time in almost two years by 1 percentage point as inflation quickened. Inflation in Africa's biggest coffee exporter accelerated to 8 percent in September, the highest in 13 months, from 7.3 percent in August after drought cut crop supplies, pushing up food prices that have a 27 percent weighting in the consumer-price index. Core inflation quickened to 6.9 percent from 6.6 percent, moving further away from the 5 percent medium-term target set by the central bank.

Lending Rates

Commercial bank lending rates remain "elevated," according to the statement. Lending rates stood at an average 23 percent in August, little changed from July, according to central bank data. Two years ago, complaints about the high cost of living and expensive loan charges amid record interest rates prompted protests led by the political opposition.

"The central bank is trying to ensure commercial banks lower their prime lending rates," Dan Edoma, an economist at African Alliance Uganda Ltd., a Kampala-based investment bank, said by phone. "It is, in general, looking at bringing down the cost of financing."

The government forecasts economic growth in Uganda may expand by more than 6 percent in the year through June from 5.8 percent in 2012-13 because of increased infrastructure investment and the expansion of agriculture and services.

TANZANIA :

Victoria woman trapped in Tanzania

Katie DeRosa / Times Colonist/October 3, 2013

A Victoria woman is facing criminal charges in Tanzania in what her family calls a case of corruption.

Randal Dunn, 33, who runs a charity in the East Africa country, is charged with theft after a previous employer accused her of stealing 30 million shillings, or about \$18,000, according to her father, Lyn Dunn, who lives in Victoria.

Randal Dunn was working as manager of the Monarch Hotel and Beach Resort in Mwanza. In

September 2012, she was told she was being investigated for stealing from her employer, but the case was dropped for lack of evidence.

In July this year, she was ordered to appear at the police station in Mwanza. When she showed up, she was imprisoned, with bail set at a \$20,000 surety or \$10,000 cash.

Dunn told her parents that a few weeks before the allegations surfaced, the hotel owner came in and took money out of the business. She says he might have used the money to pay debts. Dunn believes when the businessman's creditors came after him, he pointed the finger at her.

Randal Dunn spent seven days in jail and her requests to speak to Canadian embassy officials in Tanzania were refused.

Lyn Dunn flew to Mwanza to bail out his daughter on July 27.

Authorities have seized Randal Dunn's passport and she can't leave the country.

She has hired a criminal lawyer and is set to appear in court for a preliminary hearing Tuesday when the evidence will be presented.

Lyn Dunn said it's intimidating trying to fight a system notorious for corruption and bribery. "It's kind of unpredictable, because they don't really play by the rules, even their own rules."

Randal Dunn has been living in Tanzania for eight years, first volunteering with organizations that help orphans who have lost their parents to AIDS. In 2009, she and her parents set up the non-governmental organization, African Leaders of Tomorrow, a charity that pays education fees for children in need.

Dunn is now working for a safari company in Arusha but the criminal charges are weighing on her every day, her father said. "It's pretty hard for her to live a normal life with this hanging over her head."

The trial could take up to two years, he said.

Lyn Dunn has written to Foreign Affairs in Ottawa, asking the government to condemn how his daughter was treated in prison.

Green Party leader and Saanich Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May has called on the minister of state for consular affairs to protest the treatment of Randal Dunn.

"Our hope is when this matter comes to the attention of someone high up in the Tanzanian government that they will take a hand in this case and cut through the corruption," Lyn Dunn said. "We have every confidence that if this needs to be fought through to the end in a trial that she will win because it's obviously a bogus case."

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China drops anchor in Tanzania

04 Oct 2013/Florence Majani/mg.co.za

The clandestine nature of many colossal and high-level deals is alarming many in the country.

The Chinese presence in the Tanzanian economy is growing rapidly as the eastern giant intensifies its quest for natural resources and a gateway to other African states.

During a state visit to Tanzania in March this year, Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Jakaya Kikwete signed at least 19 agreements reportedly worth more than \$6-billion.

According to the website Open Data for International Development (AidData), China has become Tanzania's largest single trading partner — last year it accounted for 15% of Tanzania's trade, valued at \$2.47-billion — and its second-largest source of investment.

AidData reports that, between 2001 and 2011, mineral-rich Tanzania received \$4.6-billion in Chinese funding, which has the added attraction that it does not come with the conditions about human rights and transparency demanded by some Western funders.

