



[French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and Europe's top aid official flew into the Central African Republic yesterday to push for more global action to prevent the deeply troubled country from imploding. Fabius later said France will boost its troops presence in the Central African Republic by year-end as part of a forthcoming UN resolution to help prevent the country from spiralling out of control. "Following UN resolutions, we will increase our support especially in the logistics domain, we will also increase troops, a little at first. This will be done before the end of the year," Fabius said.]

BURUNDI :

Burundi : Le gouvernement prend des engagements en faveur des handicapés

Dimanche 13 octobre 2013/Xinhua

BUJUMBURA (Xinhua) - Le gouvernement burundais a pris quelques engagements dimanche en faveur des personnes handicapées à l'occasion de la Journée internationale de la prévention des risques et gestion des catastrophes sous le thème " les personnes handicapées en situation de catastrophes naturelle".

"Le gouvernement du Burundi, à travers la Plateforme Nationale de Prévention des Risques et Gestion des Catastrophes, s'engage à vulgariser auprès des personnes handicapées des attitudes à

prendre en cas de catastrophes, initier l'approche intégration de ces personnes à la conception et à la planification de la prévention des catastrophes, renforcer les capacités en matière de préparation, de prévention et de réhabilitation sans oublier leur implication et identifier leurs besoins en les faisant participer à cette enquête", a indiqué dans une déclaration le président de ladite Plateforme, Edouard Nibigira.

Il a noté que les personnes handicapées sont déjà parmi les individus les plus marginalisés de la société mais que leur sort est encore plus grave en cas de catastrophe et a-t-il déploré, leur contribution à la préparation et à la réponse aux catastrophes est souvent négligée. Il a fait savoir que la célébration de cette journée internationale s'inscrit dans le cadre de la campagne "set up" en vigueur dans le monde jusqu'en 2014 et établie par la stratégie internationale de prévention des catastrophes pour préparer la conférence mondiale de 2015.

M. Nibigira a affirmé que cette campagne consiste à donner la parole à différents groupes de la population afin de les sensibiliser sur la réduction des risques des catastrophes, les amener à planifier, à prendre des décisions et à agir pour leur communauté.

La célébration de cette journée internationale coïncide avec celle du 52ème anniversaire de l'assassinat du Prince Louis Rwagasore, le Héros national de l'indépendance, et les festivités en rapport avec cette journée auront lieu en date du 31 octobre en province de Bubanza à l'ouest du pays.

La Banque mondiale soutient un projet hydroélectrique Rwanda-Burundi-Tanzanie 10/13/2013/XINHUANET

Afrique - La Banque mondiale va débloquer 340 millions de dollars pour soutenir un projet hydroélectrique conjoint du Rwanda, du Burundi et de la Tanzanie, indique une déclaration officielle publiée dimanche.

Le barrage hydroélectrique de Rusumo, dont les travaux de construction devraient prendre fin en 2020, est conçu pour produire 80 MW d'électricité, précise la déclaration.

Les ministres des Finances des trois pays africains ont signé un accord sur ce projet. Chacun des trois pays va recevoir environ 113,3 millions de dollars, indique la déclaration. Fin

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

RDC: Kabila ne briguerait pas de troisième mandat en 2016 Belga/lalibre.be/ samedi 12 octobre 2013

International "Si la Constitution prévoit quelques dispositions intangibles, on ne touche pas aux

dispositions intangibles."

Le président de l'Assemblée nationale congolaise, Aubin Minaku, a assuré que le président Joseph Kabila ne briguerait pas de troisième mandat en 2016, une perspective qui nécessiterait une révision de la Constitution de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC). "Le président de la République partira après les prochaines élections. Parce que selon la Constitution congolaise, une institution libère les fonctions quand il y a un autre qui a été élu de façon démocratique. Le jour où on organisera les élections présidentielles dans cette République, et que ce sera gagné par quelqu'un d'autre, celui-là remplacera Kabila", a affirmé ce proche du président dans une interview diffusée vendredi par Radio France Internationale (RFI).

"Si la Constitution prévoit quelques dispositions intangibles, on ne touche pas aux dispositions intangibles. Donc pour moi, la révision de la Constitution, ce n'est pas un tabou, mais il s'agit d'une révision des dispositions révisables. On ne touche pas aux dispositions intangibles", a ajouté M. Minaku, en faisant référence à l'article 220 de la loi fondamentale congolaise, qui limite à deux le nombre de mandats présidentiels.

"On ne touche pas à cette disposition. Ca signifie qu'il y a respect des deux mandats non renouvelables. C'est clair", a-t-il encore dit, alors que M. Kabila doit annoncer - sans doute mardi - devant les deux chambres du parlement (Assemblée et Sénat) réunies en Congrès des mesures en faveur de l'ouverture politique en RDC à la suite des "concertations nationales" qui se sont tenues du 7 septembre au 5 octobre.

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

Conflicts, energy top agenda as Francois Hollande visits South Africa

By AFP/14 Oct, 2013

French leader Francois Hollande arrived in South Africa Monday for a two-day state visit in which he is set to push for greater cooperation on African crises with the continental powerhouse.

Economic ties will also dominate talks between Hollande and his South African counterpart Jacob Zuma on Monday, with the two nations due to sign accords including one on developing South Africa's nuclear power.

France will also grant energy-strapped South Africa's power giant Eskom a loan of 100 million euros (\$130 million) for the construction of a solar power station and a wind farm.

Hollande flew into Johannesburg early on Monday and was due to hold a meeting with Zuma shortly afterwards.

