



[In a stealthy seaside assault in Somalia and in a raid in Libya's capital, U.S. special forces on Saturday struck out against Islamic extremists who have carried out terrorist attacks in East Africa, snatching a Libyan al-Qaida leader allegedly involved in the bombings of U.S. embassies 15 years ago but aborting a mission to capture a terrorist suspect linked to last month's Nairobi shopping mall attack after a fierce firefight. A U.S. Navy SEAL team swam ashore near a town in southern Somalia before militants of the al-Qaida-linked terrorist group al-Shabab rose for dawn prayers, U.S. and Somali officials told The Associated Press.]

BURUNDI :

Burundi : le torchon brûle au sein de l'ancien parti unique

Par RFI/lundi 07 octobre 2013

L'ancien parti unique au Burundi est confronté à une profonde crise interne : la direction de l'Uprona demande le départ du vice-président, sans succès pour l'instant. Mais ces tensions pourraient avoir des conséquences sur l'ensemble de l'appareil politique.

La direction du parti Uprona avait demandé très discrètement au président Pierre Nkurunziza, il y a une dizaine de jours, la tête de l'actuel premier vice-président, issu de ses rangs. Elle avait même proposé au président burundais trois noms parmi lesquels choisir son successeur, comme de coutume au Burundi.

Devant l'absence de réactions du n°1 burundais, le principal parti, à majorité tutsi de ce pays, a

décidé de porter toute l'affaire sur la place publique, histoire de lui forcer sans doute la main. Dans un communiqué rendu public samedi, l'ancien parti unique burundais annonce qu'il a perdu toute confiance en Téreance Sinunguruza, accusé notamment de mettre en avant ses propres intérêts au détriment de son parti, mais aussi d'être un obstacle à la réunification au sein de l'Uprona, aujourd'hui divisé en deux ailes.

Mais Téreance Sinunguruza, un tutsi de 54 ans, fin politicien et aux affaires depuis un quart de siècle, ne s'avoue pas vaincu jusqu'ici. Il réfute toutes ces accusations et fort du soutien du président Nkurunziza selon ses proches, jure qu'il ne quittera pas la place.

Burundi : Affrontements entre jeunes du parti au pouvoir et de l'opposition à Gihanga

Lundi 7 octobre 2013/Xinhua

BUJUMBURA (Xinhua) - Des affrontements ont opposé des jeunes membres du Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie-Forces de défense de la démocratie (CNDD-FDD), parti au pouvoir au Burundi, à ceux du Mouvement pour la Solidarité et la Démocratie (MSD, opposition), dimanche matin à Gihanga, commune de la province de Bubanza (nord-ouest), causant cinq blessés.

Selon la Radio Publique Africaine (RPA), les deux groupes se sont rentrés dedans avec des bâtons et des jets de pierres après s'être croisés dans une localité située entre le chef-lieu du centre urbain de la commune Gihanga et la 6ème transversale au moment où ils faisaient leurs sports matinaux.

Deux jeunes du MSD et trois membres de la ligue des jeunes du CNDD-FDD ont été blessés lors de ces affrontements, a-t-on confirmé de source hospitalière à Gihanga. L'administrateur de la commune de Gihanga, Léopold Ndayisaba, a menacé de suspendre les sports matinaux des membres des partis politiques dans cette entité territoriale.

Burundi : Des étrangers arrêtés dans des opérations de fouille-perquisition

Lundi 7 octobre 2013/Xinhua

BUJUMBURA (Xinhua) - L'armée et la police nationale du Burundi ont arrêté ce dimanche onze étrangers lors d'une opération conjointe de fouille-perquisition menée simultanément dans les communes de Rohero et de Buyenzi pour rechercher toutes les personnes ou les biens pouvant être source d'insécurité.

Selon Pierre Nkwirikiye, porte-parole de la police, dans le quartier communément appelé asiatique de la commune urbaine de Rohero, six étrangers ont été arrêtés et gardés à la police judiciaire municipale pour des enquêtes plus approfondies.

"Ces six personnes ont plus de trois nationalités sans posséder aucune pièce d'identité, raison pour laquelle elles ont été appréhendées et arrêtées pour des enquêtes plus approfondies", a déclaré M. Nkwirikiye. Au départ, 184 personnes, de 17 nationalités, avaient été interpellées. Après vérification par la Police de l'Air, des Frontières et des Etrangers (PAFE), ce ne sont que les six qui ont été gardés à la police judiciaire.

"La plupart était dans une situation de légalité, car seulement six personnes sur lesquelles pèsent de graves soupçons ont été gardés par la police judiciaire des parquets pour des enquêtes approfondies", a déclaré M. Nkwirikiye. Dans ce même quartier, un pistolet et un fusil Kalachnikov ont été saisis chez un militaire parti en retraite. Dans la commune urbaine de Buyenzi, la police a appréhendé cinq étrangers dont quatre Palestiniens et un Nigérian.

Les opérations de la police burundaise visent principalement les éléments du mouvement terroriste shabab qui ont menacé d'attaquer le Burundi, l'un des pays ayant envoyés des soldats en Somalie, dans le cadre de la Mission de l'Union africaine en Somalie (Amisom).

Le gouvernement craint la présence présumée des éléments shebab qui peuvent avoir des complices à Bujumbura. Cette nouvelle fouille-perquisition intervient après une opération similaire menée le 25 septembre dernier en commune urbaine de Buyenzi dans la Marie de Bujumbura (ouest de la ville), particulièrement pour des fins de contrôle identitaire. Depuis la récente attaque contre un quartier de la ville de Nairobi par des éléments shebab alliés au mouvement al-Qaida, le dispositif sécuritaire a été renforcé dans la capitale burundaise.

RWANDA :

Rwanda denies M23 child soldier claims as 'ludicrous'

7 October 2013/bbc.co.uk

Rwanda has strongly rejected allegations that it is helping train child soldiers for rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Speaking to the BBC, Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo described such claims as "ludicrous".

The US has recently withdrawn military aid to Rwanda, saying it is backing the M23 rebels, believed to recruit minors.

The M23 rebellion has forced tens of thousands from their homes in the eastern DR Congo.

"The idea that Rwanda is associated with child soldiers is just ludicrous," Ms Mushikiwabo told the BBC's Newsday programme.

"We have worked with a number of UN agencies... to basically make sure that children don't belong in the army".

The US has had close military ties with Rwanda since President Paul Kagame's Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) came to power after the end of the 1994 genocide.

Rwanda has been accused of backing the M23, which is led by ethnic Tutsis.

Rwanda has twice invaded DR Congo, which says it wants to stop ethnic Hutu rebel groups based there from attacking its territory.

President Kagame, a Tutsi, led the RPF when it ended the genocide in which some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus died.

Rwanda: Work Harder, Remain Focused On Your Goal and Believe in Yourselves-President Kagame Tells Graduands At Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology

4 October 2013/Government of Rwanda (Kigali)/allafrica.com

Gashora — Today, President Kagame officiated the first graduation ceremony of the Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology where the 85 girls completed their secondary school in Bugesera District.

President Kagame urged the graduated young girls to work hard and think further in their next life to be able to transform the country.

"We want you to work even harder, remain focused on your goal and believe in yourselves. Your accomplishments give us confidence, and to you, good reason to believe that many more accomplishments lie ahead. As girls and as citizens of Rwanda, your prospects could not be brighter, for only the sky is the limit".

"In the last 20 years, we have done everything we could to expose this myth and to change the mindset of Rwandan society. Our guiding principle has been that never again should a Rwandan get less than they deserve or be regarded as a second-class citizen in their country. Right from the start, we believed that when all facets of our society are equally empowered, we all stand to gain" he added.

Umurerwa Alexia, one of the graduates thanked President Kagame for empowering women and invited other young ladies to be confident and embrace science and technology.

The school started in February 2011 with 90 students saw its pioneer students graduate in various science disciplines. The academy is an upper-secondary boarding school for 270 girls. The vision of the school is to have graduates who will be inspired young leaders filled with confidence, a love of learning, and a sense of economic empowerment to strengthen their communities and foster Rwanda's growth.

RDC CONGO :

RDC : il n'y a pas de "solution militaire" contre le M23, estime l'ONU

Le Monde.fr avec AFP/ 06.10.2013

La crise provoquée par l'irruption de la rébellion du M23 dans l'est de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) n'a "pas de solution militaire", et ne sera surmontée que par voie "politique", a estimé, samedi 5 octobre, le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU.

"Il y a indéniablement une dynamique de paix en RDC et dans la région, nous n'avons pas le droit de rater cette opportunité", a affirmé Alexis Lamék, le représentant permanent adjoint de la France à l'ONU, à l'occasion de la visite d'une délégation des quinze pays du Conseil dans la région des Grands Lacs.

NÉGOCIATIONS AU POINT MORT

Le diplomate a fait référence aux négociations de Kampala (Ouganda) qui ont repris en septembre entre Kinshasa et le Mouvement du 23 Mars, mais qui sont au point mort. Un des principaux négociateurs pour le gouvernement congolais, François Muamba, avait indiqué mercredi que ces négociation butaient sur trois points : l'amnistie et l'intégration dans l'armée nationale des rebelles responsables de crimes de guerre, de crimes contre l'humanité ou de violations graves des droits de l'homme, et le "devenir politique" des dirigeants du M23.

Les autorités congolaises ont publié fin septembre une liste d'environ soixante-dix noms, parmi lesquels figurent les principaux dirigeants du M23, qui ne pourront être ni amnistiés ni intégrés dans l'armée dans le cadre d'un accord de paix, et répètent qu'elles ne transigeront pas sur ce point. "Il y a des questions sur lesquelles il est difficile de transiger", a reconnu M. Lamek.

SANCTION AMÉRICAINE CONTRE LE RWANDA

Le M23 est né de la mutinerie d'anciens rebelles – essentiellement tutsi – qui avaient été réintégrés dans l'armée. L'armée congolaise combat ce mouvement depuis mai 2012 au Nord-Kivu, à la frontière avec le Rwanda et l'Ouganda. L'ONU accuse régulièrement ces deux pays de soutenir la rébellion, ce que Kigali et Kampala ont toujours démenti.

Jeudi, les Etats-Unis ont annoncé avoir sanctionné le Rwanda en raison de l'enrôlement d'enfants soldats par le M23 en RDC. Kigali, en vertu de la loi américaine de 2008 sur la Protection des enfants soldats, se voit par conséquent privée d'aide militaire pour l'année budgétaire 2014.

Le président rwandais Paul Kagame a dénoncé le lendemain les "injustes" sanctions américaines qui bénéficient aux "ennemis de notre pays". Kigali accuse en retour les Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR), basées dans l'est de la RDC, d'être formées d'anciens responsables du génocide de 1994 au Rwanda et de combattre aux côtés de l'armée congolaise.

UGANDA :

Uganda: Oil - 'We Are On a Steady and Sure Path'

4 October 2013/The Independent (Kampala)

On Sept. 25, 2013, Acting Energy and Mineral Development Minister Peter Lokeris announced the handing over of the country's first oil production licence to the Chinese company CNOOC Uganda Ltd for the development of the Kingfisher Oil field. This is an abridged version of his speech.

On Sept.16, 2013, the government lifted the condition on the Production License for the Kingfisher (Kajubirizi) Discovery that was issued on Feb.03, 2012. This marks an important milestone in the progress of Uganda's Oil and Gas Sector. The Kingfisher Production License is the first oil and gas production license to be issued in the country.

You will recall that oil companies have in the past been granted exploration licences to undertake exploration for oil and gas in the country. It is an achievement for the oil and gas sector and the country at large that the efforts carried out under the tenure of the Exploration Licences in the country are now maturing into the development phase of the petroleum value chain and progressing towards production.

The Albertine Graben, which is the most prospective area for petroleum production in Uganda, is currently subdivided into 17 Exploration Areas (EAs). Four of these (EAs 1, 1A, 2 and Kingfisher Development Area) are licenced to four oil companies namely; Tullow Uganda Operations Pty Ltd, Tullow Uganda Ltd, Total E&P Uganda B.V. and CNOOC Uganda Limited. These companies hold the four licences in joint partnership and have rights to undertake petroleum exploration, development and production in these areas.

The Kingfisher Development Area is jointly licenced to Tullow Uganda Ltd, Total E&P Uganda B.V. and CNOOC; with each having equal shareholding. The government plans to participate in this license with a 15% interest and this participation will start upon commencement of production.

As referred to above, a conditional production license over the Kingfisher Field was issued to Tullow Uganda Ltd in February 2012. The condition was for the licensee to submit an amended and restated Field Development Plan (FDP) and Petroleum Reservoir Report (PRR) acceptable to the government, in accordance with the Petroleum Act and International Petroleum Best Practices. Subsequent to Tullow's farm down of 66.6% of its assets in the same month, CNOOC was appointed and approved as operator of the Kingfisher Discovery Area.

On Nov.12, 2012, CNOOC submitted a revised Field Development Plan and Petroleum Reservoir Report to the government, which have been extensively reviewed. The Field Development Plan and Petroleum Reservoir Report were agreed and the condition on the grant of this Production License lifted thereby marking the entry of Uganda into the development phase of the Petroleum Value Chain. Uganda is indeed on a steady and sure path towards commercial production of its oil and gas resources.