But many Tanzanians are concerned that their country will not be the main beneficiary of the big government-to-government deals and worry about the secrecy surrounding them.

Details are hard to uncover as the infrastructure contracts are not awarded by competitive tender and government ministries are extremely reluctant to provide information.

Parliament kept in the dark

Tanzanian MP John Mnyika complained that not even Parliament is informed.

He wrote twice to the infrastructure ministry for information, without result.

A government foreign service officer, Adam Issara, refused to answer questions.

"I don't know the details of the contracts; they're between the two countries. And, anyway, why do you want to know?" Issara demanded.

An official at the Chinese embassy in Dar es Salaam, who would not give his full name, asked amaBhungane to email questions to him. This was done twice but he did not respond.

An amaBhungane investigation found that Chinese business activities in Tanzania are focused particularly on raw materials such as iron ore, coal, the gemstone tanzanite, gold, diamonds and uranium — and on the infrastructure needed to transport these.

China's interest

"China is mainly interested in sectors such as roads and railways that will help it easily feed its industries," a University of Nairobi academic, Samuel Nyadema, is quoted as saying in Kenya's East African newspaper.

He said that the Chinese use project financing "as bait to secure routes to scarce natural resources".

Central to the Chinese companies, mainly state-owned, is the China Merchants Group, which is building a new port, highways and a railway line.

Chinese firms have also shown an interest in Tanzania's oil, gas, wildlife and agricultural products.

The major component of the deal clinched in March this year is for the construction of a port at Bagamoyo, northwest of Dar es Salaam, for \$10-billion.

Funded by the state-owned Import-Export Bank of China, the facility is planned to be Africa's largest.

Framework agreement

It is scheduled for completion by 2017 and will be able to handle 20 times more cargo than Dar es Salaam.

The framework agreement between the Tanzanian government and China Merchants Holdings (International) also includes the building of a 34km road between Bagamoyo and Mlandizi, which will connect the port to Tanzania's internal rail network and the Tanzania-Zambia railway.

Tanzanian researchers believe that the port is intended partly as a gateway for Chinese operations in nearby African countries rich in minerals, water or land, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Malawi, Zambia and Kenya.

However, a senior University of Dar es Salaam economics lecturer, Haji Semboja, said the principal reason for building in Bagamoyo is political.

"They are looking to win favour. They know exactly that the president comes from Bagamoyo."

Semboja said there is no compelling reason to build another port.

Questions over infrastructure programme

Some analysts also question why the infrastructure programme announced in March this year includes donations to the Wanawake na Maendeleo (women and development) foundation headed by the first lady, Mama Salma Kikwete, seeing it as an attempt to curry favour.

Kitila Mkumbo, an economist at the University of Dar es Salaam, said that, although the Chinese claim to have a long friendship with Tanzania, they are eyeing its resources.

"There's a huge competition in the world now. China wants to be the superpower and it's hungry for raw materials, particularly rare-earth elements found here," Mkumbo said.

Some analysts also say that a large component of China's efforts to establish ports and bases in the Indian Ocean is the need to formalise logistical support agreements for Chinese naval forces conducting anti-piracy operations off the Horn of Africa.

Semboja said that the Chinese are engaged in a long-range economic war.

"They are very strategic. Whatever they are doing now is intended to have benefits for the future. Increasingly, they are creating industries in Tanzania instead of sending raw materials home."

Gas reserves discovered

Last year gas reserves potentially totalling two trillion cubic feet were discovered in southern Tanzania.

The Chinese immediately offered to build a pipeline for the government, and a \$1.2-billion loan agreement for a 523km line linking Dar es Salaam and the Mtwara gas field was signed in September 5 last year between Tanzanian Finance Minister William Mgimwa and the deputy president of Exim Bank, Li Jun. The loan has a 33-year maturity and a low 2% interest rate.

The amaBhungane investigation also highlighted the Chinese use of funding to gain access to resources.

Following the conclusion of the Dar-Mtwara pipeline deal, for example, China's state-owned Sichuan Hongda Group signed a joint venture agreement with Tanzania's National Development Corporation to exploit a major iron-coal complex with a 100-year lifespan in southern Tanzania and a total value of \$54.8-billion.

The fact that the Chinese have an 80% stake in Liganga Iron Ore and 70% in Mchuchuma Coal has raised eyebrows.