The visit is the first by a French leader since Nicolas Sarkozy travelled to Africa's largest economy

in 2008 as part of a drive to seek new partnerships beyond France's former colonies.

France is still heavily involved in security and peacekeeping in its former colonies where it has often stepped in militarily.

However Hollande has tried hard to shrug off the negative image of "France-Afrique", a term used to describe the secretive use of political and economic influence between elites in France and former colonies.

France, a "big player" in Africa, is trying to "get South Africa to be playing a stronger role in continental security efforts," said David Hornsby, a lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand.

France "wants to play an active role in the geopolitical future of Africa, and to do it, it needs partners that are strong enough, well established," said political analyst Koffi Kouakou.

"And the only one really who is established... is South Africa. There is no way France can have a strategy (for Africa) ignoring South Africa," he said.

The two countries have often disagreed over how to tackle conflicts such as those in Libya and Ivory Coast.

However French officials say Hollande has maintained close contact with Zuma over the situation in Mali, where French forces intervened against Islamist groups this year.

Another issue of concern is the deeply troubled Central African Republic, stricken by what the United Nations has termed a "total breakdown of law and order" since a bloody coup in March.

South Africa pulled its troops out of the CAR in March after 15 soldiers were killed as the Seleka rebel coalition seized power, and French forces helped with their evacuation.

However tensions arose over French troops' refusal to get involved in the fighting, evidenced by an open letter written by French Ambassador to South Africa Elisabeth Barbier to explain "their political position of non-interference."

French officials are hoping Zuma will use his influence within the African Union to help smooth preparations for a peacekeeping force to be deployed in the troubled state.

In general, France and South Africa have enjoyed warm relations, partly born of the prominent role France played in attempts to isolate the white-minority apartheid regime and close links between their ruling parties -- the Socialists and the African National Congress.

Zuma will host a state dinner for the French delegation -- including eight ministers and 20 business leaders -- on Monday.

On Tuesday, Hollande will visit a plant owned by French pharmaceutical company Sanofi, which manufactures its anti-retroviral and anti-TB drugs in South Africa.

He will then head to Soweto, the Johannesburg township which was a hotbed of resistance against white minority rule, where he will visit anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela's former home.

Aides said this was a way of paying homage to the ailing 95-year-old statesman, who is too ill to receive official visitors.

On the economic front, aides to Hollande said some agreements on energy and transport were in the final stages of negotiation but were not sure to be signed during the visit.

French companies are notably awaiting a decision on whether South Africa will go ahead with plans to build more nuclear power stations.

BMW's Investment Embargo Threatens South African Economy

By Rene Vollgraaff/bloomberg.com/Oct 14, 2013

For four weeks, Bayerische Motoren Werke AG (BMW), the world's largest maker of luxury vehicles, halted output at its only plant in South Africa as thousands of workers went on strike to demand higher pay.

By the time car assembly and auto-component employees agreed on Oct. 6 to accept a 10 percent wage increase for next year, BMW had lost 13,000 cars in production, missed supply targets on several export contracts and took a decision to stop expansion in South Africa.

The strike at factories owned by seven carmakers, including Toyota Motor Corp. (7203) and Volkswagen AG (VOW), cost the industry at least 20 billion rand (\$2 billion) in revenue, according to the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa, or Naamsa. The damage to the economy may be even more severe as foreign investors threaten to scale back expansion plans as labor instability worsens.

“One of the main risks is that a prolonged strike will damage South Africa’s reputation and track record as a reliable supplier to international markets,” Nico Vermeulen, director of Naamsa, said in a phone interview on Oct. 7 from the capital, Pretoria. “To be a reliable supplier, you need labor stability.”

Output Crippled

Strikes this year have crippled output in industries from mining to construction to aviation, undermining economic expansion and job creation in a nation where one in four people are unemployed. The disruptions may cut this year’s growth rate by 0.5 percentage points, according to Peter Worthington, an economist at Johannesburg-based Absa Bank Ltd.’s corporate and investment banking unit. The central bank has already downgraded its forecast for gross domestic product growth to 2 percent, which would be the slowest pace since a 2009 recession.

“BMW has clearly had enough of the labor situation and the risk/reward of further investment simply doesn’t make sense for them,” Peter Attard Montalto, an economist at Nomura International Plc in London, said in a e-mailed note to clients on Oct. 4. “There are many other companies thinking the same thing because of labor issues.”

South Africa relies on inflows from abroad to help finance its current-account deficit, which reached 6.5 percent of GDP in the second quarter. Most of that foreign capital has come from investment in stocks and bonds, inflows that can be volatile as global sentiment fluctuates.

Risk Perception

In 2012, Africa's largest economy attracted \$4.6 billion in foreign direct investment, or 1.2 percent of GDP, according to data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. That compares with \$10.8 billion, or 2.3 percent, in Argentina, which has a similar-sized economy to South Africa. Portfolio inflows from abroad into South Africa amounted to about \$5.5 billion last year, according to South Africa's central bank.

"Difficulties in industrial relations are likely to impact FDI coming into the country," Punam Chuhan-Pole, lead economist for Africa at the World Bank, said in a conference call from Washington on Oct. 7. "There are a whole host of issues -- labor issues and social issues -- that are making investors more cautious."

Investors' perception of risk in South Africa have increased since August 2012, when violent strikes shut operations owned by Lonmin Plc (LMI), Anglo American Platinum Ltd. (AMS) and other mining companies. Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings downgraded South Africa's debt for the first time since the end of apartheid in 1994. The rand has plunged 15 percent against the dollar this year, the worst performer of 16 major currencies tracked by Bloomberg. It was trading at 9.9055 per dollar as of 8:01 a.m. in Johannesburg.