The in-place oil in the Kingfisher field is estimated at an average of 635 million barrels, of which 196 million barrels are estimated to be recoverable. The field will be developed to produce between 30,000 - 40,000 barrels of oil per day (bopd). This production rate will be firmed up by further studies which will be undertaken during the development of this field. This planned production is expected to be achieved by drilling 40 development wells, which will include 27 producers and 13 injectors.

The production of oil from the Kingfisher field will also lead to production of associated gas. Some of this gas will be used to generate electricity for operating the facilities in the field. CNOOC will undertake studies to determine the optimum solution for the

utilisation of the gas that will not be used to generate power for the operations in the field (excess associated gas) and the options to be studied will include:

- (i) Transportation of the excess gas to Kabaale refinery area for power generation;
- (ii) Setting up of facilities to produce liquefied petroleum gas (LPG); and,
- (iii) Onsite generation and export of power from the Kingfisher field.

The most technically feasible and economic option will be adopted for the utilisation of the excess associated gas.

Developing the Kingfisher field is estimated to cost over US\$ 2.0 billion to be spent over the development period of four years. This cost will cover; pre-development activities including Front End Engineering and Design (FEED), Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) selection, ESIA, and land lease acquisition; facilities including Central Processing Facility (CPF), pipelines, access roads to facilities in the field, airstrip, and permanent camp; development wells; and an abandonment fund.

As you are aware, the Kingfisher field is located in Buhuka Parish in Kyangwali sub-county, an area which is currently only accessible by going over Lake Albert. I am glad to inform you that as part of the development of the Kingfisher oil field, a 7KM road from Ikamiro Village to Buhuka Parish in Kyangwali Sub-county, Hoima District, will be constructed.

In addition to road construction, there will be need to evacuate the crude oil upon commencement of production. The development plan provides for this evacuation to be done by pipeline. A 50 Km crude oil pipeline will therefore be constructed from Buhuka to the Kabaale

refinery area. The plan is to develop a 60,000-barrels of oil per day refinery starting with 30,000 BOPD refinery, which will be in place by 2017/2018.

The government is also in discussions with the licensed oil companies regarding the development of a pipeline to export the crude oil not used by the refinery. Therefore, as CNOOC takes forward development of the Kingfisher field towards production of oil, the government will also be taking forward development of the refinery and other attendant infrastructure so that both projects can be completed at the same time and the crude oil produced from this field can be refined to produce petroleum products for the country.

As you are also aware, the country has adopted laws that promote the participation of Ugandans and Ugandan entrepreneurs in the country's oil and gas sector. In this regard, CNOOC will endeavour to maximise the utilisation of Ugandan companies, personnel and resources in supporting the development and production operations of the Kingfisher oil field. The company will also motivate non-Ugandan companies who will be sub-contracted for this development to use Ugandan goods and services by incorporating national local content requirements into their tendering process as well as encouraging joint ventures or consortiums with local companies.

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa car workers end strike after agreeing pay deal

6 October 2013/bbc.co.uk

A South African union representing car workers has agreed a new pay deal, ending a month-long strike that has crippled the industry.

The National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa accepted a 10% pay rise this year and 8% in the next two years.

The strike in the car components industry caused severe disruption, especially to exports.

Last week BMW said it had stopped "all future plans" to expand in South Africa because of the industrial action.

Under the deal, pay at small-to-medium-sized car parts firms will only rise wages by 9% in the first year, followed by 8% in the subsequent two years.

"The strike was very hard for us," Irvin Jim, the general secretary of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA), told reporters.

The car components' strike followed industrial action by workers at car manufacturers themselves, which hit production at BMW, Ford, Nissan and General Motors and cost an estimated \$2bn (£1.24bn) in lost output.

This year, the mining, construction and aviation sectors have also been hit by strikes, raising concerns about the impact on South Africa's economic growth.

Last week, Bodo Donauer, managing director at BMW South Africa, said the company had been unable to produce 11,000 cars while its workers were striking.

"But more important than these 11,000 cars is the sustainable damage which this [the strike] has made," Mr Donauer said.

On Sunday, Mr Jim said BMW's decision to stop future investment was "blackmail" which would be "rejected with the contempt it deserves".

South Africa: A conspiracy a day keeps a politician out of jail

Ranjeni Munusamy/dailymaverick.co.za/07 Oct 2013

You have to get up pretty early in the morning to come up with a political conspiracy that will stick and that will get people chanting your name outside a courtroom. Former National Youth Development Agency head Andile Lungisa seems to be a late riser. The conspiracy theory he has concocted to explain his arrest for corruption is so uninspired, even Kenny Kunene and Golden Miles Bhudu might find trouble buying it. So if you're a political figure who stands a chance of landing in the dock, best you come up with a plausible conspiracy theory that can make you look less of a crook and more of a new struggle hero. By RANJENI MUNUSAMY.

President Jacob Zuma has set the bar very high when it comes to political conspiracy theories. His legal defence in both his corruption and rape trials included was pegged on a state-driven campaign to destroy his political career through malicious prosecution. His political support campaign which carried him to the gates of the presidency cast him as the ultimate political victim, fired as deputy president of the country, humiliated and dragged before the courts, abandoned by the then ANC leadership and hounded by the prosecuting authority. And yet he triumphed, beating the odds to become both the ANC and state president.

It was a comeback like no other and is undoubtedly the most epic saga of post-democracy South Africa. The problem now, though, is that many political leaders who find themselves in trouble seek to emulate the Zuma phenomenon, pedalling conspiracy theories that cast them as victims, hoping to draw sympathy, hordes of supporters and, with any luck, a dismissal of the charges against them.

The trick to a good conspiracy theory is the existence of sufficient evidence to make it sound believable and take root. In Zuma's case, the prosecuting authority made sufficient blunders throughout to be able to show trace of an agenda. It went far enough for a high court judge to decide there was indeed a political conspiracy against Zuma (albeit that that judgment was later overturned by the Supreme Court of Appeal).

No other conspiracy prior or since has been so solid that it was able to stand up in court. The fact that it did seems to inspire others to follow the same course in their defence.

Former police commissioner Jackie Selebi did not have the same luck. In his corruption and fraud trial, Selebi's defence included the argument that those who pursued the case against him were themselves corrupt. The argument did not hold water and Selebi was found guilty and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. (He was released on medical parole in July 2012.)

Former ANC Youth League leader Julius Malema has to make his conspiracy argument fly on

several fronts. Malema's line that Zuma had a vendetta against him first arose during his ANC disciplinary case but it bore no weight in the decision to expel him from the party. If anything, his accusations against the president added further fuel to the already significant fire that was bringing to an end his career in the ANC.

Malema kept alive the conspiracy when he was arrested for money laundering in connection with government contracts in Limpopo. In his first few court appearances, Malema was able to draw crowds of supporters who were receptive to his raging about the conspiracy against him. But as time progressed, evidence emerged through the prosecution and the Public Protector's investigation showing how Malema allegedly benefited from Limpopo transport department tenders awarded to the company On-Point Engineering, which paid money into his Ratanang Family Trust.

But Malema's conspiracy theory still had traction. His argument was that state departments were being used to strip and humiliate him through the corruption case and the auctioning off of his possessions to settle unpaid tax bills. It did seem rather coincidental that Malema came under scrutiny only after he fell out of favour in the ANC. As Malema awaits trial, he has reinvented himself politically as the leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters. He now uses the EFF platform to keep his conspiracy theory afloat and attack those he says plotted against him – primarily Zuma.

But while the conspiracy theory might prop Malema up politically, and keep his supporters fired up, he has to find a way to make the argument stand legally in order to escape conviction and jail time. In order to do this, he will have to show that the prosecution is malicious and politically motivated. This is easier said than done, as while a soapbox requires no evidence, a court does.

Cosatu general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi does not have to defend himself in a court of law, as he is not charged with any crime, but the internal investigations against him could mark the end of his career in the federation. Vavi is facing a litany of allegations, ranging from financial impropriety to abuse of his powers, and most recently bringing Cosatu into disrepute by having sex at work with a junior employee.

Vavi and his supporters have been adamant that all the investigations against him are driven by people in Cosatu, the ANC and the SACP who are determined to silence or oust Vavi from the federation. Vavi's argument of a plot against him is helped along by media reports over the past year revealing anger and bitterness against him for being critical of the government. The tensions within Cosatu are no secret, and were it not for his dalliance with his work colleague, Vavi would have maintained the moral high ground and the sympathy of Cosatu members and the public.

But as things stand, Vavi and his supporters have battled to explain the sexual encounter in the context of the conspiracy. Vavi's desperation to fight off the initial allegation of rape led to him admitting to an affair with the Cosatu staffer, which showed that the sexual encounter was an intentional act on his part. Vavi's survival in Cosatu now depends on the convening of a special congress and convincing the membership of the federation that there has been a concerted effort to hound him out. Vavi's opponents, like everyone else, know that most Cosatu members already believe that there is a plot against him, which is why they are averse to the idea of a special Cosatu congress.

The former head of the National Youth Development Agency Andile Lungisa is the latest politician to appear in the dock for corruption. Lungisa, the former deputy president of the ANC Youth League, appeared in the Johannesburg Specialised Commercial Crime Court on Friday for alleged fraud and money-laundering. He appeared with three other people for allegedly accepting and sharing among themselves R2.5 million from the Department of Arts and Culture for the Nelson Mandela Sports Day concert. They allegedly lied that they had arranged for US megastar R Kelly to

perform at the concert. They are now out on bail.

But before he was even out of the courthouse, Lungisa was claiming to journalists that his case was politically motivated. He accused the Sports Minister Fikile Mbalula of colluding with the police to have him charged and instructing the prosecution to oppose bail. Lungisa's conspiracy is that Mbalula has an old vendetta against him as he did not support the sports minister's bid to become ANC secretary general at the party's elective conference in Mangaung last year.

Mbalula said Lungisa's antics were laughable and clearly demonstrated calculated actions of an individual who seeks political refuge from his situation.

"His claims that I have an axe to grind with him because he opposed my candidacy as secretary general of the ANC at the Mangaung conference, are at best laughable, and at worst smack of blatant political opportunism. Lungisa is no kingmaker in the ANC and to suggest that he wields such political power to sway the fate of individual leaders is nothing short of delusions of grandeur," Mbalula said in a statement.

Mbalula said the merits of the case should be tested in court and pledged to testify about Lungisa's involvement in the R Kelly matter.

Lungisa probably did not expect Mbalula to come back fighting and flatten his conspiracy theory before the weekend was out. He probably believed that people are still fixated on the divides in the ANC from a year ago, and could be convinced that he had some significant role in Gwede Mantashe retaining his position as ANC secretary general. Why else would Mbalula come after Lungisa, of all people?

When questions were raised after the concert as to why R Kelly did not perform, Lungisa offered no explanation. He could not have seriously believed that the matter would just go away and that only Mbalula harbouring an old vendetta would set the authorities on him. Lungisa has the additional problem of having public sentiment against him for the R100 million youth festival he hosted in 2010 as chair of the NYDA, which became known as the "kissing festival".

But this will probably not stop him from trying to keep the conspiracy theory alive.

In South Africa, conspiracies are apparently the best defence for political survival. The fact that conspiracy theories have collapsed or fizzled out in the past does not seem to discourage people from trying to package new ones to explain their disgraces. As long as there are people willing to believe them, they are bound to keep coming.

South Africa's political figures are seen as celebrities, which is why people are willing to rally behind them in courts and elevate them even when they fall from grace. It is this hero-worshipping that allows corruption and conspiracy to become two sides of the same coin. It is also what allows corrupt politicians to keep exploiting their positions, as they know there will always be people gullible enough to believe a yarn that will exonerate them. DM

TANZANIA :

Tanzania Tightens Security in Aftermath of Westgate Attack in Nairobi

By Deodatus Balile/Sabahi (Washington, DC)/ 4 October 2013

Dar es Salaam — Tanzania is strengthening security at public venues such as shopping malls and sports stadiums in Dar es Salaam by requiring people to go through metal detectors upon entering.

The move, introduced September 28th, comes less than one week after al-Shabaab militants attacked the Westgate shopping mall in the neighbouring Kenyan capital Nairobi.

"We have ordered all stadiums in the country to introduce metal detector machines and [closed-circuit television] CCTV cameras," Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone Commander Suleiman Kova told Sabahi. "Stadiums are normally packed. We think people with bad intention can wage terror in areas like these."

He said Tanzanian authorities are closely monitoring developments of the Westgate investigation and responding to information they receive. "We have to take all precautions necessary as a country," he said.

Moving forward, all fans at stadiums are banned from carrying weapons into the complexes and must undergo metal detector screenings. Police stationed at the stadiums will also utilise bomb-sniffing dogs and conduct pat down searches when needed, said Police Inspector Mohamed Manyae, who is in charge of security at Benjamin Mkapa National Stadium.

"We found our security system was a bit lax, but after what happened in Nairobi, we decided to change it," he told Sabahi. "On the same day we introduced the mandatory searches for all fans entering the stadium, we managed to seize 12 pistols."