Matambalya complained that the Mchuchuma-Liganga venture appeared to be a payback for the pipeline deal.

Queensway operations

This form of trade-off was pioneered several years ago by an opaque Hong Kong-based company, the 88 Queensway Group, under its director, Sam Pa.

Queensway, which is officially private but said to have strong links with China's ministries of state, foreign affairs and public security, operates through two investment vehicles, China Sonangol and China International Fund.

In 2007, Queensway offered to expand Dar es Salaam's Mwalimu Nyerere International Airport and finance the crisis-ridden national airline, ATC.

In return, the Chinese were given the right to explore two oilfields in the Lake Rukwa basin.

The role of Chinese enterprise, both private and state-owned, is not confined to dealings between the two governments or their representatives.

It is also increasingly dominant in the general economy.

Another source of unhappiness

Two kinds of Chinese organisation typically operate in Tanzania and elsewhere in Africa: one that transforms African resources for European, Japanese and African markets using Chinese bosses, managers and technicians and African workers, and another that sells Chinese goods into African markets, using Chinese bosses, managers and distributors and supplying African customers.

It is notable that Chinese companies occupy nearly 90% of Tanzania's engineering contracting market.

Also a source of unhappiness is the fact that Chinese companies provide employment mainly for Chinese expatriates and they have expanded into many other areas where Tanzanians could be in business or finding employment.

Matambalya complained about the balance of trade between the two countries: "The Chinese use our resources to produce products, and they import much more from China than what we export to them."

However, Semboja defended the Chinese role in the retail economy, arguing that their products were affordable for poor people.

Mnyika expressed concern about both the growing economic dominance of the Chinese and the secrecy surrounding many big deals.

He said the government needs to remove the confidentiality clause in the Constitution that hinders access to investment agreements.

Every port in the storm

China's massive commitment to the development of Tanzania's infrastructure, announced in March this year, reportedly totalled about \$6-billion in grants and soft loans, but funding and other details of the individual projects are vague.

In addition to the construction of the Bagamoyo port, the website Open Data for International Development (AidData) reports that the following could be on the cards:

- A special economic zone as part of the port development plan. The zone, intended to foster economic development by promoting exports, attracting foreign direct investment and creating employment, may contain several industrial and economic parks;
- The expansion of the Dar es Salaam port. The Tanzania Port Authority started planning an expansion late last year using its own funds but the Chinese assistance could supplement this work or, retrospectively, cover the upgrades;
- The modernisation of the Mtwara port in southern Tanzania, and the installation of new power transmission infrastructure. The project will involve Chinese support but also assistance from public-private partnerships;
- The possible modernisation of the Tanga port near Zanzibar.
- A television broadcasting truck donated to the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation by the Chinese government;
- The provision of shipping container inspection equipment;
- The development of Tanzania's tobacco farming industry; and
- The construction of the Abdallah Mzee drug rehabilitation centre, near the Abdallah Mzee Hospital in Zanzibar.

KENYA :

Thievery Comes After Carnage at Kenya Mall

nytimes.com/2013/10/04

NAIROBI, Kenya — Mannequins were stripped clean, jewelry cases smashed, racks of expensive suits carted off, dozens of cash registers cracked open and at least one member of the Kenyan security services arrested, caught with a bloody wallet.

The looting of the Westgate mall, the scene of a siege in which scores of people were killed last month, appeared to have the scope and organization of a large-scale military operation, and many Kenyans are asking if that is what it was.

From the first hours after Islamist militants burst into the mall on Sept. 21, killing men, women and children, until a week later when shopkeepers were let back in to sweep up the broken glass, very few people were allowed inside the mall except the Kenyan security forces, mainly the army.

More and more Kenyans believe that those soldiers methodically cleaned out the mall, and that the

barrages of gunfire ringing out for days were being directed not at the last of the militants but at safes and padlocks to blast them open. Some business leaders even question whether the Kenyan Army deliberately prolonged the crisis by saying that shooters were still in the building when they were actually dead, to give themselves extra time to steal.

Witnesses said that the most they saw militants loot was a couple of cans of soda, and shopkeepers cited no instances of panicked shoppers helping themselves to merchandise as they ran for their lives, leading to the widespread conclusion that the security forces must have been involved.

Kenyans are accustomed to corruption — their country is consistently rated as one of the most corrupt in the world — but the evidence of looting amid a national tragedy has been too much for many to take.