Platinum Strike

Anglo American Platinum said at the beginning of the year it will cut as many as 14,000 jobs as part of a restructuring plan. It scaled back those plans following pressure from labor unions and the government. A two-week strike by the biggest union at its South African operations, which ended on Oct. 10, cost the company at least 1 billion rand in lost revenue, Chief Executive Officer Chris Griffith said a day later in an interview on Johannesburg-based SAfm radio.

Rising wage costs are adding to pressure on inflation (SACPIYOY) and threatening to curb investment plans. Construction workers won pay increases of as much as 12 percent following a three-week strike in August and September that cost employers an estimated 2.7 billion rand in lost revenue, according to the South African Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors.

Inflation Threat

"The reality is that the agreed wage increases will have to be passed on to our employers in any new work we may tender, which may well impact on their investment or expansion plans," said Norman Milne, president of the federation and commercial director at Johannesburg-based builder, Basil Read Holdings Ltd. (BSR) "Labor is becoming more and more expensive with no commensurate improvement in productivity."

Inflation accelerated to 6.4 percent in August, exceeding the central bank's 3 percent to 6 percent target for the second consecutive month. Rising wages and a weaker rand have prevented policy makers from lowering its benchmark interest rate from 5 percent.

BMW's plan to halt expansion in South African "amounts to political and economic blackmail," Karl Cloete, deputy general-secretary of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa, said in an e-mailed statement on Oct. 10.

For foreign investors, managing risks is a bigger concern than making a political statement, said Neren Rau, chief executive officer of the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"It's not about being against South Africa and the government, it's a clinical business decision," he said in a phone interview from Johannesburg on Oct. 8.

Malema promises political change in S Africa

14 Oct 2013 /aljazeera.com

Former ANC official launches Economic Freedom Fighters party in town where 34 striking miners were killed by police.

South Africa's fiery young politician Julius Malema has told a rally of his new party that a "giant" has been born which should be feared and will fight for the poor.

Thousands had gathered near the Marikana mine on Sunday where 34 striking workers were shot dead by police in September 2012, to cheer the 32-year-old leader and his newly-formed Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) party.

"A different baby is born today, a giant ... A child that walks immediately. The baby that fights for your living wage," said Malema, who was last year expelled as head of the governing ANC Youth League (ANCYL) for bringing the party into disrepute,

"You must be afraid of that child," he warned, wearing his trademark red beret.

"This is the home for the hopeless."

Malema apologised for once backing President Jacob Zuma, saying he had given the country mediocrity by promoting a singer who was neither a thinker nor a reader.

Malema said there was no difference between the Marikana massacre and Sharpeville massacre of 1960, when apartheid police opened fire on protesters, killing 69 people.

Malema said he picked on Marikana as the venue for the party's launch because the slain miners were economic freedom fighters, the City Press newspaper reported.

Security forces last year opened fire on striking workers at a platinum mine in Marikana, killing 34 miners in a crackdown reminiscent of the apartheid-era police brutality.

The government has since instituted a commission of inquiry to investigate the fatal shootings which were preceded by an attack in which police officers were allegedly killed by miners.

Electioneering tactics

City Press quoted Malema as saying he had learned his electioneering tactics while serving as head of the ANC Youth League (ANCYL).

"When we were campaigning for Zuma, as the ANCYL which I led, we made South African politics fashionable. We are going to use the same strategy to garner support for the EFF," he said.

Malema hinted at restoring the death penalty if South Africans voted on the issue in a referendum, City Press reported.

"When we win the elections next year, we will hold a referendum on the death penalty and, if the

people want it back, so be it.

"And we will not be apologetic about hanging or castrating men who rape the elderly and children [sic].

"Though crime is largely caused by unemployment, poverty and inequality, rape is caused by uncontrollable libido," he said, referring to South Africa's widespread sexual violence.

Malema has described his EFF as "radical left, anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist" but the firebrand is also known for his extravagant lifestyle and is currently fighting fraud and tax evasion charges.

The ANC, in power since 1994 when apartheid ended after Nelson Mandela was elected South Africa's first black president, has dominated the political scene with no serious challengers.

Malema's EFF would attract many poor black South Africans disenchanted with the ANC, but may struggle to unseat the party, which has solid support in most of the country's nine provinces.

TANZANIA :

Wildlife protection in Tanzania

By Apolinari Tairo, eTN Correspondent, Tanzania /Oct 13, 2013

Tourism and tourist protected wildlife parks in Tanzania today, no doubt at all, are thriving because of the efforts of the former Tanzania President, Dr. Julius Nyerere, who championed conservation of wildlife and spearheaded tourism development in this African nation.

Being a number one wildlife conservator in the history of Tanzania, the founding father of this African nation worked seriously to ensure that wildlife protection was a priority issue in his political agenda than any other elected leader of Tanzania.

Dr. Nyerere's commitment and hate of corrupt practices brought Tanzania among few nations of the world with remarkable records in flora and fauna conservation.

Shortly before Tanzania achieved its fully governance from British rule way back in 1961, Dr. Nyerere issued the famous Arusha Manifesto which is the milestone guide of nature conservation in Tanzania, also to be copied by other African countries boastful of wildlife.

The Arusha manifesto is a document that Dr. Nyerere signed in Tanzania's sprawling northern tourist city of Arusha in wildlife rich Arusha region.

He announced the Arusha manifesto on wildlife and nature conservation on the eve of Tanzania's independence, henceforth, set the stage upon which the future of wildlife conservation and protection and policies guiding nature conservation were formulated.