Kova said private business owners were also advised to install metal detectors and CCTV cameras on their premises, however compliance is voluntary.

"I am pleased that even private business owners have decided to introduce metal detector machines in Dar es Salaam," he told Sabahi. "We have been saying all along that if we join hands -- the government, private sector and individuals to maintain the philosophy of 'see something, say something to the authority', our country will be safer."

Julius Mgenzi, 42, a resident of Ilala District, commended the move, saying it enhances security for all shoppers.

"If you have no bad intentions, you have nothing to worry about regarding the searches. If Westgate [in Nairobi] had a system of searching whoever enters the mall, no life would have been lost," Mgenzi told Sabahi. "For me it is a very good idea and no one should oppose it."

Since last week, most shopping malls in Dar es Salaam have implemented the new measures, but not all customers are welcoming the additional security measures.

Shao Aikaeli, 35, who was searched entering Uchumi Shopping Mall on September 29th, told Sabahi that the security measures caused inconvenience to customers.

"Imagine, I had to take out my wallet and the guards saw the amount of money I had," Aikaeli said. "I understand they are doing this for our own safety, but I think they should trust the metal detector machines instead of opting for manual searches which are disturbing."

Fatima Abdalla said she was "over-searched" at Quality Shopping Mall on September 30th because she is of Somali origin.

"I did not like the way I was over-searched," she told Sabahi. "Tanzanians and world citizens should know that not all Somalis are terrorists. We also love peace and we condemn those who are involved in terrorism as they dent our image abroad."

Tanzania: Trucks Jam Kibaha in Fee Protest

By Finnigan Wa Simbeye/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/7 October 2013

BUS and truck owners have called on Works Minister Dr John Magufuli and his Transport counterpart, Dr Harrison Mwakyembe to meet them and find a solution to the abolition of five per cent of allowable weight by cargo and passenger vehicles plying the country's roads to avoid commotion.

Tanzania Bus Owners Association (TABOA) Secretary General Enea Mrutu and Tanzania Truck Owners Association (TATOA) spokesman Elias Lukumay told the 'Daily News' in Dar es Salaam yesterday that Dr Magufuli's decision to abolish the five per cent tolerable excess weight which is provided for by the law will paralyze the transport sector.

"Truck owners are starting their boycott today and we may follow tomorrow. Passengers and goods movement will be paralyzed," warned Mr Mrutu hardly 24 hours after Mr Lukumay said TATOA members will stop offering their services today.

Mrutu said the decision by Dr Magufuli was unilateral hence will badly affect the economy as passengers and goods get stranded as was the case yesterday at Kibaha weighbridge where thousands of passengers and a lot of cargo from upcountry got stranded aboard buses and trucks queuing to weigh, offload part of the excess cargo or pay penalty.

"We warned against this development because we saw it coming," said Lukumay who teamed up with his TABOA peer to urge Dr Magufuli and Mwakyembe to summon an urgent stakeholders meeting to resolve the impasse.

Mrutu wondered why policy-makers are taking decisions which will affect this country's transport sector competitiveness without consulting the private sector which knows what is going on in the region.

"Under these circumstances who will the local transporters compete with in the East African region?" wondered Mrutu who did not rule out joining TATOA's boycott starting today (Monday). Last Saturday, Lukumay warned that the unilateral decision will cause commotion on the country's roads and fuel corrupt practices at weighbridges.

"Because we don't want to be an inconvenience at weighbridges and certainly not pay bribes to operators, our members have chosen to park their vehicles wherever they will be effective Monday," Lukumay said.

In 2006, the then Infrastructure Development Minister, Basil Mramba, endorsed the five tonnes allowance weight because a joint study with TATOA established that readings of weighbridges for the same truck from Dar es Salaam port to Kibaha, Chalinze, Mikese and Makambako read differently.

"There was a variation of between 1-1.5 tonnes between the weighbridges which convinced the minister to give the five tonnes cargo allowance," Lukumay said while stressing that the latest

decision has not even given scientific reasons if such variations are not done away with. In a press release dated October 1, 2013 and signed by Mussa Iyombe on behalf of the Permanent Secretary, it stated that the five per cent allowable weight has been abolished and all cargo vehicles with minimum capacity of 3.5 tons will now have to go through weighbridges.

"The minister responsible for roads has abolished a directive issued through a letter with Ref. No CKA/16/419/09 of July 19, 2006 which gave exemption from penalty all trucks overloaded cargo within five per cent allowable weight which is acceptable by law," read part of the release.

Tanzania: Mgimwa Tells Banks to Improve Service Quality

By Pius Rugonzibwa/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/7 October 2013

BANKING institutions in the country have been challenged to improve services and penetrate to the lower communities as statistics show that Tanzania still lags behind in financial deepening amongst its population.

The Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs Dr William Mgimwa said in Dar es Salaam over the weekend that despite the country fairing impressively in financial services, there were still some challenges that need to be addressed.

He was speaking during an event where the DCB Commercial Bank Ltd launched three new services namely DCB Mobile, DCB Connect (internet banking) and DCB Jirani. The new products according to the bank, target to penetrate the bank services to the larger community without necessarily investing heavily in building physical infrastructure.

"Tanzania is still behind in East Africa for financial deepening... to cope with other countries in the region, innovation, efficiency and quality services should be part of the banking operations," he said.

He challenged the bank to remain creative and innovative, noting that the new services indicated that the bank is heading to the right business direction. The minister urged the banking institutions to uphold integrity and maintain their market share, cautioning that it was hard to retain an aggrieved customer who chooses quitting without a word if unhappy with poor services.

DCB Commercial Bank Managing Director Edmund Mkwawa said despite a number of achievements, the bank still faces difficulties of operating without stable deposits. However, he said through the provision of new products that will be offered with the partnership of Maxicom Company with its Maximalipo system, the bank will reach more customers who will be served very closely with qualified agents.

"Already we have hired 195 Maximalipo agents to facilitate smooth and timely provision of services particularly through DCB Jirani product," he said.

Maxicom Chief Operating Officer Mr Ahmed Lussasi said his company whose services are increasingly becoming popular among the business community will deliver and meet the expectations of its new partner. DCB has grown since its inception in 2002, with capital growing from 1.1bn/- to 30.6bn/- in the over ten years of operations.

Tanzania: TFDA Boost Fight Against Counterfeits, Substandard Goods

By Deus Ngowi/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/7 October 2013

Moshi — THE Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) recently conducted a workshop to enlighten its staff and stakeholders from Manyara and Tanga regions on how best to safeguard the general public and national interests from counterfeits and substandard goods.

Addressing the executives in Moshi over the weekend, the TFDA Northern Zone Manager, Mr Damas Matiko, said fake foodstuffs, hazardous cosmetics and medicines are crosscutting issues that should be dealt with from many fronts.

However, he said that the situation in his zone is good and what they always do is to exchange information with other zones from time to time so as to withdraw any unsafe products from the market.

"Our staffs and stakeholders in councils from these regions (Tanga and Manyara) are called upon to be very serious on enforcing the regulations and laws so as to ensure safe, quality and effective food, medicines, cosmetics and medical devices for all," said the manager.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the seminar, the guest of honour, Deputy Regional Administrative Secretary (Local Government - Kilimanjaro), Ms Grace Makiluli, urged the officials to make sure traders adhere to the set laws and regulations.

"Much as they want to make profits from their business, traders in this respect have to operate within the set parameters so that everybody is safe and country's economy keeps growing," said the secretary.

She noted how happy she was to learn that all other regions in the northern zone had undergone the same training and hoped the best would ensue in so far as regulatory of food, drugs, herbal drugs, cosmetics and medical devices in the country are concerned.

Participants included senior medical staff from every council and district in the two regions, including pharmacists, district executive directors and the executives who are responsible for inspecting drugs and other goods.

Among other things, participants were expected to study TFDA authority, delegate theories, success stories as well as challenges emanating from the same. They were as well to learn further on how to identify and control fake or substandard goods, how to manage revenue from foods, drugs, cosmetics, and medical devices business in their respective councils.

TFDA has been working hard nationally to combat illegal foods and drugs business and time and again has been destroying fake, substandard and hazardous goods. The organisation has to continually monitor safety of food, drugs, herbal drugs, cosmetics and medical devices available on the Tanzania market.

However, some unscrupulous businesspeople have been taking advantage of existing loopholes such as formal borders and informal entry points to bring into Tanzania goods that are not of the quality standards required by TFDA. The dangers of consuming unsafe foods and drugs include getting skin infections, brain damage, liver, kidney, and even cancer.

It is the duty of TFDA zones to primarily monitor day to day operations, working closely with other government institutions, including the immigration directorate, the police force, the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the Tanzania Bureau of standards (TBS) to ensure only allowed commodities enter Tanzania, and are distributed and consumed as per laws of the land.

Tanzania: Chadema Urges JK Not to Endorse Constitution Bill

7 October 2013/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

THE opposition Chama Cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA) has appealed to President Jakaya Kikwete not to endorse the Constitutional Review Bill.

Addressing Journalists in response to President Kikwete's monthly speech, Chadema's Singida East Member of Parliament, Tundu Lissu said President Kikwete should honour his statement in his monthly public address by allowing negotiations to take place.

Mr Lissu, who is also the Opposition Chief whip, said if the president ascends to the Bill, the final document will not carry the nation's interests but that of individuals and groups.

In his monthly public address on Saturday, President Kikwete underscored the need for consensus to resolve the impasse on the Constitutional Review Bill (2013), noting that every single detail of controversial item was negotiable for the well-being of the nation.

Mr Kikwete said views from the opposition MPs could be discussed and perhaps prevail but the walk out, in Parliament was not proper. The Bill was recently passed in the absence of opposition legislators.

"The presence of opposition legislators in the House could give them the opportunity to participate fully in the discussion leading to passing the Constitutional Review Bill (2013). Matters which should be determined in Parliament cannot be resolved through other means like demonstrations or civil disobedience as proposed by the national leader of Chadema, Mr Freeman Mbowe," Mr Kikwete said.

The President insisted that consensus was the best option in resolving the standoff, otherwise Tanzanians would not comprehend the motive behind the intended violence as the focus was for the nation to have a new constitution.

He requested leaders of CHADEMA, CUF and NCCR-Mageuzi to exercise restraint and employ wisdom the same as it happened when the government and all other stakeholders held discussions to resolve the dilemma that cropped up in the process leading to the enactment of the Constitutional Review Act.

"To plan is to choose. I call upon all stakeholders, individuals and institutions to opt for peaceful negotiations for sustainable peace, stability and unity in Tanzania. We (government) are ready to take the path.

Mr Lissu during the press briefing yesterday noted that if the president endorses the constitutional review bill, it might plunge the countries into conflicts similar to those witnessed in Zimbabwe and Kenya before both countries had enacted their new constitutions.

KENYA :

Kenya military names Westgate mall attack suspects

5 October 2013/bbc.co.uk

Four men believed to have been involved in the deadly shopping centre attack in Nairobi last month have been named.

The Kenyan military said Abu Baara al-Sudani, Omar Nabhan, Khattab al-Kene and Umayr - shown in new CCTV footage - were killed during the standoff.

Kenya said previously 10-15 militants had been involved, but the police chief says the figure may now be four to six.

The al-Shabab group said it carried out the attack on the Westgate mall on 21 September, leaving at least 67 dead.

The al-Qaeda-linked group said the attack was in retaliation for Kenya's military involvement in Somalia.

Too early?

The naming of the men came as CCTV footage was aired showing four attackers calmly walking through a room in the mall holding machine guns.

Kenya Defence Forces spokesman Maj Emmanuel Chirchir told Reuters news agency: "I confirm these were the terrorists; they all died in the raid."

Reuters quoted Maj Chirchir as saying that al-Sudani was an "experienced fighter" from Sudan and was believed to be the leader of the group.

Maj Chirchir said Nabhan was a Kenyan of Arab origin and al-Kene a Somali linked to al-Shabab. Further details about Umayr had not yet been verified, he said.

A Kenyan security analyst told the BBC that at least two of the names would be familiar to the Kenyan intelligence services.

Kenyan police chief David Kimaiyo told Kenya's KTN television station it was now believed that four to six gunmen had carried out the attack, not 10 to 15.

"None of them managed to escape from the building after the attack," he said.

Mr Kimaiyo also said that wanted British woman Samantha Lewthwaite had not been involved.

"We have also established that she was not part of the attackers in the building. There was no woman," he said.

Ms Lewthwaite, 29, is the widow of one of the four suicide bombers who attacked London on 7 July 2005.

Kenya had earlier said five attackers were killed in the security operation and that nine people were in custody.

The BBC's Gabriel Gatehouse in Nairobi says the latest CCTV footage is from a limited part of the complex and, with some eyewitnesses reporting a two-pronged attack, it is too early to say

definitively how many gunmen were in the building.

In addition to the 67 people killed in the attack, a further 39 are still missing, according to the Kenyan Red Cross.

Al-Shabab is banned as a terrorist group by both the US and the UK and is believed to have between 7,000 and 9,000 fighters.