“It’s disgraceful,” said Maina Kiai, one of Kenya’s best-known human rights defenders. “It’s part of a nasty culture where power means everything, where you take what you can, you do whatever you want, and there’s no accountability.”

The Kenyan military said Thursday that it was “committed to get to the bottom of this” and appealed to the public for any information about soldiers who might have looted.

President Uhuru Kenyatta has announced an official inquiry into the security services’ response, which has been roundly criticized as slow and bungled. But official inquiries often do not amount to much, many Kenyans say. The other night on a Kenyan news broadcast, a camera panned across a shelf of previous inquiries — thick, bound tomes that went nowhere.

In a question put to viewers, 77 percent said they believed the Kenyan Army was responsible for the plundering of Westgate.

“Four-day siege or four-day shopping spree?” said one Western official working in Kenya.

Many questions are still swirling. The Shabab, a Somali Islamist group, has claimed responsibility for killing more than 60 people at the mall, but the number of militants who stormed in — and who they were — remain unknown.

On Thursday morning, at the Westgate entrance, vans usually used for taking tourists on safari disgorged a platoon of Western investigators wearing zip-off nylon pants and handguns on their hips. The mall reeked of rotten meat. Kenyan soldiers in hazardous-material suits and gas masks leaned over piles of debris, collecting evidence. There were still pools of blood on the floor, bits of flesh sticking to the tiles. Several more bodies were unearthed Thursday from a pile of rubble.

The mall’s electricity remained shut off, and inside Sir Henry’s, a men’s store on the ground floor, clerks took inventory by lantern light. Fazal Virani, one of Sir Henry’s owners, shook his head in disbelief. He pointed out that the cheaper suits in the front of the store had not been stolen, while dozens of his most expensive suits, hanging in the back and costing almost \$2,000 each, were gone.

“These guys had time, man, these guys had time,” he said.

Mr. Virani then trudged upstairs to commiserate with other shopkeepers. “You get hit, too?” he asked a group of men standing ankle deep in crushed glass.

“Dumb question,” replied Michael Waweru, the owner of a small boutique. “Everyone got hit.”

Laptops, smartphones, Swiss watches, cameras, underwear, perfume and stereo speakers were all carried out of the mall, which was supposed to be tightly guarded by the military, owners said. At the checkout booths in the Nakumatt supermarket, thieves left behind hundreds of coins on conveyor belts covered in ash. Wallets were snatched from the bodies of victims, shopkeepers said, complicating the process of identification.

In one women's boutique, blouses, jewelry and purses were snatched, leaving naked plastic mannequins. Even the little wooden carts that sold chocolates on Westgate's ground floor had been broken into.

"Who did this?" said Atul Shah, Nakumatt's managing director. "The people inside. Who was inside? The defense forces."

A cleanup crew at one restaurant said that when the soldiers allowed them back in on Monday, the crew found hundreds of bottles of gin, brandy, rum, vodka and beer sitting on the bar. It looked like the scene of a fraternity party, one Western official said.

"I don't know if they are deprived of these things or they felt they deserved them," said Zahir Manji, who owns four shops in Westgate.

Inside the mall this week, the evidence of widespread theft was all around. Parking machines and cash registers were pried open and emptied. A huge, mounted flat-screen television had been lifted off the wall. Doors were wrenched open, and in several stores that showed no obvious signs of having been caught up in the fighting, display cases were ransacked.

Witness accounts have not suggested that the attackers broke into safes or stole anything of value. The mall's surveillance cameras may have captured some of the looting, but Kenyan intelligence agents have taken the footage.

"A committee of inquiry will be formed," Mr. Shah said, sighing, "and nothing will happen."

Of Kenya's security services, the military had been considered the most professional, and the police force the most corrupt. But in the aftermath of the mall attack, it is the police officers who are being hailed as heroes because dozens of lightly armed off-duty officers were among the first responders at the mall, and they saved hundreds of lives.

Within hours, the Kenyan military ordered the police out. Then the army took over. Scores of soldiers poured into the mall while several assailants holed up in the Nakumatt store. The standoff ended three days later after soldiers fired an antitank missile into the store, leaving it in flames and opening an enormous crater in the flagship of one of Kenya's most important companies.

Four days after that, the first shopkeepers were allowed back in to survey the wreckage. Millions of dollars of property had been destroyed, and businesses said that at least hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and merchandise were missing.