The manifesto was signed just three months before this African destination became an independent African nation. With his team of new African leaders, Dr. Nyerere was quoted in the Arusha Manifesto saying: "The survival of our wildlife is a matter of grave concern to all of us in Africa.

These wild creatures amid the wild places they inhabit are not only important as a source of wonder and inspiration but are an integral part of our natural resources and our future livelihood and wellbeing.

“In accepting the trusteeship of our wildlife we solemnly declare that we will do everything in our power to make sure that our children’s grand-children will be able to enjoy this rich and precious inheritance. The conservation of wildlife and wild places calls for specialist knowledge, trained manpower, and money, and we look to other nations to co-operate with us in this important task – the success or failure of which not only affects the continent of Africa but the rest of the world as well,” Dr. Nyerere was quoted in this famous wildlife conservation and protection guiding document.

The Arusha Manifesto was Dr. Nyerere’s personal initiative and commitment to conserve and protect wildlife in his young nation.

Through his commitment to develop Tanzania as a nature-based tourist destination, Dr. Nyerere established, signed and spearheaded development of 12 national parks, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and several wildlife reserves.

It had encouraged the signing of the Wildlife Conservation Act aimed to protect wild animals and their natural habitat. The Wildlife Conservation Act has been a crucial document to ensure total survival of wildlife in Tanzania.

Standing as the biggest country in East Africa, Tanzania under the leadership of Dr. Nyerere devoted to develop tourism, aiming to become a number one tourist destination in Africa, mostly wildlife based photographic safaris.

Covering a geographical area of 945,000 kilometers, Tanzania has devoted 28 percent of the country’s land for nature and wildlife conservation, under Dr. Nyerere’s leadership.

Soon after independence, Dr. Nyerere worked hard to ensure that Serengeti National Park in northern Tanzania was developed and conserved forever as one of the world’s leading protected areas.

He issued several orders to ensure that Serengeti National Park remains a place of natural wonders for the benefit of the present and future generations, not only in Tanzania, but for Africa and the entire world.

In Ngorongoro Conservation Area where the tourist famous Ngorongoro Crater is located, Dr. Nyerere took over a number of conservation activities, while looking seriously the welfare of the Maasai people who are living peaceful with wildlife in the area, sharing the pastureland.

In January 1981, Dr. Nyerere joined and led a big gathering of people including foreign tourists and wildlife conservationists to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee (50 years) of the Serengeti National Park, the oldest wildlife conserved area in Tanzania.

Serengeti National Park covers a total area of 14,763 kilometers, making it the biggest wildlife park in East Africa and the most unique park in the world by its picturesque annual wildebeest migration.

When Tanzania is going without Dr. Nyerere, poaching of elephants and rhinos, trade in bloody ivory and trafficking of live animals are the order of the day.

Lack of commitment, corruption and selfishness among key players in wildlife including conservators, political leaders and security operatives had so far reduced elephant and rhino population in Tanzania.

During the past 10 years, one third of Tanzania's elephants have been slaughtered. Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism estimate that 10,000 elephants are being killed annually in Tanzania.

It's estimated that 30,000 elephants have been butchered in Tanzania's spectacular Selous Game Reserve between 2006 and 2009.

When Dr. Nyerere took political powers in 1961, Tanzania had about 350,000 elephants and that the number has reduced to 110,000 up to 2009. In 1974 there were about 700 black Rhinoceros in Tanzania but their number had dropped to less than 100 animals (rhinos) today.

Between 2010 and July 2013 more than 1,386 elephants were killed in Tanzania for illegal, bloody ivory business.

The increasing and shocking reports of illegal poaching on elephants and Rhinoceros in most national parks had forced the current president Mr. Jakaya Kikwete to announce tough measure targeting poachers.

He said in New York last month that he will order the army to join hands with wildlife rangers to combat poaching of elephants and rhinos.

"My government has taken serious steps to curb with illegal poaching in line with the national policy that ordains the regulations and rules set for the sake of fighting poaching activities in the country", President Kikwete said.

Despite that president Kikwete promised to apply the military in anti-poaching campaigns, independent conservators from Tanzania had questioned authenticity of the stakeholders who are responsible in wildlife protection.

Media reports from Tanzania's capital of Dar es Salaam had implicated political leaders from the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party to be involved in poaching and trade on bloody ivory.

Independent newspapers have as well, mentioned a section of police, army officers and rangers employed to protect the wildlife in poaching scandals.

Fourteen years after untimely death of Dr. Nyerere, Tanzanians remain firm with his soul in their hearts. He was a great leader who devoted his time to serve people, regardless of race, ethnicity or any form of discrimination.

Dr. Nyerere has been one the world's greatest champions of conservation, building an unprecedented awareness in Tanzanians on the value of their natural resources.

He left this African wildlife rich sinking in an abyss of poverty, corruption, poaching, injustice, embezzlement of public funds and abuse of public offices.

Today (Monday) Tanzanians are resting at their homes, praying for this great son of Africa who championed nature and wildlife conservation with full commitment, probably, more than any other leader in this continent.

No one knows the outcome of whether the wild creatures which he devoted to protect in his famous Arusha Manifesto will survive, nor whether this noble role he played will prove everlasting.

KENYA :

Kenyan president Kenyatta's ICC trial set to be suspended

By Damien McElroy, Mike Pflanz in Nairobi/telegraph.co.uk/13 Oct 2013

The trial for crimes against humanity of Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta could be suspended for at least a year under a diplomatic deal to be put to the United Nations.