Its members are fighting to create an Islamic state in Somalia.

About 4,000 Kenyan troops were sent to Somalia in October 2011 to help pro-government forces end two decades of violence, with clan-based warlords and Islamist militants all battling for control of the country.

On Saturday, Islamist fighters in southern Somalia said Western forces had launched a night-time raid on one of their bases.

No-one has admitted the attack. US and French special forces have carried out raids in Somalia in recent years.

It is not clear whether the raid was linked to Westgate.

Navy SEALs fail in assault on Kenya attack terrorist

By Associated Press/October 6, 2013

MOGADISHU, Somalia — In a stealthy seaside assault in Somalia and in a raid in Libya's capital, U.S. special forces on Saturday struck out against Islamic extremists who have carried out terrorist attacks in East Africa, snatching a Libyan al-Qaida leader allegedly involved in the bombings of U.S. embassies 15 years ago but aborting a mission to capture a terrorist suspect linked to last month's Nairobi shopping mall attack after a fierce firefight.

A U.S. Navy SEAL team swam ashore near a town in southern Somalia before militants of the al-Qaida-linked terrorist group al-Shabab rose for dawn prayers, U.S. and Somali officials told The Associated Press. The raid on a house in the town of Barawe targeted a specific al-Qaida suspect related to the mall attack, but the operation did not get its target, one current and one former U.S. military official told AP.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the raid publicly.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman George Little confirmed that U.S. military personnel had been involved in a counterterrorism operation against a known al-Shabab terrorist in Somalia, but did not provide details.

U.S. officials said there were no U.S. casualties in either the Somali or Libyan operation.

The Somali raid was carried out by members of SEAL Team Six, the same unit that killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden in his Pakistan hideout in 2011, another senior U.S. military official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to speak publicly.

But this time, SEAL Team Six members encountered fiercer resistance than expected so after a 15-

20 minute firefight, the unit leader decided to abort the mission and they swam away, the official said. SEAL Team Six has responsibility for counterterrorism activities in the Horn of Africa.

Within hours of the Somalia attack, the U.S. Army's Delta Force carried out a raid in Libya's capital, Tripoli, to seize a Libyan al-Qaida leader wanted for the 1998 bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed more than 220 people, the military official said. Delta Force carries out counterterrorism operations in North Africa.

The Pentagon identified the captured al-Qaida leader as Nazih Abdul-Hamed al-Ruqai, known by his alias Anas al-Libi, who has been on the FBI's most wanted terrorists list since it was introduced shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Al-Libi "is currently lawfully detained by the U.S. military in a secure location outside of Libya," Pentagon spokesman Little said.

Saturday's raid in Somalia occurred 20 years after the famous "Black Hawk Down" battle in Mogadishu in which a mission to capture Somali warlords in the capital went awry after militiamen shot down two U.S. helicopters. Eighteen 18 U.S. soldiers were killed in the battle, and it marked the beginning of the end of that U.S. military mission to bring stability to the Horn of Africa nation. Since then, U.S. military intervention has been limited to missile attacks and lightning operations by special forces.

A resident of Barawe — a seaside town 240 kilometers (150 miles) south of Mogadishu — said by telephone that heavy gunfire woke up residents before dawn prayers.

The U.S. forces attacked a two-story beachside house in Barawe where foreign fighters lived, battling their way inside, said an al-Shabab fighter who gave his name as Abu Mohamed and who said he had visited the scene. Al-Shabab has a formal alliance with al-Qaida, and hundreds of men from the U.S., Britain and Middle Eastern countries fight alongside Somali members of al-Shabab.

A separate U.S. official described the action in Barawe as a capture operation against a high-value target. The official said U.S. forces engaged al-Shabab militants and sought to avoid civilian casualties. The U.S. forces disengaged after inflicting some casualties on fighters, said the official, who was not authorized to speak by name and insisted on anonymity.

The leader of al-Shabab, Mukhtar Abu Zubeyr, also known as Ahmed Godane, claimed responsibility for the attack on the upscale mall in Nairobi, Kenya, a four-day terrorist siege that began on Sept. 21 and killed at least 67 people. A Somali intelligence official said the al-Shabab leader was the target of Saturday's raid.

An al-Shabab official, Sheikh Abdiaziz Abu Musab, said in an audio message that the raid failed to achieve its goals.

Al-Shabab and al-Qaida have flourished in Somalia for years. Some of the plotters of the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania hid out there.

Barawe has seen Navy SEALs before. In September 2009 a daylight commando raid in Barawe killed six people, including Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan, one of the most-wanted al-Qaida operatives in the region and an alleged plotter in the 1998 embassy bombings.

The Libyan al-Qaida leader also wanted for the bombings, al-Libi, is believed to have returned to Libya during the 2011 civil war that led to the ouster and killing of Libyan dictator Moammar

Gadhafi.

His brother, Nabih, said al-Libi was parking outside his house early Saturday after dawn prayers when a convoy of three vehicles encircled his car. Armed gunmen smashed the car's window and seized al-Libi's gun before grabbing him and taking him away. The brother said al-Libi's wife saw the kidnapping from her window and described the abductors as foreign-looking armed "commandos."

Al-Libi, who was believed to be a computer specialist for al-Qaida, is on the FBI's most-wanted list with a \$5 million bounty on his head. He was indicted by a federal court in the Southern District of New York, for his alleged role in the bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya, on August 7, 1998.

Libyan officials did not return calls seeking comment on al-Libi's abduction.

In Somalia, a resident of Barawe who gave his name as Mohamed Bile said militants closed down the town in the hours after the assault, and that all traffic and movements have been restricted. Militants were carrying out house-to-house searches, likely to find evidence that a spy had given intelligence to a foreign power used to launch the attack, he said.

"We woke up to find al-Shabab fighters had sealed off the area and their hospital is also inaccessible," Bile told The Associated Press by phone. "The town is in a tense mood."

Al-Shabab later posted pictures on the Internet of what it said was U.S. military gear left behind in the raid. Two former U.S. military officers identified the gear as the kind U.S. troops carry. Pictures showed items including bullets, an ammunition magazine, a military GPS device and a smoke and flash-bang grenade used to clear rooms. The officials could not confirm if those items had come from the raid.

In Kenya, military spokesman Maj. Emmanuel Chirchir on Saturday gave the names of four fighters implicated in the Westgate Mall attack as Abu Baara al-Sudani, Omar Nabhan, Khattab al-Kene and Umayr, names that were first broadcast by a local Kenyan television station.

Matt Bryden, the former head of the U.N. Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, said via email that al-Kene and Umayr are known members of al-Hijra, the Kenyan arm of al-Shabab. He added that Nabhan may be a relative of Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan, the target of the 2009 Navy SEALs raid in Barawe.

The identities of the four men from the mall attack came as a Nairobi station obtained and broadcast the closed circuit television footage from Westgate. The footage shows four attackers calmly walking through a storeroom inside the complex, holding machine guns. One of the men's pant legs appears to be stained with blood, though he is not limping. It is unclear if the blood is his, or that of his victims'.

Government statements shortly after the four-day siege began on Sept. 21 indicated between 10 to 15 attackers were involved, but indications since then are that fewer attackers took part, though the footage may not show all of the assailants.

Kenya mall attack: 'white widow' reports opt for colour rather than fact

Adam Wishart/The Guardian/Sunday 6 October 2013

Film-maker Adam Wishart describes how he tried to find the truth about the 7/7 widow, but the press preferred speculation

For months, I'd been working quietly on a TV documentary about a missing 29-year-old woman from Aylesbury. She was the widow of the 7/7 bomber Germaine Lindsay. Stories about her were mixed, and hard facts were proving elusive. Several weeks before the Nairobi attack, I'd booked to fly into Kenya on 22 September.

By the time I landed, militants had killed dozens of people and held countless others hostage. With the light failing, and police and soldiers roaming the streets, the foreign press corps gathered in a dingy underground car park within sight of the Westgate shopping centre.

I asked the journalists if they'd heard any news about the subject of my film, Samantha Lewthwaite. One told me it would harm her credibility if she speculated about the so-called "white widow". Others said they'd heard whispers of a white woman among the attackers. But nobody could get a straight quote, and no journalist would even mention her name on camera.

The London news desks wouldn't be so cautious. The next morning the Sun splashed with "Find The White Widow"; the Mirror with "Britain's White Widow Was Bloodbath Mastermind". Both quoted anonymous security sources as saying "she's our No 1 target".

In Kenya, no ministers or police initially went on the record about her involvement. But three days after the attack began, Amina Mohamed, Kenya's foreign minister, told PBS in America "two or three Americans and I think ... one Brit" were involved. And that Brit was a British woman? "Woman Woman [sic]. And she has, I think, done it many times before."

The story spiralled: Lewthwaite seemed to become the world's most wanted. Much of the reporting was based on third- and fourth-hand hearsay, contradictory and anonymous security personnel and government officials, a teacher reporting the words of her traumatised pupil.

There were few facts, however, and there were solid reasons not to believe Lewthwaite took part in the mall shootings. An al-Shabaab Twitter account stated "we do not employ sisters in such military operations". Colleagues from Panorama tried to trace witnesses of a white woman, but either they were not to be found or they backtracked when questioned.

Five days after the attack's start, Interpol announced there was an international arrest warrant for Lewthwaite, triggering more sensational coverage. On 28 September, the Daily Mail could confidently write, "what is indisputable is that she has blood on her hands". She has not yet been found guilty of terrorism or murder. Much of the reporting would be prejudicial to a fair trial. Almost every fact is disputable.

I spent much of the week in a Mombasa courtroom. Jermaine Grant, a Muslim convert from London, sat stony-faced in the dock while a Scotland Yard police officer handled dozens of plastic evidence bags containing substances that he said could make an explosive when mixed together. They had been found in December 2011 in the house where Grant had lived in Mombasa.

The Lewthwaite arrest warrant alleges that she was also involved in this conspiracy. And we do know that in another house, raided at the same time, her birth certificate was found. Kenyan police say they almost arrested her but mysteriously let her go because she was travelling under a false passport.

Another widely reported sighting of the "white widow" was at a bar in Mombasa in June 2012.

While the locals were watching football, rocket-propelled grenades ripped through a bar injuring dozens and killing three including a child. When I went back there last week, a witness I found did mention a woman – but she wasn't white.

But why let the facts get in the way of such a good story? Spare a thought for the family. Lewthwaite's brother, sister, father and mother are trying to come to terms with her disappearance while satellite trucks are camped at the end of their streets, and journalists station their cars outside their front doors.

And what's slightly depressing about the whole affair is that the press's determination to create a mysterious and elusive terror mastermind (on the basis of little hard evidence) plays directly to the propaganda agenda of al-Shabaab. She may well be guilty of fraud and other crimes – though how efficient she is is open to doubt – but creating the image of an almost supernaturally skilled queen of indiscriminate terror seems both counterproductive and irresponsible. In Somalia, illuminated in the soft light of their laptops, the canny media strategists of al-Shabaab must be chuckling.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Africa billionaires list much longer than estimated

By Javier Blas, Africa Editor/ft.com/October 7, 2013

Africa is home to far more billionaires than previously thought, as a decade-long period of intense economic growth fills the pockets of local businessmen, according to the most comprehensive survey of wealth in the continent.

The Ventures magazine African billionaire roll, published on Monday, lists 55 people with fortunes of more than \$1bn, up from previous estimates of 16-25 billionaires. Most of the super-rich live in Nigeria and South Africa.

The surge in energy prices over the last decade, with oil jumping from \$20 a barrel in early 2000 to more than \$100 a barrel nowadays, has also contributed to the increase of billionaires in hydrocarbons-rich countries.

The new lists puts Africa at par with Latin America, which Forbes magazine said this year was home to 51 super-rich. Asia is home to 399 billionaires. The lists published by Forbes, which has been compiling lists of the most wealthy for years, and Ventures magazines are not directly comparable, however.

The richest person in Africa is Aliko Dangote, a Nigerian businessman involved in cement, food, oil and other sectors with an estimated personal fortune of more than \$20bn. Allan Gray, the publicity-shy South African financier, is the second richest, with assets worth at least \$8.5bn. Mike Adenuga, a Nigerian involved in the oil and telecoms industries, has an estimated fortune of \$8bn, according to Ventures.

Given the difficulties involved in calculating the wealth of many of Africa's top businessmen and their families, analysts say the Venture lists probably still seriously understates the true number of super-rich Africans. Chi-Chi Okonjo, founder of Ventures, said that the real number of billionaires in countries such as Nigeria was probably "double" the current estimate. "I am sure there are more billionaires than those 55, but discussing wealth is still taboo in Africa".

The publication of the new list, which puts the fortune of Africa's 55 billionaires at nearly \$145bn, will probably reignite the debate about the inequality of the recent period of economic growth in Africa. Although the continent has experienced a notable expansion, with growth averaging above 5 per cent per year since 2000, many Africans say they feel as poor as a decade ago.

The Afrobarometer survey, which polled more than 50,000 people in 34 African countries, suggested earlier this month that much of the recent strong economic growth in Africa is only benefiting a small elite. "Despite high reported growth rates, poverty at the grassroots remains little changed," the authors of the survey said. "In fact, income inequality may be worsening."