On Thursday, the talk among a group of forlorn shopkeepers was of "terrorism insurance." Nobody there had it. But Mr. Manji hoped that would not matter.

"This was not terrorism; this was looting," he said. "It's sad that the people who were supposed to protect us have robbed us."

Controversial preacher shot dead in Kenya

04 Oct 2013/Source:AFP

Muslim leader linked to radical mosque killed along with three of his companions in Mombasa drive-by shooting.

Gunmen in Kenya have killed four people, including a Muslim cleric linked to a radical mosque in the port city of Mombasa in a drive-by shooting, police said.

The attack took place late on Thursday.

Sheikh Ibrahim Ismail preached at Mombasa's Masjid Musa mosque, which attracts some radical followers. He was viewed as the successor to Aboud Rogo Mohammed, a controversial preacher accused of links to Somalia's Shabab fighters, who was himself assassinated in a drive-by shooting in August 2012.

"They were five people in a vehicle when it was sprayed with bullets," a senior police officer said on Friday from the scene, adding that one passenger survived.

An AFP reporter at the scene said the car, the windows smashed and the doors riddled with bullet holes, had veered off the main coastal highway running north out of Mombasa.

Last month, the al-Shabab launched a deadly assault on an upmarket Nairobi shopping mall, killing at least 67 people in a four-day bloodbath. The armed group has threatened to carry out further attacks if Kenya does not pull its troops out of Somalia.

Kenya invites bidders for power plants

by Steve Mbogo/bdlive.co.za/octobre 04 2013

KENYA has invited bids from investors to develop coal-and gas-powered plants to generate an additional 1,800MW.

The bids are being submitted to the ministry of energy and petroleum in Nairobi, ministry principal secretary Joseph Njoroge said.

He said successful investors would enjoy preferential incentives such as land and tax holidays as the government seeks to generate a further 5,000MW in the next four years.

The proposed 800MW natural gas power plant will be on a 120ha parcel of land at Dongo Kundu or any other appropriate location between Mombasa City and Kilifi along the Indian Ocean, Mr Njoroge said.

The other will be a 1,000MW coal plant in the coastal town of Lamu, the town that will host the Lamu port and transport project that will link South Sudan and Ethiopia through a railway line, roads and a pipeline.

Kenya does not produce the two resources and expects the plants' operators to import them until proven deposits of the resources in Kenya start being mined. A natural gas resource has been confirmed offshore in Lamu and coal deposits have been confirmed in Mui Basin in eastern Kenya, but mining has been delayed by a revenue-sharing conflict between the Chinese miner and the community.

"We have been negotiating with Qatar, Nigeria and Tanzania for imports of natural gas. So we have varied options," Kenya's chief geologist, John Omenge, said. Kenya will also be seeking coal imports from SA.

So far, General Electric (GE) and KenGen, a listed majority state-owned power-generation company, have expressed interest to develop the plants.

GE chief financial officer Thomas Konditi said it would set up a natural gas-powered plant to generate 900MW and is seeking to import the gas from Qatar or Nigeria. That particular plant, however, is not related to the current bids.

Kenya intends to fast-track power generation in the next four years to meet the expected demand from infrastructure projects like the Konza Technology City and the 500km electric-powered railway line.

Demand is also being driven by the growing manufacturing base, the projected 5.6% economic growth this year and rising new electricity connections, especially in rural areas.

Kenya's generation capacity of 1,664MW is already under severe strain from peak demand of 1,410MW, forcing it to buy expensive thermal-powered generators. The ministry said it will fast-track issuance of power purchase agreements to encourage many new independent power producers to come on line.

AU/AFRICA :

Madagascar: enquête sur les rumeurs de trafics d'organes après le lynchage à Nosy Be
Par RFI/vendredi 04 octobre 2013

Trois personnes ont été tuées par une foule en colère, jeudi 3 octobre à Nosy Be. Un Malgache et deux Européens, dont un Français, étaient accusés par la foule meurtrière d'être impliqués dans une affaire de trafic d'organes, après la découverte du corps mutilé d'un enfant. Une enquête est en cours.

L'enquête n'a démarré effectivement que ce vendredi matin et elle a été confiée au commandant de brigade de gendarmerie de Nosy Be, le commandant Ridza. Le premier objectif de l'enquête sera de faire la lumière sur le ressortissant Malgache qui a été lynché jeudi, quelques heures après que deux Européens, dont un Français, ont été tués de la même manière par une foule en colère.