Western diplomats are preparing a UN Security Council resolution that would put the International Criminal Court (ICC) case on hold after the African Union lodged objections to the trial.

Sources said the resolution was to avoid a damaging stand-off between the court and African states over charges faced by Mr Kenyatta of orchestrating post-election violence that killed more than 1,000 people in 2007-08.

Mr Kenyatta has said he is reluctant to attend the opening of his trial in The Hague on Nov 12 after judges agreed to alternate his appearances with the hearing for William Rutto, the vice-president, who is also charged.

However, an extraordinary summit of the African Union on Saturday issued an ultimatum to the court to stop the case, warning judges that Mr Kenyatta must not be compelled to face trial.

Mr Kenyatta, who was elected in March, welcomed the decision and criticised the court. "It stopped being the home of justice the day it became the toy of declining imperial powers," he said. "Africa is not a third-rate territory of second-class peoples. We are not a project, or experiment of outsiders." Diplomats fear the trial could create a impasse in which the Kenyan leader either pulls out of the process at the last minute or African states start withdrawing from its jurisdiction.

"Uhuru is not an indicted figure who is defying the court like Sudan's president (Omar) Bashir. He is someone who is working closely with the West in a region in chaos that needs to tackle a very worrying terrorist situation," a senior European diplomat said. "A solution must be found that avoids a breakdown in relations with Kenyatta or the court's authority."

Mr Kenyatta's trial comes just weeks after Kenya faced its biggest security crisis in recent memory as al-Shabaab terrorists took over Nairobi's Westgate shopping mall. Sixty-seven people were killed in a bloody seige as Mr Kenyatta personally oversaw the security operation against the hostage-takers.

The Telegraph understands that European officials have sought to adopt measures to ensure Mr

Kenyatta is not forced to leave the country in the wake of the Westgate incident.

All of the active cases before the ICC are against Africans, prompting claims by politicians that the tribunal is unfairly targeting the continent.

An official in Mr Kenyatta's administration confirmed the shift in his approach to the charges and suggested it was possible he would stop cooperating. "We have been talking about the double standards of the court for some time," the official said. "What the president told the AU was simply an extension of that."

Unless the ICC prosecutor or the court asks its member countries to endorse a postponement, the only authority that can intervene is the UN Security Council. As the US is not a member of the court, it has fallen to British and French officials to push forward a resolution, which could be adopted by the end of the month.

A spokesman for the ICC said it had no scope to object if the Security Council invoked international security issues to suspend the case. "The Security Council can adopt a resolution to impose a suspension based on the protection of peace and security in world," said Fadi al-Abullah, the ICC spokesman. "In that case it would be out of the hands of the prosecutor as the ICC has no role to advise the security council in these matters."

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said Britain had not changed its position that Mr Kenyatta and the other defendants should cooperate with the ICC.

Bill Cash, the Conservative MP and chairman of the All-Party Kenya Group, called on the Government to support a suspension of the trial in a House of Commons debate last week.

"The events in Kenya were horrific but the president was democratically elected by a significant majority in full knowledge of the case. That must give rise to questions over the continuation of the original application to the ICC," he said.

After Kenya Mall Attack, Children's Trauma Lingers

By RUKMINI CALLIMACHI Associated Press/(AP)/October 13, 2013

NAIROBI, Kenya

When the shooting began at the Nairobi mall, Cynthia Carpino and her husband hid in the parking lot. But their 1-year-old daughter wouldn't stop crying. To muffle her cries, her father placed his hand over her mouth so hard she almost suffocated. Little Azzurra fainted in his arms, and three weeks later she's still not right.

"Now when I try to put a sweater on her, and it goes over her mouth, she starts screaming and screaming," says Carpino. "I know this is because of what happened at the mall. But I don't know what to do about it."

Nor do other parents whose children were caught in the Westgate Mall horror on Sept. 21 and who are now grappling with how to help their traumatized children at the same time that they themselves are struggling with signs of distress.

The attackers struck on a Saturday afternoon, a time when families flock to the mall. Couples pushed strollers through marbled floors that would soon turn red with blood. Mothers with toddlers in tow loaded groceries into shopping carts at the supermarket, the same carts which would be used hours later as gurneys to evacuate the more than 60 dead.

When the assault started, parents threw themselves over their children to shield them, but they couldn't block out the sights and sounds. Now the psychological toll is becoming apparent. Girls draw pictures of grenades and machine guns. Kids who once played hide-and-seek are "playing Westgate," impersonating the terrorists. Yet some children who were directly in the line of fire are showing few, if any, symptoms, creating a confusing array of responses, sometimes within the same household.

Cynthia Carpino, a Kenyan, and her Italian husband, Livio, had just parked their car and were pushing their two-seater pram up the ramp leading to the mall's rooftop terrace. When the shooting erupted, Cynthia grabbed her 12-day-old baby while her husband held Azzurra. They ran in separate directions. Cynthia slipped under a parked car, the baby cradled in her arm.

Frightened shoppers tried to squeeze in after her. The terrorists spotted them and sprayed the car, until the young mother was surrounded by a buffer of corpses. The car began leaking water, drenching her. Her baby began to wail.

"Whenever they heard a baby cry, they would throw a grenade. Then you didn't hear the cries anymore," said Carpino. "I saw the feet of one go by. He said, 'We are al-Shabab. Your president has invaded our country. Our women are being raped. Our kids are being killed. So why should we spare your kids?' And then he opened fire."

Later al-Shabab, al-Qaida's affiliate in Somalia, would claim responsibility, saying the attack was in retaliation for Kenya's deployment of troops into Somalia, its neighbor.