Nonetheless, official statistics reflect an improvement, with the emergence of a tiny middle class across Africa. The World Bank estimates that the number of Africans living below the poverty line – measured as \$1.25 per day – had fallen significantly because of strong economic growth, dropping to 48.5 per cent in 2010, down from 58 per cent in 1999. At the same time, the number of those living with \$10-\$20 a day – which economists call a "consumer class" or "working class", has increased substantially over the last decade.

Are We Shifting to Africa Rather Than Pivoting to Asia?

Hilary Matfess/theatlantic.com/ Oct 6 2013

What this weekend's raids mean for American military strategy in Africa.

This weekend, the United States conducted two raids against militant Islamists in Tripoli, Libya and Barawe, Somalia. Though the action in Tripoli appeared to be more successful—FBI and CIA agents nabbed Abu Anas al-Liby, a suspected leader of Al Qaeda—the significance of both raids lies less in their immediate success and more in their implications for American involvement in Africa.

What was the purpose of the raids?

The raid in Libya this Saturday culminated in the arrest of al-Liby, who was on the most wanted terrorists list for his involvement in the 1998 bombings of American Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Less official information is available concerning the purpose of the raid in Somalia, however, observers have suggested that this raid was tasked with the bringing the organizers of the recent Westgate Mall assault to justice. American government officials have confirmed that SEAL Team 6 was deployed to Barawe, Somalia, where they engaged in a firefight with militants before aborting the mission. No American casualties have been reported and it is estimated that seven people were killed in the exchange.

What is the significance of the raids for American Military involvement in Africa?

North Africa has long seen a strong American military presence due to its proximity to America's strategic partners in the Middle East, while East Africa cooperated with the United States in its efforts to stabilize Somalia, until the infamous Black Hawk down fiasco. The raids conducted this weekend suggest that the importance and nature of American involvement in the region is quickly changing.

Under the auspices of United States Africa Command, or AFRICOM, which has only been operating since 2008, American military posts in Africa may witness a change in mandate, in which they are more frequently understood as being on the frontlines of counter-terrorism policy, and less as bases from which to organize and launch action in the Arabian Peninsula and the Middle East. Though current AFRICOM missions are largely based on cooperative relationships and many of their programs emphasize the training of local participants, the change in the continent's strategic importance may be linked to a rise in the sort of unilateral counter-terrorism policy undertaken this weekend.

What does this mean for American foreign policy?

Frequently relegated to the back-burner of American foreign policy, Africa is indeed rising in policy deliberations in Washington. This summer, President Obama made official visits to Senegal, South Africa, and Tanzania, with the aim of fostering political and economic partnerships with these countries. The cultivation of these political relationships and the increased military activity in Africa may suggest that an "African shift" will displace the "Asian pivot."

Can Africa boast about its achievements as people try to flee?

by Dianna Games/bdlive.co.za/ 07 octobre 2013

THE deaths of more than 300 Africans in a boat packed with illegal immigrants heading for Italy last week must surely signal that all is not well on this continent.

Despite pockets of significant improvement in people's fortunes in parts of the continent, the fact that illegal migration from Africa to Europe continues apace is a stark reminder that the aspirations of people on this continent are a long way from being realised.

The journey of illegal immigrants might end near the tantalising shores of Italy but it usually begins in poverty-stricken villages and towns in Africa, mostly across West and Central Africa. Families save for years to raise the often extortionate fares for trucks to take a chosen family member thousands of kilometres across some of the harshest landscapes the continent has to offer and onto boats, where they may perish or be arrested and turned back.

Occasionally they make it.

The estimate is that about 15% of all migrants may end up in a European country and even be given asylum.

That small percentage is enough to spur thousands more on. According to the United Nations, about 15,000 illegal immigrants, most of them from Africa, reached Italy and Malta last year. That suggests that many thousands more did not make it.

Those ill-fated Africans who died in the boat that sank last week just off Lampedusa, a small island off the Italian coast, were mostly from Somalia and Eritrea on the east coast, both countries dominated by poverty and conflict. But "boat people" also come from relatively prosperous and sought-after investment destinations, such as Nigeria.

Italy is not the only point of entry. Tamanrasset, a remote town in southern Algeria, is a favoured stopping point for Africans from Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Nigeria and Mali on their way to a new life in Europe.

Tamanrasset is becoming a boom town on increased trade and its population is growing rapidly. Residents say numbers have grown from a few dozen migrants passing through some years ago to hundreds of people a month and now thousands, most of them believed to be headed for Europe. They use the town to recover from illness or to earn money to proceed on their journeys.

The town lies on the 4,500km Trans-Sahara Highway, which runs from Lagos in Nigeria to Algiers in the north. The road is mostly tarred but it is a long, lonely stretch with little fuel and water available along it.

And theft is rampant. Travellers say that if the bandits don't get you, the police will. People carrying their life savings on them are easy prey.

Yet more people make their way along the West African coast via Senegal to Spain, where the narrow Strait of Gibraltar seems like a quick hop to a new life.

But last month alone, Moroccan and Spanish coastal patrols picked up 300 Africans trying to make the sea crossing illegally. Last year, more than 3,000 tried to make the sea journey from Africa to Spain. The authorities say the numbers are rising.

An article in German online publication Spiegel summed it up: "For these refugees, Europe is a secret cipher that stands for their dreams of a better life, for work and education and wealth. Europe is the promised continent they know from TV, where African soccer players can make it big, where supposedly there are jobs for everyone and always enough food, hospitals and good schools."

These desperate attempts to escape from Africa are nothing new. It has been happening for decades.

But the reality of thousands of Africans so desperate to lead better lives that they are literally dying to leave the continent does not really square with the much-touted "Africa rising" story we keep hearing these days.

Some of what the desperate migrants are looking for abroad is slowly starting to happen in Africa, as cities develop, incomes rise on high levels of foreign and domestic investment and services and opportunities begin to improve in urban areas.

But lifestyle improvements are happening far too slowly for millions of Africans. It is important that we see our achievements to date in the proper perspective.

Egypt: '50 dead' in clashes amid rival demonstrations

6 October 2013/bbc.co.uk

At least 50 people have been killed and scores hurt in Egypt in clashes between police and supporters of the deposed Islamist President Mohammed Morsi.

More than 200 members of the Muslim Brotherhood were arrested in Cairo, where most of the deaths were reported.

Supporters of Mr Morsi marched in several cities, as the military-backed government marked the 40th anniversary of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

Morsi supporters say he was deposed in a military coup in July.
'Critical time'

Hundreds of people had gathered in Cairo's Tahrir Square to celebrate the anniversary.

Jets and Apache helicopters flew overhead in formation, as part of a grand display of military hardware by the government.

The crowd cheered the flypasts, a number of people carrying portraits of defence chief Gen Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. Some want him to stand as Egypt's next president.

But the BBC's Quentin Sommerville in Cairo says supporters of Mr Morsi also took to the streets in their thousands, trying to make their way to the square and calling Gen Sisi a murderer.

Security forces used tear gas and fired into the air to stop them.

In the upmarket Dokki district, a number of protesters were hit by live rounds, some by birdshot. In return they threw rocks at police and soldiers, our correspondent says.

The street battles raged for hours, with small fires burning and black smoke rising in several parts of the capital.

But the military succeeded in keeping the rival supporters apart, our correspondent says.

The interior ministry earlier warned it would confront any "attempts that may disturb the 6 October celebrations", the Mena state news agency reported.

In a televised address, Prime Minister Hazem Beblawi described it as a "critical time" for the country and urged Egyptians to "stand together, be optimistic about the future".

The health ministry said that in addition to the Cairo deaths, one person was killed in Delga, about 300km (190 miles) south of Cairo, and another in Bani Suef, 80km south of the capital.

There were also clashes in the Suez Canal city of Ismailiya.

Hundreds of Islamist protesters have died in violence since the Egyptian military deposed Mr Morsi in July, 13 months after he was elected as president.

He and other senior Brotherhood figures have been imprisoned and face trial.

The authorities are moving to seize the movement's assets after its activities were banned as part of a crackdown.

However, Brotherhood supporters have continued to take to the streets to protest - albeit in smaller numbers than before.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

US Forces Hit Extremists Behind E. Africa Attacks

October 5, 2013/By KIMBERLY DOZIER, ABDI GULED and JASON STRAZIUSO Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia

In a stealthy seaside assault in Somalia and in a raid in Libya's capital, U.S. special forces on Saturday struck out against Islamic extremists who have carried out terrorist attacks in East Africa, snatching a Libyan al-Qaida leader allegedly involved in the bombings of U.S. embassies 15 years ago but aborting a mission to capture a terrorist suspect linked to last month's Nairobi shopping mall attack after a fierce firefight.

A U.S. Navy SEAL team swam ashore near a town in southern Somalia before militants of the al-Qaida-linked terrorist group al-Shabab rose for dawn prayers, U.S. and Somali officials told The Associated Press. The raid on a house in the town of Barawe targeted a specific al-Qaida suspect related to the mall attack, but the operation did not get its target, one current and one former U.S. military official told AP.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the raid publicly.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman George Little confirmed that U.S. military personnel had been involved in a counterterrorism operation against a known al-Shabab terrorist in Somalia, but did not provide details.

U.S. officials said there were no U.S. casualties in either the Somali or Libyan operation.

The Somali raid was carried out by members of SEAL Team Six, the same unit that killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden in his Pakistan hideout in 2011, another senior U.S. military official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to speak publicly.

But this time, SEAL Team Six members encountered fiercer resistance than expected so after a 15-20 minute firefight, the unit leader decided to abort the mission and they swam away, the official said. SEAL Team Six has responsibility for counterterrorism activities in the Horn of Africa.

Within hours of the Somalia attack, the U.S. Army's Delta Force carried out a raid in Libya's capital, Tripoli, to seize a Libyan al-Qaida leader wanted for the 1998 bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed more than 220 people, the military official said. Delta Force carries out counterterrorism operations in North Africa.

The Pentagon identified the captured al-Qaida leader as Nazih Abdul-Hamed al-Ruqai, known by his alias Anas al-Libi, who has been on the FBI's most wanted terrorists list since it was introduced shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Al-Libi "is currently lawfully detained by the U.S. military in a secure location outside of Libya," Pentagon spokesman Little said.

Saturday's raid in Somalia occurred 20 years after the famous "Black Hawk Down" battle in Mogadishu in which a mission to capture Somali warlords in the capital went awry after militiamen shot down two U.S. helicopters. Eighteen U.S. soldiers were killed in the battle, and it marked the

beginning of the end of that U.S. military mission to bring stability to the Horn of Africa nation. Since then, U.S. military intervention has been limited to missile attacks and lightning operations by special forces.

A resident of Barawe — a seaside town 240 kilometers (150 miles) south of Mogadishu — said by telephone that heavy gunfire woke up residents before dawn prayers.

The U.S. forces attacked a two-story beachside house in Barawe where foreign fighters lived, battling their way inside, said an al-Shabab fighter who gave his name as Abu Mohamed and who said he had visited the scene. Al-Shabab has a formal alliance with al-Qaida, and hundreds of men from the U.S., Britain and Middle Eastern countries fight alongside Somali members of al-Shabab.

A separate U.S. official described the action in Barawe as a capture operation against a high-value target. The official said U.S. forces engaged al-Shabab militants and sought to avoid civilian casualties. The U.S. forces disengaged after inflicting some casualties on fighters, said the official, who was not authorized to speak by name and insisted on anonymity.

The leader of al-Shabab, Mukhtar Abu Zubeyr, also known as Ahmed Godane, claimed responsibility for the attack on the upscale mall in Nairobi, Kenya, a four-day terrorist siege that began on Sept. 21 and killed at least 67 people. A Somali intelligence official said the al-Shabab leader was the target of Saturday's raid.

An al-Shabab official, Sheikh Abdiaziz Abu Musab, said in an audio message that the raid failed to achieve its goals.

Al-Shabab and al-Qaida have flourished in Somalia for years. Some of the plotters of the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania hid out there.

Barawe has seen Navy SEALs before. In September 2009 a daylight commando raid in Barawe killed six people, including Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan, one of the most-wanted al-Qaida operatives in the region and an alleged plotter in the 1998 embassy bombings.

The Libyan al-Qaida leader also wanted for the bombings, al-Libi, is believed to have returned to Libya during the 2011 civil war that led to the ouster and killing of Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

His brother, Nabih, said al-Libi was parking outside his house early Saturday after dawn prayers when a convoy of three vehicles encircled his car. Armed gunmen smashed the car's window and seized al-Libi's gun before grabbing him and taking him away. The brother said al-Libi's wife saw the kidnapping from her window and described the abductors as foreign-looking armed "commandos."

Al-Libi, who was believed to be a computer specialist for al-Qaida, is on the FBI's most-wanted list with a \$5 million bounty on his head. He was indicted by a federal court in the Southern District of New York, for his alleged role in the bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya, on August 7, 1998.

Libyan officials did not return calls seeking comment on al-Libi's abduction.