Les enquêteurs veulent d'abord vérifier des rumeurs qui courent au sujet de cet homme, notamment celles d'étranges vendeurs d'enfants. Les enquêteurs travaillent également sur les deux Européens qui ont été tués jeudi, en début de matinée. Les deux hommes ont été lynchés par la foule en début de matinée sur la plage d'Ambatoloaka et leurs corps brûlés sur un bûcher. Le Français, âgé de 48 ans, était à Madagascar avec un visa touristique, mais son passeport montre qu'il a effectué de fréquents allers et retours dans le pays. L'autre Européen, un ressortissant italien, était lui en situation illégale à Madagascar.

Enquête sur une rumeur

Le corps d'un enfant de huit ans tué et mutilé, vidé de plusieurs organes, a été retrouvé jeudi, selon les déclarations de la gendarmerie. Mais, pour l'instant, la gendarmerie n'a absolument aucune preuve tangible qui permette de confirmer les rumeurs sur un présumé trafic d'organes à Nosy Be. Depuis plusieurs jours, la population locale s'inquiétait de la disparition de plusieurs enfants - neuf selon la rumeur - et des affiches avaient été placardées avant le drame. Si ce trafic était avéré, ce serait une première, à Nosy Be.

La liste des violations des droits de l'homme qui frappe cette petite île malgache, située au large de la côte nord-ouest de Madagascar, paradis pour touristes avec ses plages de sable blanc et ses eaux turquoise, est cependant déjà longue à Madagascar. Des affaires de trafic d'humains sont régulièrement mises à jour. A Nosy Be, le tourisme sexuel – notamment pédophile - est aussi une réalité. De plus, phénomène récent, des affaires de trafics d'ossements humains et pillages de tombes se multiplient.

Trois personnes ont été tuées par une foule en colère, jeudi 3 octobre à Nosy Be. Un Malgache et deux Européens, dont un Français, étaient accusés par la foule meurtrière d'être impliqués dans une affaire de trafic d'organes, après la découverte du corps ...

Nigeria: au moins quatorze morts dans le crash d'un avion

AFP /3 octobre 2013

Au moins quatorze personnes ont été tuées jeudi dans le crash d'un avion nigérian avec vingt personnes à bord, juste après son décollage de l'aéroport de Lagos, ont annoncé les autorités.

L'appareil de l'avionneur brésilien Embraer et appartenant à la compagnie intérieure de charter nigériane Associated Airlines, avait décollé à 9H30 (8H30 GMT) de l'aéroport Murtala Mohammed International Airport, a indiqué le ministère de l'Aviation dans un communiqué.

L'avion, qui devait rallier la ville d'Akure, dans l'Etat d'Ondo (sud-ouest), s'est écrasé peu après son décollage avec «13 passagers et sept membres d'équipage» à bord, a précisé à l'AFP le porte-parole du ministère Joe Obi.

«Les secours ont retrouvé six survivants et 14 morts», a ensuite annoncé la ministre de l'Aviation Stella Oduah dans un autre communiqué.

Un communiqué du ministère de l'Aviation avait auparavant rapporté que l'avion transportait 27 personnes --20 passagers et sept membres d'équipage.

«Le moteur a eu une avarie au décollage et il (l'avion) s'est écrasé et a pris feu», a expliqué Supo Atobatele, porte-parole de l'Agence nigériane de gestion de l'espace aérien.

Le président Goodluck Jonathan «a ordonné qu'une enquête approfondie sur le crash soit menée par toutes les agences concernées afin d'en déterminer les causes et de prendre des mesures complémentaires, si nécessaire», a indiqué jeudi soir la présidence nigériane dans un communiqué.

Les autorités ne rendent presque jamais publics les résultats des enquêtes sur les accidents d'avion au Nigeria.

Selon un journaliste de l'AFP sur place, l'appareil a failli percuter une série de grands conteneurs remplis de carburant, situés entre les terminaux des vols internationaux et ceux des vols intérieurs, avant de s'écraser dans une zone boueuse.

L'aviation nigériane frappée par la crise

Un porte-parole du ministère de l'Aviation présent sur les lieux, Yakubu Dati, a précisé à l'AFP que la boîte noire avait été retrouvée et remise aux autorités.