Terrified that she might be spotted, Carpino opened her shirt and tried to get her baby to nurse under the chassis of the car. Each time the infant whimpered, she shoved its face into her chest, smothering the sound.

Meanwhile, her husband had ducked behind an enclosure and was struggling to calm their older daughter. When he put his hand across her mouth, she struggled. Then then went limp.

The family survived, though they now find themselves in different worlds. Livio Carpino has gone back to his job as pilot for Kenya Airways, while his wife is afraid to leave the house. Even though both her children were smothered, her baby appears unaffected, while Azzurra struggles with tasks as simple as getting dressed.

Clinical psychologist Katie McLaughlin, whose research at the University of Washington in Seattle focuses on post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, says trauma alters the chemistry of the brain. So Azzurra would associate something touching her face with her panic during the attack. "It's typical conditioning," McLaughlin says, and for most people it fades over time.

It's when this process fails to happen that PTSD can set in, she said in a telephone interview. PTSD is more than ordinary stress. It's associated with severe or unusual trauma. Those experiencing it may suffer from violent, intrusive thoughts. They have trouble sleeping. Once innocuous things, like a particular smell or sensation, can bring back terrible memories. In the community of

Newtown, Conn., for instance, signs ask people to close doors softly because loud bangs still bring on flashbacks, nearly a year after a gunman opened fire inside the Sandy Hook Elementary School.

A number of factors determine why even siblings can have diametrically opposed reactions to the same experience.

Keya and Kashvi Sarkar, 9-year-old twin sisters, came away with very different reactions to the attack, and what they saw may explain why. The sisters, amateur cooks, couldn't wait to get to the mall and compete in the second round of the SunGold SunRice Super Chef Junior Competition.

They had put on their white chef hats and blue aprons, and had taken their seats, waiting for their turn at the cutting board. When their mother tried to linger, she was told parents had to stay outside. So she left, and when the first explosion went off, the girls found themselves alone.

In desperation they ran to the far end of the parking lot, huddling against the wall. Keya got there first and managed to squeeze between two large women, her body shielded by theirs. Kashvi got there too late, and was left on the edge of the cowering crowd, directly exposed to the gunmen. She lay on the pavement and closed her eyes.

By contrast, Keya kept looking: "I saw three men. Three terrorists. They were wearing black turbans ... They were just shooting at anyone that moved," she said. "There was a lady with a baby next to me. When the baby started crying, they threw a grenade at us. It bounced over a car and landed next to my sister. The only grenade I'd seen before was on Tom & Jerry."

The grenade rolled to a stop. It began giving off a black, acrid smoke. Just feet away, Kashvi stayed face down, never looking up. Keya covered her head with her arms and waited for the blast, which never came.

When it didn't go off she stole a peek. The peek turned into a stare. By the time they were evacuated she'd been looking at the grenade for so long that when the therapist asked her to draw it, she could replicate its exact shape, down to its ovoid shell and L-shaped lever, her parents said.

By contrast her sister, who was far more exposed, showed no desire to draw pictures of what she'd seen. At school, when their teacher gave them the choice of writing about Westgate or about a trip to space, Keya chose Westgate, carefully detailing what had happened. Her sister wrote about a voyage around the cosmos.

It's indicative of how powerful images are in the trauma registered by children, says psychologist Dr. Jonathan Comer, who is leading a study surveying the responses of hundreds of youth to the Boston Marathon bombing.

"One kept her eyes open. One kept her eyes closed. It may seem that these two girls had a very similar experience, but experience is multisensory. The fact that one girl did not witness some of the horror visually means she had a smaller dose of traumatic exposure," said Comer, who heads the Mental Health Interventions and Technology Lab at Florida International University.

Many U.S. school districts now instruct children to walk out with their eyes closed from situations like the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Connecticut last year, he said. This is specifically because there is mounting evidence of the potential harm of seeing terrible things.

Similarly, after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, researchers found that children were being traumatized simply by watching TV coverage of the event, says Dr. Lawrence Amsel, an assistant professor of clinical psychiatry at Columbia University. According to one 2005 study, 8 percent of children in Seattle showed signs of possible PTSD even though their only connection to the attacks was the nightly news.

After Westgate, schools throughout Nairobi as well as private professionals offered free counseling. Therapists are encouraging kids to draw what they saw, or play out what happened, while coaxing them to imagine a different outcome and absorb a new narrative.

Clinical psychologist Dr. Stephen Wahome has seen many of the victims, including Keya and Kashvi.

"I say to them, 'Let's play Westgate.' And they grab a stick and say it's a gun, or they hide behind something and say they are the terrorist. It can bring on discussion. It's a way to get it out of them. It becomes less painful. I talk to them, and say, 'OK so the terrorist went there? Where could you have gone to get away?'"

Wahome concluded: "Trauma is a scar. It doesn't go away. What you do is you can make it become smaller and smaller. When you work on it, it becomes less painful, and eventually you learn to live with it."

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

'Going after leaders is anti-African': The continent's heads of state threaten to break away from international court

Katie Grant Author Biography , Philip Thomas , Sidonie Chaffer-Melly/independent.co.uk/Sunday 13 October 2013

The African Union's executive council has condemned the International Criminal Court's charges against President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya as "totally unacceptable" and indicated that the continent's leaders could split from the body.

Kenyatta and his deputy, William Ruto, both deny charges of crimes against humanity for orchestrating a killing spree after the country's disputed 2007 election which left more than 1,000 people dead and displaced more than half a million residents from their homes.