In Somalia, a resident of Barawe who gave his name as Mohamed Bile said militants closed down the town in the hours after the assault, and that all traffic and movements have been restricted. Militants were carrying out house-to-house searches, likely to find evidence that a spy had given

intelligence to a foreign power used to launch the attack, he said.

"We woke up to find al-Shabab fighters had sealed off the area and their hospital is also inaccessible," Bile told The Associated Press by phone. "The town is in a tense mood."

Al-Shabab later posted pictures on the Internet of what it said was U.S. military gear left behind in the raid. Two former U.S. military officers identified the gear as the kind U.S. troops carry. Pictures showed items including bullets, an ammunition magazine, a military GPS device and a smoke and flash-bang grenade used to clear rooms. The officials could not confirm if those items had come from the raid.

In Kenya, military spokesman Maj. Emmanuel Chirchir on Saturday gave the names of four fighters implicated in the Westgate Mall attack as Abu Baara al-Sudani, Omar Nabhan, Khattab al-Kene and Umayr, names that were first broadcast by a local Kenyan television station.

Matt Bryden, the former head of the U.N. Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, said via email that al-Kene and Umayr are known members of al-Hijra, the Kenyan arm of al-Shabab. He added that Nabhan may be a relative of Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan, the target of the 2009 Navy SEALs raid in Barawe.

The identities of the four men from the mall attack came as a Nairobi station obtained and broadcast the closed circuit television footage from Westgate. The footage shows four attackers calmly walking through a storeroom inside the complex, holding machine guns. One of the men's pant legs appears to be stained with blood, though he is not limping. It is unclear if the blood is his, or that of his victims'.

Government statements shortly after the four-day siege began on Sept. 21 indicated between 10 to 15 attackers were involved, but indications since then are that fewer attackers took part, though the footage may not show all of the assailants.

US steps up fight against terrorism in Africa

By Javier Blas in London, Borzou Daragahi in Cairo and Geoff Dyer in Washington/ft.com/October 7, 2013

Twenty years after a botched commando raid on Mogadishu gave Washington pause for thought over policing African trouble spot, the US stepped up its fight against Islamist militants with simultaneous special forces operations against targets in Libya and Somalia.

The rare ground operations, just two weeks after the attack on a Kenyan shopping mall by al-Shabaab gunmen in which at least 67 people died, were a further indication of the threat posed by Islamist terrorism in weak and lawless parts of the continent.

"We hope that this makes clear that the United States of America will never stop in the effort to hold those accountable who conduct acts of terror," John Kerry, secretary of state, said yesterday.

"Members of al-Qaeda and other terrorist organisations literally can run but they can't hide."

With the US government clogged by fiscal disputes in Congress, and President Barack Obama still being accused of vacillation over the conflict in Syria, the raids on the Libyan capital and a town on the Somali coast represented a gamble for the administration but could also leave it open to charges that it was looking to appear tough overseas.

The potential risks were underlined by the fact that the Somalia raid took place almost exactly 20 years to the day of the Battle of Mogadishu in October 1993, on which the Hollywood film Black Hawk Down was based. US special forces suffered heavy casualties as they tried to capture several war lords.

The US department of defence said that the operation in Libya led to the detention of Anas al-Liby, an alleged al-Qaeda leader linked to the 1998 bombing of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. At the same time, navy Seals also raided the house in Barawe, Somalia of a suspected leader of military group al-Shabaab.

The Libyan government demanded an explanation for what it called the “kidnapping” of Mr Liby, who had been indicted by a federal court in New York for his alleged role in the 1998 bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam which killed more than 200 people.

Relatives of Mr Liby, born Nazih Abdul Hamed Nabih, told local journalists he was snatched in front of house in southern Tripoli as he returned home from early morning prayers.

“The whole operation lasted a few minutes,” said Essam Mohamed Ezzobair, a journalist for the newspaper al-Arab who interviewed the terrorism suspect’s brother and son.

“No one had time to call for help. His son saw two cars surrounding his dad’s car while he was parking in front of their house. The unknown kidnappers broke the car window’s glass, pulled him with force and took him to one of those vehicles, and left very quickly.” At least some of the abductors spoke Arabic with Libyan accents, his son told Mr Ezzobair.

Some fear the abduction will trigger a Libyan backlash against US.

“The US is dealing with people like Anas al-Liby as dangerous al-Qaeda members who are a real danger for their country,” said Abdelghani Amr Al Ruwaimed, a professor of law in Tripoli University. “But it’s unknown to Libyans what role, if any, al- Liby currently has in al-Qaeda.”

US officials said that the target of the Somalia raid was a “high value al-Shabaab leader”. Navy Seals attacked a house in the coastal city of Barawe, nearly 250km south of the capital Mogadishu, but retreated before they could confirm if the al-Shabaab leader had been killed. No US personnel were injured, according to officials.

Al-Shabaab, which controls large parts of southern Somalia, had earlier said that western forces had raided a coastal town in the east African country, killing at least one jihadi leader.

Matt Bryden, a Nairobi-based analyst and the former head of the UN monitoring group on Somalia and Eritrea, said the US raid came as a weakened al-Shabaab was trying to regain the initiative and attract international attention to its cause.

Libye, Somalie : Washington "poursuit ses ennemis", malgré le "shutdown"
Le Monde.fr avec AFP et Reuters/06.10.2013

"Shutdown" ou pas, les Etats-Unis ne baissent pas la garde, a fait savoir dimanche 6 octobre le secrétaire d'Etat américain, John Kerry, après les raids des forces spéciales américaines contre deux chefs islamistes en Libye et en Somalie. "Les Etats-Unis ne cesseront jamais leurs efforts pour que les responsables d'actes de terrorisme rendent des comptes", a-t-il déclaré à la presse, en marge de

réunions préparatoires au sommet de l'APEC (Asie-Pacifique) qui s'ouvre lundi sur l'île indonésienne de Bali.

Les raids lancés en Somalie et en Libye montrent que "ces membres d'Al-Qaida et d'autres organisations terroristes, même s'ils s'enfuient, n'arriveront jamais à nous échapper", a ajouté M. Kerry. "Nous allons continuer à essayer de les traduire devant la justice de manière appropriée avec pour l'objectif ultime de faire en sorte que ce genre d'actions cesse", a-t-il dit. Les forces spéciales américaines ont mené deux raids visant deux chefs islamistes soupçonnés d'actes terroristes, l'un en Libye, où ils ont capturé un des leaders présumés d'Al-Qaida, et l'autre en Somalie.

Des membres des forces spéciales américaines ont capturé en Libye Abou Anas al-Libi, l'un des leaders présumés d'Al-Qaida, recherché par les États-Unis pour son rôle dans les attentats meurtriers de 1998 contre les ambassades américaines en Tanzanie et au Kenya. Un autre raid, lancé cette fois en Somalie, a visé un autre islamiste non identifié appartenant lui au groupe somalien Chabab, dont on ne sait s'il a été capturé ou tué.

CONTRE LA PROLONGATION DU "SHUTDOWN"

Même si l'Etat fédéral reste paralysé par le "shutdown", un danger contre lequel le secrétaire d'Etat a mis en garde, le Pentagone a annoncé la réintégration de la plupart de ses employés civils en congé sans solde. Alors qu'aucun accord n'a encore été trouvé pour débloquer la situation, le Pentagone a annoncé la réintégration dès la semaine prochaine de "la plupart" des 400 000 employés civils du ministère de la défense qui étaient en congé sans solde.

Auparavant Barack Obama avait enjoint samedi ses adversaires républicains de cesser "cette farce" et d'adopter un budget alors que l'absence d'un budget pour l'année 2014 entamée le 1er octobre provoque la quasi paralysie de l'administration. Très impliqué dans le dossier, Barack Obama s'en est pris avec véhémence à ses adversaires républicains. "Allez-y et votez. Arrêtez cette farce. Mettez fin maintenant à la fermeture", leur a-t-il lancé dans son allocution radio-télévisée hebdomadaire.

La paralysie des services fédéraux américains, entrée dimanche dans son sixième jour, "affecte les affaires", a averti de son côté dimanche la secrétaire américaine au commerce, Penny Pritzker peu avant le sommet APEC. "Nous représentons une très importante source d'information pour les entreprises américaines et c'est un problème... Cela affecte les affaires et cela affecte l'aptitude des entreprises et des commerces à obtenir des informations", a ajouté le ministre, faisant en particulier référence aux données normalement disponibles sur le site du ministère du Commerce, fermé en raison de la paralysie. "J'espère donc qu'une solution sera vite trouvée. Cela a bien entendu des répercussions", a-t-il dit.

Libye : une figure d'Al-Qaida capturée par les Américains

LE MONDE/07.10.2013

Capturé à l'aube, samedi 5 octobre, dans une banlieue de Tripoli, Abou Anas Al-Libi serait désormais détenu "dans un lieu sûr, à l'extérieur de la Libye", selon un responsable du Pentagone qui s'exprimait dimanche au lendemain d'un raid lancé par les Navy Seals, à la fois en Libye et en Somalie, contre des figures djihadistes. Abou Anas, de son vrai nom Nazih Abdel Hamed Al-Raghie, était recherché par les Etats-Unis pour son rôle supposé dans les attentats commis, le 7 août 1998, contre les ambassades américaines de Nairobi, au Kenya, et de Dar es-Salaam, en Tanzanie, qui ont fait près de trois cents victimes et blessé des milliers d'autres personnes. Depuis, le FBI proposait 5 millions de dollars (3,7 millions d'euros) pour toute information permettant la capture du djihadiste libyen.

Cette opération, "approuvée par le président Obama" selon le Pentagone, constitue l'une des plus importantes actions menées contre Al-Qaida par les forces spéciales américaines, depuis l'élimination de leur chef, Oussama Ben Laden, le 2 mai 2011 à Abbottabad, au Pakistan, et celle d'un autre Libyen, Abou Yahya Al-Libi, tué par un drone en juin 2012 dans les zones tribales pakistanaises. Jamais, jusqu'ici, elles n'avaient cependant eu lieu sur le territoire libyen.

ENLEVÉ PAR DES LIBYENS

Abou Anas, 49 ans, marié et père de quatre enfants, était revenu à Tripoli, sa ville natale, en 2011, après le soulèvement qui a conduit à la chute de Mouammar Kadhafi, et cela était connu par beaucoup dans la capitale libyenne, où sa famille l'avait précédé d'un an. Les autorités de Tripoli ont affirmé ne pas avoir été informées de l'opération américaine, mais ces propos ont été mis en doute par le fils d'Abou Anas, Abdallah Al-Raghie, 20 ans. "Ceux qui ont enlevé mon père sont des Libyens, a-t-il affirmé dimanche devant la presse sur le pas de la demeure familiale. Leur apparence est celle de Libyens et ils parlent le dialecte libyen." Le commando, a-t-il ajouté, était armé de "pistolets équipés de silencieux ; certains étaient cagoulés, d'autres non".

Jeune, Abou Anas avait quitté la Libye et ses études d'ingénieur en informatique à la toute fin des années 1980 pour se rendre en Afghanistan après un détour par l'Arabie saoudite, suivant ainsi la voie empruntée par des dizaines de Libyens partis rejoindre les camps djihadistes pour combattre le régime afghan procommuniste installé par les Soviétiques. Sur place, il y fera la connaissance d'Oussama Ben Laden bien avant que ce dernier ne crée formellement Al-Qaida. Peu après, le Libyen, dont l'avis de recherche lancé par le FBI précise qu'il porte une large cicatrice sur le côté gauche du visage, suit celui qui s'est imposé comme le chef des Arabes-Afghans au Soudan, lorsque ce pays devient, au début des années 1990, la nouvelle base de prédilection des djihadistes.

DES BASES AU SOUDAN

Autour d'Oussama Ben Laden, qui monte de fructueuses entreprises, Saoudiens, Egyptiens, Libyens et Algériens se retrouvent. C'est d'ici, à partir du Soudan, que les attentats de Nairobi et de Dar es-Salaam ont été préparés.

Mais Khartoum devient assez vite une place peu sûre pour les Libyens, du fait des pressions de plus en plus fortes exercées par le régime du colonel Kadhafi pour que les Soudanais lui livrent ses opposants qui mènent, depuis ce territoire, des opérations visant à l'éliminer. Le Groupe islamique des combattants libyens (GICL), dirigé par Abdelhakim Belhadj, s'y est en effet lui aussi installé en 1992. Dès lors, Ben Laden n'aura de cesse de presser ses compagnons libyens de partir et de quitter son organisation. Une poignée d'entre eux décide de rejoindre le GICL, dont Abou Anas, qui deviendra l'un de ses membres actifs.

SOUPÇONNÉ PAR LES RENSEIGNEMENTS BRITANNIQUE

Le "transfert" d'Al-Qaida au GICL – et non l'inverse – est envoyé à Londres rejoindre la base du groupe libyen, chargé notamment de la communication. Il est cependant convoqué à plusieurs reprises par les services de renseignement britanniques qui le soupçonnent très tôt d'avoir participé aux attentats de Nairobi et de Dar es-Salaam, au point de finir par éveiller la méfiance des dirigeants du GICL, qui décident de l'écarter. "Nous nous étions demandé pourquoi les Britanniques s'intéressaient tellement à lui, nous confiait en mai l'ancien émir du GICL, Abdelhakim Belhadj. Un Marocain avait donné son nom pour le soutien logistique qu'il aurait apporté dans les attentats de 1998. Quand on l'a su, on a décidé de geler son appartenance."