Les sauveteurs et les pompiers examinaient le fuselage calciné de l'appareil, brisé en plusieurs morceaux dont certains se sont enfoncés dans une boue épaisse.

L'aviation nigériane frappée par la crise

L'avion transportait le corps d'un ancien gouverneur de l'Etat d'Ondo, Olusegun Agagu, qui devait être inhumé ce week-end, a indiqué M. Obi.

D'autres personnalités pourraient avoir été à bord de l'appareil, selon des informations circulant dans les médias nigériens mais qui n'ont pas pu être confirmées dans l'immédiat.

L'accident s'est produit un peu plus d'un an après celui d'un autre avion d'une ligne intérieure nigériane, Dana Air, qui s'est écrasé à la suite d'une avarie de moteur alors qu'il approchait Lagos en provenance de la capitale fédérale Abuja.

Le crash, survenu en juin 2012, n'avait laissé aucun survivant parmi les 153 personnes à bord. La chute de l'appareil sur un quartier résidentiel de la capitale économique du pays avait provoqué la mort de six personnes au sol.

Le Nigeria avait promis d'assainir son secteur du transport aérien à la suite de cette catastrophe. Le directeur de l'agence de l'aviation civile a été licencié.

L'accident de la Dana Air a été le plus meurtrier au Nigeria depuis la chute au décollage de Lagos, en 1992, d'un C-130 militaire, avec un bilan de quelque 200 morts. D'autres accidents meurtriers se sont produits au cours de la décennie passée.

Le secteur aérien nigérian traverse une crise, avec la fermeture l'an dernier d'Air Nigeria à la suite de conflits du travail.

En raison des retards fréquents et de la mauvaise qualité des services sur les lignes intérieures, de nombreuses compagnies de charter ont vu le jour, utilisées notamment par les dirigeants politiques et les hommes d'affaires.

AFP

EU/AFRICA :

Après le naufrage à Lampedusa, l'Italie décrète un deuil national

Le Monde.fr avec AFP/ 03.10.2013

Un bateau transportant environ cinq cents migrants a fait naufrage, jeudi 3 octobre, près de Lampedusa, une île proche de la Sicile qui fait souvent office de porte d'entrée pour l'immigration illégale en Europe. Un bilan diffusé par les gardes-côtes a été porté à au moins cent trente morts,

après la découverte de 40 nouveaux cadavres dans et autour de l'embarcation qui git retournée à une quarantaine de mètres de profondeur. Selon les médias italiens, seuls cent cinquante passagers ont été sauvés jusqu'à présent.

"Les recherches sont encore en cours pour retrouver des rescapés", ont assuré les autorités, qui ont précisé que les naufragés avaient passé déjà plusieurs heures dans l'eau, près de l'île des Lapins, îlot situé à proximité de Lampedusa, plus proche des côtes nord-africaines que de la Sicile. Selon le Corriere della Sera, "une trentaine d'enfants et trois femmes enceintes" feraient partie des personnes toujours dans l'eau.

D'après les Nations unies, tous les passagers venaient d'Erythrée et étaient partis du port libyen de Misrata. Face à l'ampleur du drame, le président du Conseil, Enrico Letta, a convoqué un conseil des ministres pour "la proclamation demain [vendredi] du deuil national pour la tragédie de Lampedusa".

Une telle décision avait déjà été prise après l'accident de car survenu le 28 juillet près de Naples, qui avait fait trente-huit morts, et après les séismes qui avaient frappé la Botte en 2012, dans la région d'Emilie-Romagne, et en 2009, à l'Aquila. En revanche, aucun deuil national n'avait encore été décrété après la mort de migrants, notamment après le plus gros naufrage dans la région, le 2 juin 2011, qui avait fait deux cent soixante-dix morts.

"IL FAUT QUE LES CAMÉRAS DE TÉLÉVISION VIENNENT ICI"

L'alerte a été donnée par deux bateaux de pêche qui se trouvaient dans la zone. Deux vedettes, l'une des gardes-côtes, l'autre de la douane, ont immédiatement été dépêchées sur place pour venir en aide aux naufragés. Des bateaux de plaisance participent également aux opérations de sauvetage, selon la Repubblica, et des hélicoptères et d'autres moyens aériens sont mobilisés. Des plongeurs inspectent les fonds de ce bras de mer, d'une profondeur d'environ 50 mètres, à la recherche de l'épave et d'éventuelles victimes.