Speaking at a two-day African Union (AU) summit in Addis Ababa to discuss the continent's relationship with the International Criminal Court (ICC) yesterday, the Ethiopian Foreign Minister, Tedros Adhanom, announced African nations had agreed that sitting heads of state should not be put on trial by the ICC.

The ICC was described by Mr Adhanom as a "political instrument targeting Africa and Africans". He said it was "condescending" and rejected what he called the court's "double standard" in dispensing international justice.

"Far from promoting justice and reconciliation, and contributing to the advancement of peace and stability in our continent, the court has transformed itself into a political instrument targeting Africa and Africans," Tedros said. "This unfair and unjust treatment is totally unacceptable." Trying Kenya's Kenyatta and Ruto would infringe on the nation's sovereignty, he added.

Before this weekend's summit, senior figures in global politics urged delegates to reconsider threats to sever ties with the ICC in solidarity with Kenya.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu warned that leaving the ICC would be "a tragedy" for Africa, and that the continent had suffered the consequences of "unaccountable governance" for too long to disown the protections offered by the organisation. "Without its deterrence, countries could and would attack their neighbours, or minorities in their own countries, with impunity," he added.

Amnesty International said that leaving the ICC would be "reactionary in the extreme". Tawanda Hondora, the organisation's deputy director of law and policy said: "Such a resolution would serve no purpose except to shield from justice and to give succour to people suspected of committing some of the worst crimes known to humanity."

She added: "The ICC should expand its work outside Africa, but it does not mean that its eight current investigations in African countries are without basis. The victims of these crimes deserve justice."

But the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, said yesterday that this was not "a crusade against the ICC", but instead a "solemn call for the organisation to take Africa's concerns seriously".

The AU's council believes Kenyatta's trial will hinder Kenya's fight against terrorism, and proposed instead that Africans should deal with cases of genocide through an AU-backed court, and should not be forced to resort to the ICC in The Hague.

Some African leaders accuse the ICC of disproportionately targeting Africans. So far it has indicted only Africans, including Muammar Gaddafi's son, Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, and Joseph Kony, the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army, a guerrilla group which used to operate in Uganda. It has also issued a warrant for the arrest of the Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir over alleged genocide and war crimes in Darfur. It has sought the arrest of al-Bashir since 2011, and demanded that Malawi explain its failure to arrest Sudan's president when he visited the country that year. Malawi, where the entire cabinet of President Joyce Banda was sacked last week over a allegations of widespread corruption, said it was not its "business" to arrest al-Bashir.

To date, the only person to have been convicted by the court is Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, the DR Congo warlord who was found guilty of forcibly conscripting child soldiers to fight.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

C African situation desperate, warns EU

14 October 2013/AFP

Central Africa

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and Europe's top aid official flew into the Central African Republic yesterday to push for more global action to prevent the deeply troubled country from imploding.

Fabius later said France will boost its troops presence in the Central African Republic by year-end as part of a forthcoming UN resolution to help prevent the country from spiralling out of control.

"Following UN resolutions, we will increase our support especially in the logistics domain, we will also increase troops, a little at first. This will be done before the end of the year," Fabius said.

"The situation in one word: desperate. What is unique is that the entire population is impacted by the conflict," said Europe's humanitarian aid commissioner Kristalina Georgieva.

The Central African Republic, one of the poorest countries on the planet with a long history of instability, has descended into anarchy since rebels overthrew president Françoise Bozize in March.

"We need to do humanitarian (work) but also restoring the state, because if the state is gone, warlords are going to take over," said Georgieva.

The visit comes just days after the UN Security Council called for a possible UN peacekeeping force for the country to shore up a 1,400-strong African Union mission.

Violence has surged between ex-rebels of the Seleka coalition that led the coup—who are Muslim—and local vigilante groups formed by Christian residents in rural areas.

Seleka leader Michel Djotodia was formally installed as interim president in August to lead an 18-month transition.

He has struggled for months to restore order, and distanced himself from Seleka by disbanding the coalition in September, but it continues to operate as a militia.

As well as deadly fighting, there have been reports of children being forced into rival militias, mass rapes and looting in several towns.

The UN resolution drafted by former colonial power France and approved by the Security Council on Thursday voiced deep concern at the “total breakdown of law and order”.

Some 1.6mn people nationwide—one third of the population—need humanitarian aid and nearly 300,000 are internally displaced or have fled to neighbouring countries, according to UN figures. “There’s an explosive cocktail in Central Africa, and we fear it could become a call to arms for all militant groups in the region,” a French diplomatic source said.

He was referring to the presence of Chadian and Sudanese fighters and members of the Ugandan rebel Lord’s Resistance Army, as well as the possible arrival of Islamist militants chased from Mali or Nigeria.

The Central African Republic, in the heart of equatorial Africa, has a population of about five million, with about 80% Christian and 10% Muslim.

Fabius was welcomed at Bangui airport with singers and musicians waving French flags and a banner appealing to the French president: “Hollande, we want peace.”

He is due to meet Djotodia as well as Prime Minister Nicolas Tiangaye in talks expected to focus on French demands for the respect of the roadmap that launched the 18-month political transition to pave the way for early elections.

France to Send More Troops Into Africa

By REUTERS/October 13, 2013

BANGUI, Central African Republic — France will boost its troop presence in the Central African Republic by the end of the year to help prevent the country from spiraling out of control, the French foreign minister said Sunday.

The Central African Republic has descended into chaos since rebels ousted President François Bozizé in March, the latest coup in a country that remains one of the world’s poorest despite resources that include gold and uranium. Geographically, it sits at the center of what some analysts have called an “arc of insecurity,” from Somalia in East Africa to Mauritania in the west.