A l'époque, Londres, où une partie de ses dirigeants est réfugiée, est une place trop importante aux

yeux du GICL pour risquer d'attirer l'attention. "Nous étions surveillés. Nous avons été interrogés à plusieurs reprises par les Britanniques", confirmait, dimanche, le fils, Abdallah, devant la presse.

UN TRANSFERT NON DÉNUÉ DE RISQUE

Quittant la Grande-Bretagne, Abou Anas et sa famille étaient revenus en Afghanistan via l'Iran, avant de repartir après les attentats du 11 septembre 2001 en Iran via le Pakistan cette fois. Emprisonnés, puis placés en résidence surveillée en Iran, comme cela fut le cas pour d'autres compagnons de Ben Laden, Abou Anas et sa famille y resteront sept ans, jusqu'à ce que la famille soit autorisée à revenir en Libye en 2010.

Sa capture, dans une Libye en proie à des troubles, et son possible transfert vers les Etats-Unis ne sont pas sans risque. L'attentat contre le consulat américain le 11 septembre 2012, qui a coûté la vie à l'ambassadeur Christopher Stevens, suivait de peu la confirmation, par Ayman Al-Zawahiri, le successeur d'Oussama Ben Laden à la tête d'Al-Qaida, de la mort de Yahya Al-Libi.

Raid shows chaotic Libya a key militant haven

Mon Oct 7, 2013/By Patrick Markey/Reuters

TUNIS, Oct 6 (Reuters) - The U.S. raid to snatch a top al Qaeda suspect off a Tripoli street confirmed what many Libyans already feared: Post-revolution chaos has made their vast North African country a haven for Islamist militants with transnational ambitions.

Two years after a war backed by the West ousted Muammar Gaddafi, Libya is still fragile, its government weak and its army unable to control vast tracts of territory, where rival militias battle over a share of the country's spoils.

On Saturday, Nazih al-Ragye, better known by the cover name Abu Anas al-Liby, wanted in the bombings of U.S. embassies in Africa 15 years ago, was grabbed by ten men as he made his way from prayers in the south of Tripoli.

Four cars swooped on Liby as he returned home and men with Libyan accents grabbed him, according to his family, and bundled him into a van which sped off. U.S. officials say he is now being held in outside the country.

Some security experts said the seizure of such a high-ranking militant suspect in the Libyan capital highlighted how successive al Qaeda-linked groups are establishing bases far from its Pakistan-Afghanistan centre.

While Liby was a former exile reported to have returned home last year, increasingly, analysts say, Libya has attracted foreign militants with its weak central authority, uncontrolled land and porous borders to sub Saharan Africa that allow easy flow of arms and men to the region's hotspots.

"Libya has been seen as a haven for all kinds of radical groups in the absence of a central government that can really control the territory," Prof. Dirk Vandewalle, a Libya expert and author at Dartmouth College who just returned from Tripoli.

"Certainly, the United States sees Libya as a crucial territory to control whatever terrorism is taking place not just in Libya but also in the Sahel and even into sub Saharan Africa."

Since Gaddafi's fall, Islamists, including elements of al Qaeda, have used Libya to smuggle out

weapons and a base for fighters. North Africa is home to Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and other Islamist affiliates who either cooperate with the network or sympathise with its ideology.

That influence was clear when Islamist militants were blamed for the attack a year ago on the U.S. consulate in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi during which the U.S. ambassador was killed.

Over the past two years, weapons have made it into Egypt, Mali and Syria from Gaddafi's former stockpiles, and into the hands of rival militias and former Libyan rebels who refuse to disarm, saying they want to see more of Libya's wealth.

Its turmoil makes Libya's central authority precarious even two years after the revolt, as Prime Minister Ali Zeidan fends off pressure from rival tribes and protesters seeking more regional autonomy in the east and south of the country.

Symbolic of the disarray, for the last two months, armed protesters have taken over key ports to demand more autonomy for their eastern region, cutting the OPEC country's production by half from the usual 1.4 million barrels per day.

Last week armed mobs also tried to storm the Russian embassy after reports a Ukrainian woman murdered a Libyan officer, forcing diplomats to evacuate after Tripoli said it could not guarantee their safety.

ISLAMISTS ACROSS THE MAGHREB

Libya's turmoil worries its neighbours across North Africa, feeding concerns Libyan territory may give fertile ground for Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and other Islamist militants who are increasingly cooperating, according to security analysts.

Security officials say lawless southern Libya has become more of a haven for al Qaeda-linked fighters after French-led forces drove them from strongholds in northern Mali this year, killing hundreds in its military campaign there.

Algerian security officials blamed militants who launched operations from Libya for the January attack on the Amenas gas plant near the Libyan border, killing more than 30 foreign workers and making foreign oil companies start to reassess operations in North Africa.

"The capture of a major al Qaeda figure will not have a big impact on the overall situation as long as the state is still not visible," one Algerian security source told Reuters. "Armed groups are filling the vacuum."

The man blamed for the Amenas attack, Mokhtar Belmokhtar, threatened to hit French interests this year, announcing his fighters would join forces with MUJWA, an Islamist group that was scattered by the French offensive on Mali.

In neighbouring Tunisia, the Islamist-led government has also designated a local hardline group officials linked to al Qaeda, Ansar al-Sharia, as a terrorist organisation after blaming it for the assassination of two opposition leaders.

What Libya's alleged role was is still not clear. His son, Abdullah al Ragye, denied his father had taken part in the bombings of the U.S. embassies.

Liby was described in an 2012 U.S. Congressional report as "a builder of al Qaeda's network in

Libya", according to the Long War Journal, which documents what is known in the U.S. as the War on Terror.

Libya's porous security would have given an al Qaeda suspect broad communication with other Islamists and al Qaeda affiliates, journal Senior Editor Thomas Joscelyn said.

"It is not just one or two," he said. "there are whole a host of known al Qaeda personalities he could have been working with and known al Qaeda linked groups he could be working with."

Libya's government, wary of an Islamist backlash, described the capture of a Libyan citizen on its soil as a "kidnapping" and asked Washington for an explanation. Some Libyans were already bracing for an Islamist reaction.

"There will be a reaction to take revenge because he is an important al Qaeda figure," said Abdul Bassit Haroun, a former Libyan militant. "To show them that the arrest of any person will cost a lot."

Kerry: US Africa Raids Show Al-Qaida 'Can Run, But Can't Hide'

Kate Lamb/voanews.com/October 06, 2013

JAKARTA — After separate raids by U.S. military forces in Libya and Somalia, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has repeated America's commitment to pursuing wanted terrorists, saying they "can run, but can't hide."

In operations thousands of kilometers apart on the African continent, U.S. military forces sought to capture two wanted terrorists on Saturday.

U.S. officials confirm that a top al-Qaida member was detained in the Libyan capital of Tripoli, while U.S. Navy SEALs withdrew under gunfire from a raid in the Somali town of Barawe.

Commenting on the operations during his visit to the APEC summit on the Indonesian resort island of Bali, Kerry said the U.S. would continue efforts to bring known terrorists to justice.

"We hope this makes clear that the United States of America will never stop in its effort to hold those accountable who conduct acts of terror," Kerry said. "Those members of al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations literally can run but they can't hide. We will continue to try to bring people to justice in an appropriate way with hopes that ultimately these kinds of activities against everybody in the world will stop."

The al-Qaida man captured in Libya, Abu Anas al Libi, has been wanted for 15 years for his alleged involvement in the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa. The bombings in Kenya and Tanzania killed 224 people.

The U.S. government had posted a \$5 million reward for information leading to his capture.

The raid has been hailed as a success by counterterrorism analysts and opens up the possibility that Libi could face trial in the U.S. The Pentagon says he is currently detained by the U.S. military in what it described only as a secure location outside of Libya.

In the other raid, in Somalia, U.S. Navy SEALs targeted a leader of al-Shabab, believed to be behind last's month mall siege in Kenya.

Describing the target only as "a known al-Shabab terrorist," U.S. officials did not identify the man they failed to apprehend.

The Pentagon confirmed the involvement of American troops in the operation but did not provide any further details, saying only that no U.S. personnel were wounded or killed.

Al-Shabab - a group that aims to make Somalia an Islamic caliphate - was declared a foreign terrorist organization by Washington in 2008.

US military forces conduct 2 major terror raids, seize Al Qaeda leader behind 1998 embassy bombings

October 06, 2013/FoxNews.com

Secretary of State John Kerry said Sunday that a pair of raids conducted in Africa by American special forces signaled the ongoing determination of the United States to bring terrorists to justice and sent the message that "members of Al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations literally can run but they can't hide."

The Pentagon confirmed Saturday night that U.S. special forces had captured alive Abu Anas al Libi in Tripoli, Libya. Libi, also known as Nazih Abdul-Hamed al-Ruqai, was wanted in connection with the 1998 bombings of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. The operation was carried out by the Delta Force, a U.S. official told Fox News on Sunday.

The other Africa operation targeted a commander in Al Shabaab, the militant group in Somalia linked to last month's Kenya mall attack that killed more than 60 people. The Navy SEALs involved in that raid were members of SEAL Team Six, the same unit that killed in Laden in his Pakistan hideout in 2011, the U.S. official said.

"On October 5, the Department of Defense, acting under military authorities, conducted an operation to apprehend longtime Al Qaeda member Abu Anas al Libi in Libya," Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said in a statement. "He is currently lawfully detained under the law of war in a secure location outside of Libia. Abu Anas al Libi has been indicted in the Southern District of New York in connection with his alleged role in Al Qaeda's conspiracy to kill U.S. nationals and to conduct attacks against U.S. interests worldwide, which included Al Qaeda plots to attack U.S. forces stationed in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Somalia, as well as the U.S. embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya."

Multiple senior U.S. officials told Fox News that Libi is being held on a ship at sea.

"Libi could be held at sea for a matter of weeks before he is turned over to law enforcement authorities," one senior U.S. official told Fox News.

Speaking Sunday at an economic conference in Bali, Indonesia, Kerry praised the "quality and courage" of the forces involved in the two actions and vowed that the United States "will never stop in the effort to hold those accountable who conduct acts of terror" and would "continue to try to bring people to justice in an appropriate way with hopes that ultimately these kinds of activities against everybody in the world will stop."

Sources told Fox News that Libi will be read his rights by an elite FBI unit that was sent out for that purpose. US officials say that the Justice Department plans to prosecute him in a U.S. court.

Al Libi is on the FBI's most-wanted list with a \$5 million bounty on his head. He was indicted by a federal court in the Southern District of New York, for his alleged role in the bombings of the United States Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya, on August 7, 1998, that killed more than 220 people.

He is believed to have spent time in Sudan where Usama bin Laden was based in the early 1990s. After bin Laden was forced to leave Sudan, al Libi turned up in Britain in 1995 where he was granted political asylum in Britain under unclear circumstances and lived in Manchester. He apparently fled Britain in 2000 when his name was added to the FBI's most wanted list.

Libya asked the U.S. on Sunday for "clarifications" regarding the raid and said any Libyan should face trial in his own country.

The raid puts the fragile Libyan government in a delicate position — the country's post-Qaddafi leadership faces criticism from some Libyans that it is too close to the United States, and it cannot be seen to be allowing U.S. forces to act freely on Libyan territory. The central government has had only limited authority around the country, where militiamen — many of the Islamic militants themselves — hold considerable power and have unleashed their anger on the government in the past.

The country's turmoil has allowed Al Qaeda and other militant groups to increase their activity here. On Sept. 11, 2011, militants attacked the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya's second largest city, killing the American ambassador and three other Americans, an attack that demonstrated the power of militias and the weakness of the government.

Al-Libi was believed to be a computer specialist with Al Qaeda. He studied electronic and nuclear engineering, graduating from Tripoli University, and was an anti-Qaddafi activist.

In the Somalia raid, the strike on Al Shabaab was carried out in the early hours before morning prayers in the seaside town of Barawe.

A resident said by telephone that heavy gunfire woke up residents before dawn prayers. The raid was carried out by US Navy SEALs, who came ashore and killed at least one individual at a villa.

The target of the operation was Abdikadir 'Ikrima' Mohammed, a Kenyan of Somali origin that is a foreign fighter commander for al-Shabaab in Somalia, Fox News confirms.

According to Fox News sources, a shootout ensued when SEALs entered the Somali villa, with the SEALs subsequently unable to bring the body of one of the militants killed back with them. A senior U.S. official told Fox News that no U.S. personnel were injured in the operation, but one militant was killed.

The team ran into fiercer resistance than expected and the unit's leader decided to abort the mission and the Americans swam away, U.S. officials told The Associated Press.

The leader of Al Shabaab, Mukhtar Abu Zubeyr, also known as Ahmed Godane, has claimed responsibility for the shopping mall attack in Nairobi.