Selon la maire de l'île, Giusi Nicolini, le navire a pris feu quand ses passagers, en grande partie des Somaliens, ont allumé des feux de détresse, alors qu'une fuite d'essence avait lieu. La barge a ensuite coulé rapidement. Le bureau du procureur a ouvert une enquête sur le drame. L'un des passeurs présumés a été arrêté après avoir été identifié par un groupe de migrants. Il s'agit d'un Tunisien, sauvé par les gardes-côtes, selon le quotidien italien Il Fatto quotidiano.

Une première polémique a éclaté après que plusieurs survivants ont affirmé qu'au moins trois bateaux de pêche étaient passés à proximité du navire en difficulté sans s'arrêter. Arrivé sur place quelques heures après le drame, le ministre de l'intérieur, Angelino Alfano, a tenté d'apaiser les esprits, expliquant que les pêcheurs "n'avaient sûrement pas vu le bateau, sinon ils seraient intervenus." "Les Italiens ont un grand cœur", a encore plaidé le ministre, dont les propos sont retranscrits par le Corriere della Sera.

De son côté, la maire de Lampedusa a affirmé que "si ces faits sont avérés, il faudra faire la lumière sur ces manquements". Le procureur d'Agrigente, chargé du dossier, pourrait demander d'enquêter sur ces allégations, et lancer des poursuites pour "non-assistance à personne en danger, et complicité de meurtre", selon le quotidien italien.

LAMPEDUSA "TRANSFORMÉ EN MORGUE À CIEL OUVERT"

Pour l'instant, les corps ont été transportés sur le quai du port de Lampedusa, "transformé en morgue à ciel ouvert", selon le Corriere. "Du point de vue du nombre de victimes, c'est une tragédie

sans précédent", a expliqué au quotidien le médecin responsable de la clinique de Lampedusa, Pietro Bartolo. "Je n'ai jamais rien vu de tel, alors que je travaille ici depuis très longtemps".

"C'est une horreur, une horreur ; ils n'arrêtent pas d'apporter des dépouilles, nous ne savons pas où mettre les corps", a expliqué la maire de Lampedusa, en pleurs, à l'agence de presse italienne ANSA. "Il faut que les caméras de télévision viennent ici, montrent les cadavres, sinon c'est comme si ces tragédies n'existaient pas", a-t-elle encore affirmé, appelant le premier ministre, Enrico Letta, à venir "compter les morts" avec elle.

Le pape François a qualifié de "honte" le naufrage, et a appelé les croyants à prier pour eux et pour "tous les réfugiés" dans le monde. Il s'était rendu à Lampedusa le 8 juillet dernier pour attirer l'attention sur le sort des migrants et fustiger "l'indifférence" qui les frappe.

Lundi, treize migrants – pour la plupart des Erythréens – s'étaient déjà noyés en tentant de rejoindre la côte près de Raguse (sud-est de la Sicile) après avoir sauté ou avoir été jetés par dessus bord par des passeurs d'une embarcation transportant environ deux cents migrants et réfugiés. Au début d'août, un drame semblable s'était produit sur une plage de Catane. Depuis le début de l'année, plus de vingt-deux mille migrants ont débarqué sur les côtes méridionales du pays, soit près de trois fois plus que pour l'ensemble de l'année 2012.

Lampedusa sinking: Italy mourns up to 300 migrant dead
aysor.am/2013/10/04

Italy is holding a day of national mourning, after a boat carrying about 500 African migrants sank off the island of Lampedusa, the BBC reported.

At least 103 bodies were recovered and scores more are trapped in the vessel, which sank less than 1 km (half-a-mile) offshore.

More than 150 people were rescued, but another 200 of those on board the 20m (66-ft) boat are unaccounted for.

Most of the migrants were from Eritrea and Somalia, said the UN.

The skipper of the boat, a 35-year-old Tunisian, was arrested, announced Italy's Interior Minister Angelino Alfano when he visited the island later in the day.

"He had been deported from Italy in April," Mr Alfano said.

"This is not an Italian tragedy, this is a European tragedy," he continued. "Lampedusa has to be considered the frontier of Europe, not the frontier of Italy."

A minute of silence will be observed in all Italian schools on Friday in memory of the victims.