France has urged world and regional powers not to ignore the conflict, which has already led to more than 400,000 people being driven from their homes. Last week, the United Nations Security Council unanimously approved a resolution sponsored by France, the nation’s former colonial power, demanding that the weak interim government put in place after rebels took over adhere to previously-negotiated plans to hold elections in early 2015.

The African Union has deployed about 2,500 troops there, but its resources are limited, prompting the Security Council resolution pledging support and potentially turning the operation into a United Nations peacekeeping force.

“We will increase our support, especially in the logistics domain,” said France’s foreign minister, Laurent Fabius. “We will also increase troops, a little at first. This will be done before the end of the year.”

France currently has about 400 troops in Bangui, protecting the airport and French interests. Mr. Fabius did not say how many troops would be added, but some officials said the number could be increased to about 700 or 750.

Mr. Fabius said the dissolution of the rebels, an alliance known as Seleka, must be real and concrete.

“We cannot have armed bands roaming the country,” Mr. Fabius told a news conference in the riverside capital. “We will not let you down.”

Maltese PM seeks joint European action over African migrants

Lizzy Davies in Rome/theguardian.com/ Sunday 13 October 2013

Joseph Muscat said he hoped the two disasters in the Strait of Sicily this month would open up 'new avenues of political will'

Malta's prime minister has called on his fellow European leaders to pull together and prove they are committed to ending migrant boat tragedies in the Mediterranean, warning that "we will be reporting more deaths next year" unless concrete action is taken soon.

Ahead of an EU summit later this month, Joseph Muscat said he hoped the two disasters in the Strait of Sicily this month would open up "new avenues of political will" previously absent from European debate.

Almost 400 people are confirmed to have died in the two incidents, which occurred when overcrowded boats carrying people from conflict-ridden countries in Africa and the Middle East capsized near the Italian island of Lampedusa.

"If nothing changes, we will be reporting more deaths next year and there will be consternation for a couple of days, a couple of headlines, but then we will return to life as usual," Muscat told the Guardian.

"When there was a financial crisis, rightly so, all Europe pulled together and we all forked out our share to make sure that other countries didn't go down," he added. "Right now, we have a humanitarian crisis and I hope that, for Europe, money is not worth more than people's lives."

Last week, when visiting Lampedusa in the aftermath of the 3 October disaster in which more than 350 people died, the president of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso pledged €30m (£25m) of EU funds to help the problem.

But Muscat, a former MEP, said that "throwing money" at the complex issue was not enough. "This

will not be solved by just apportioning some other millions to a programme. There needs to be political will," he said.

Malta and Italy intend to push for concrete steps to be taken to help ease the crisis at the EU summit on 24-25 October.

Among the proposals likely to be made are changes to EU asylum law and collaboration with Libya, from whose coast the majority of boats set sail for the two European countries.

Rome and Valletta are also keen to see greater EU involvement in the patrolling Mediterranean waters which is deemed vital if boats in trouble are to be spotted in time for lives to be saved.

Muscat said: "We're not really what you might call a military superpower. But we find ourselves patrolling the European frontiers. We want to give a more humane dimension to all this, but we need resources ... It's an issue of having a more European approach."

Earlier on Sunday, Muscat visited Libya to meet with prime minister Ali Zeidan, who, said he would call for an inquiry into claims by survivors that the boat that capsized on Friday night had been shot at while leaving the Libyan coast.

Although nearer to Lampedusa than Malta, the boat ran into trouble in international waters where the smaller EU nation has search and rescue responsibilities. A joint Maltese and Italian operation managed to save more than 200 people.

Naufrage: les migrants visés par des tirs à leur départ de Libye
dimanche 13 octobre 2013/rtbf.be

Des réfugiés syriens ont raconté aux ONG et aux médias qu'ils avaient été la cible de coups de feu à leur départ des côtes libyennes, avant le naufrage de leur embarcation au sud de Malte vendredi qui a fait plus de 30 morts.

Selon leurs récits cités par plusieurs journaux italiens dimanche, le bateau qui transportait plusieurs centaines de migrants, surtout des Syriens, était parti jeudi de Zouara (Libye), une localité située à 60 km seulement de la frontière tunisienne.

Certains survivants - plus de 200 sur 270 à 400 passagers -, accueillis à Malte et Lampedusa, ont raconté que leur embarcation avait essuyé des tirs peu après le départ. Le HCR citant des rescapés a parlé de "plusieurs passagers blessés", estimant que les coups de feu venaient "peut-être de miliciens qui tiraient pour tuer".

Molhake Al Roarsan, un Syrien de 22 ans, interrogé à La Valette par La Stampa, assure que "trois jeunes ont été blessés, deux aux bras, un aux jambes", soulevant l'hypothèse que ces tirs étaient liés à un conflit entre des groupes de trafiquants.

Le journal Repubblica a fait état d'informations similaires, affirmant que les coups de feu ont été tirés par un "patrouilleur libyen qui faisait probablement partie d'une autre bande criminelle".

Le capitaine du bateau clandestin, un Tunisien reconnu par des survivants, aurait été arrêté par les autorités maltaises, selon les médias.

Selon les rescapés - en majorité des Syriens mais aussi une trentaine de Palestiniens -, ceux qui étaient partis directement de Zouara devaient payer 1000 dollars. Pour les réfugiés venus d'Egypte, le tarif était au total de 3000 à 4000 dollars.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 14 Octobre 2013... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 14/10/2013