Little confirmed the raid earlier Saturday, saying: "I can confirm that yesterday, October 4, U.S. military personnel were involved in a counter terrorism operation against a known Al Shabaab terrorist. We are not prepared to provide additional detail at this time."

Foreign militaries -- often the U.S. but not always -- have carried out several strikes inside Somalia in recent years against Al Shabaab or Al Qaeda leaders, as well as criminal kidnappers.

US reports capture of top al-Qaeda figure in Libya

by Mark Hosenball and Phil Stewart/bdlive.co.za/octobre 06 2013

WASHINGTON — US forces launched raids in Libya and Somalia on Saturday, two weeks after the deadly Islamist attack on a Nairobi shopping mall, capturing a top al-Qaeda figure wanted for the 1998 US embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania.

The Pentagon said senior al-Qaeda figure Anas al-Liby was seized in the raid in Libya, but a US official said the raid on the Somali town of Barawe failed to capture or kill the intended target from the al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab movement.

Mr Liby, believed to be 49, has been under US indictment for his alleged role in the East Africa embassy bombings that killed 224 people.

The US government has also been offering a \$5m reward for information leading to his capture, under the State Department's Rewards for Justice programme.

"As the result of a US counterterrorism operation, Abu Anas al-Liby is currently lawfully detained by the US military in a secure location outside Libya," Pentagon spokesman George Little said without elaborating.

Mr Liby, also known as Nazih al-Ragye, was arrested at dawn in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, as he was heading home after morning prayers, a neighbour and militia sources said.

"As I was opening my house door, I saw a group of cars coming quickly from the direction of the house where al-Ragye lives. I was shocked by this movement in the early morning," said one of his neighbours, who did not give his name. "They kidnapped him. We do not know who they are."

Two Islamist militia sources confirmed the incident.

CNN reported in September last year that Mr Liby had been seen in Tripoli. It quoted Western intelligence sources as saying there was concern that he may have been tasked with establishing an al-Qaeda network in Libya.

That CNN report quoted counterterrorism analysts as saying that Mr Liby may not have been apprehended then because of the delicate security situation in much of the country, where former jihadists hold sway. It quoted one intelligence source as saying that Mr Liby appeared to have arrived in Libya in the spring of 2011, during the country's civil war.

The Pentagon confirmed US military personnel had been involved in an operation against what it called "a known al-Shabaab terrorist", in Somalia, but gave no more details.

One US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the al-Shabaab leader targeted in the operation was neither captured nor killed.

US officials did not identify the target. They said US forces, trying to avoid civilian casualties, disengaged after inflicting some al-Shabaab casualties. They said no US personnel were wounded

or killed in the operation, which one US source said was carried out by a Navy SEAL team.

Somalia firefight

A Somali intelligence official said the target of the raid at Barawe, about 180km south of Mogadishu, was a Chechen commander, who had been wounded and his guard killed. Police said a total of seven people were killed.

The New York Times quoted a spokesman for al-Shabaab as saying that one of its fighters had been killed in an exchange of gunfire but that the group had beaten back the assault.

It quoted an unnamed US security official as saying that the Barawe raid was planned a week and a half ago in response to the al-Shabaab assault on a Nairobi shopping mall last month in which at least 67 people died.

"It was prompted by the Westgate attack," the official said.

Residents said fighting erupted at about midnight GMT. "We were awoken by heavy gunfire last night. We thought an al-Shabaab base at the beach was captured," Sumira Nur, a mother of four, said from Barawe on Saturday. "We also heard sounds of shells, but we do not know where they landed."

The New York Times quoted witnesses as saying that the firefight lasted more than an hour, with helicopters called in for air support.

The paper quoted a senior Somali government official as saying that the government "was pre-informed about the attack". Earlier, al-Shabaab militants said British and Turkish special forces had raided Barawe, killing a rebel fighter, but that a British officer had also been killed and others wounded.

Britain's defence ministry said it was not aware of any such British involvement. A Turkish foreign ministry official also denied any Turkish part in such an action.

In 2009, helicopter-borne US special forces killed senior al-Qaeda militant Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan in a raid in southern Somalia. Nabhan was suspected of building the bomb that killed 15 people at an Israeli-owned hotel on the Kenyan coast in 2002.

The US has used drones to kill fighters in Somalia in the past. In January 2012, members of the elite US Navy SEALs rescued two aid workers after killing their nine kidnappers.

Al-Shabaab leader Ahmed Godane, also known as Mukhtar Abu al-Zubayr, has described the Nairobi mall attack as retaliation for Kenya's incursion in October 2011 into southern Somalia to crush the insurgents. It has raised concern in the West over the operations of Shabaab in the region.

Target in U.S. Raid on Somalia Is Called Top Shabab Planner of Attacks Abroad

By NICHOLAS KULISH, ERIC SCHMITT and MARK MAZZETTI/nytimes.com/October 6, 2013

NAIROBI, Kenya — The target of the American commando raid in the Horn of Africa, a Kenyan of Somali origin known as Ikrimah, is one of the Shabab militant group's top planners for attacks beyond its base in Somalia, an American official said Sunday.

Though Mr. Ikrimah had not been tied directly to the Shabab's deadly assault on a shopping mall in Nairobi last month, fears of a similar attack against Western targets broke a deadlock among officials in Washington over whether to conduct the raid.

Special-operations commanders were in favor, pushing for a more aggressive response to the rising threat from the group in Somalia, while administration officials were nervous about incurring American military casualties. As it turned out, there were none, according to a United States official — but Mr. Ikrimah was not captured, and there is as yet no evidence that he was killed in the firefight that broke out on the Somali coast in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Mr. Ikrimah is an associate of two Al Qaeda operatives who were involved in the 1998 bombing of the American Embassy in Nairobi and in the 2002 attacks on a hotel and an airline in Mombasa. SEAL Team 6, the Navy commando unit that killed the Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, was dispatched to try to apprehend him.

The Navy SEALs approached the Somali coast under cover of darkness for what was supposed to be a stealthy snatch-and-grab operation from a seaside villa in the port town of Baraawe.

But instead of slipping away with the senior militant they had come to capture, the SEALs found themselves under sustained fire. The American troops retreated unharmed after inflicting casualties on the Shabab defenders, but the militant group has claimed victory in the skirmish on Saturday.

“Al Shabab can lick their wounds and take some satisfaction that, after all, they repulsed the world's most powerful military force,” said Bruce Hoffman, director of the Center for Security Studies at Georgetown University. “On the other hand, for Al Shabab it sends a pretty disquieting message that the U.S. is willing to intervene and bring the war right to their doorstep.”

Many questions about the raid remained unanswered on Sunday. The villa might have been a residence belonging to Ahmed Abdi Godane, the Shabab's leader, according to local residents in Baraawe who were reached by phone on Sunday. The spokesman for the Shabab, Sheik Abdiaziz Abu Musab, denied that the villa housed anything other than “normal fighters,” saying it was “like any other house — it is not that special.”

Analysts said it was highly unlikely that the raid had resulted in the death of either Mr. Godane or Mr. Ikrimah. If it had, “you would think the U.S. would make a major fuss about it,” said Abdi Aynte, director of the Heritage Institute for Policy Studies in Mogadishu. “The fact that they don't know they've killed someone or not tells us a lot about the fact that the raid was not too successful.”

Saturday's operation came after months of simmering tensions inside the American government about whether direct-assault missions in Somalia were worth the potential risks to American troops.

“The evolution of threats has refocused counterterrorism resources and attention on Africa and on terrorist groups operating in that region,” said Valentina Soria, a security analyst at IHS Jane's in London.

Former officials and Somalia experts said that the Pentagon's Joint Special Operations Command has been collecting more precise intelligence for some time about the whereabouts of senior Shabab leaders, and have pushed for permission to carry out capture-or-kill missions inside the country.

State Department officials wondered whether such raids could accomplish enough to justify the significant risks the American troops would run. Animating the discussions have been questions

about whether Al Shabab posed a danger to Americans compared with groups like Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, which has tried to attack the United States on several occasions. The attack on the Westgate mall in Nairobi last month, which left more than 60 people dead, “provides the impetus politically to respond to the changing threat,” said Bill Braniff, executive director of Start, a terrorism research center based at the University of Maryland.

The mall attack yielded intelligence leads, as militants actively discussed the days-long siege in Kenya among themselves; tracing those discussions made it easier to determine the militants’ whereabouts. Planning for the commando raid began more than a week ago, an official said.

“The opportunity question is about intelligence — when do you have enough information to act?” said Mr. Braniff. “When you do have information, that tends to force your hand.”

The raid in Baraawe was the most significant operation by American troops in Somalia since commandos killed Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan, a Qaeda mastermind, in a raid near the town four years ago. Ahmed Abdulkadir Warsame, a militant commander who acted as the group’s liaison with Al Qaeda’s branch in Yemen, was apprehended in April 2011 by the United States military in the Gulf of Aden. Last year, a team of Navy SEALs rescued two hostages held by Somali pirates, also without suffering any casualties.

The Shabab spokesman, Mr. Musab, claimed the group had advance word that the raid on Saturday was coming, though its nature was unclear. “There was some information that there was going to be a strike that took place,” he said, adding that the group’s fighters fired the first shots in the firefight. He said the commandos came ashore using small speedboats launched from a larger naval vessel out at sea.

An American official briefed on the operation said the SEALs withdrew from the firefight to avoid civilian casualties. A local witness said he saw four fresh graves for militants killed by the SEALs. But the losses were unlikely to put a dent in the activities, at home or abroad, of the Shabab, a group with thousands of committed fighters.

Even so, analysts said the message sent by the raid might have been more important than the outcome.

“The Shabab territories are dwindling, so that means the Shabab leaders will be more vulnerable,” said Stig Hansen, a Norwegian academic who is writing a book on the resurgence of Islamic militancy in Africa. “They wanted to show that it costs the Shabab to do international operations.”

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

South Africa Avoids Trade Spat with Brazil

07 October 2013/thepoultrysite.com

SOUTH AFRICA - South Africa narrowly avoided a trade spat with Brics colleague Brazil over the poultry tariff review by opting for import tariffs as opposed to anti-dumping measures.

Brazil had indicated that it would not be happy and would resist anti-dumping duties on chicken products from the country, sources close to the matter said.

According to BusinessReport, in an interview on the sidelines of the the first national summit on broad-based black economic empowerment, Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies said anti-dumping measures against Brazil had been rejected.

Gilmar Henz, the Brazilian agricultural attaché to South Africa, said there was no proof that Brazil exported its poultry at less than the cost of production in that country, hence anti-dumping tariffs would have been awkward at the very least.

Mr Henz confirmed that South Africa was the only country out of the 120 that Brazil did business with to have started an anti-dumping investigation.

"Anti-dumping investigations are difficult, they are costly to both the government and the private sector. We as Brics believe that bilateral traditions must be used to solve or negotiate problems," he said.

On Monday, South Africa raised tariffs on imported chicken products by 8.75 percentage points on average and 82 per cent for a "whole bird" to protect local producers. The measures are targeted mainly at Brazil which accounts for 52 per cent of South Africa's chicken imports.

Mr Davies said he agreed with a statement by Cosatu that Brazil and Argentina were significant exporters of poultry products to South Africa, but he would not comment on the claim that "this is not surprising as these countries are known for their protectionist policies, in particular subsidies to their agricultural sectors".

He said South Africa's added protection against cheap poultry imports still had an additional challenge from the EU because of the bloc's free trade agreement with South Africa.

Mr Davies said chicken imports were threatening jobs in the local chicken production sector, but it was now possible that more jobs would be created.

Henz said South Africa still needed to import some mechanically deboned meat cuts because it did not have the technology to produce them, hence the tariff review did not raise these exponentially.

"Brazil is an agricultural produce powerhouse, our soya, maize, beef, coffee and sugar, among other things, are produced far cheaper," he said.

He added that even the cost of electricity was much cheaper in Brazil than in South Africa, which reduced input costs in agricultural production.

Mr Davies said: "We never said the tariff dispensation is a magic wand. Soya is being produced in South Africa and some of it is exported. There are a number of projects in place to grow more of it. What we need is a lot of vigilance from the competition authorities. We want to see no conflict between small and large companies."

He denied that poor South African consumers, who relied on chicken as their main source of protein, would suffer most from the imposition of tariffs.

Mr Davies said: "We are supporting the local production sector, so there is a lesser burden on those on low incomes."

He also wanted a review on the practice of injecting brine into chicken.

Some chicken products of local producers had been found to contain as much as 30 per cent brine.

Cosatu said a protected market for local producers should be accompanied by conditions, including the creation of decent jobs. It noted that the five local poultry producing companies had claimed that 11,995 direct jobs and 14,892 indirect jobs were likely to be created if tariffs were imposed to the maximum rates of 82 per cent.

The labour federation said: "It is interesting to note that labour costs are not the major costs as preached by neoliberal economists. Furthermore, an important input in manufacturing of poultry feed is soya bean mill, of which 90 per cent is imported. Therefore, the challenge is for the government to ensure that the whole value chain of chicken production, in particular feedstock, is produced locally."