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BURUNDI:

À Demotte au Burundi: « Nous avons encore besoin de vous » mardi 22 octobre 2013/lavenir.net

Rudy Demotte, ministre-président wallon, est au Burundi. Témoignages poignants sur l'importance de l'aide des Wallons pour les femmes.

En visite officielle au Burundi, le ministre-président Demotte a pu se rendre compte, par le biais de témoignages poignants, de l'importance de l'aide wallonne pour les femmes victimes de violence.

Elle le raconte la main sur le cœur et les yeux embués de larmes son calvaire, Élisabeth. À 33 ans, cette Burundaise mère de quatre enfants «marche à nouveau la tête haute». Mais elle dit revenir de très loin. Battue par son mari, elle en a été réduite à fuir avec ses enfants et «à dormir sous les arbres» à Bujumbura, la capitale du Burundi. «J'ai été à bout de force, je n'avais plus d'espoir...»

Heureusement, elle a entendu parler de la Maison des Femmes du Burundi (MFB). Une association qui dépend du gouvernement burundais mais dont le budget de fonctionnement doit beaucoup à la Wallonie et à la Communauté Wallonie Bruxelles: près de 300 000 euros de soutien à elles deux

l'an dernier. «Et je vous assure qu'on continuera à vous soutenir à l'avenir», a promis hier le ministre-président Rudy Demotte en visite officielle de deux jours au bord du lac Tanganyika et qui s'est dit très touché par les témoignages entendus.

Car Élisabeth est loin d'être un cas isolé. La violence faite aux femmes (violences sexuelles le plus souvent) est un véritable fléau au Burundi, explique Jeanne d'Arc Arakaza, conseillère économique à la MFB. «Cela se passe souvent dans le cercle familial, avec le mari ou des proches, dit-elle. Mais les agressions ont aussi parfois lieu en rue, surtout dans les quartiers où il y a de gros problèmes avec l'alcool et la drogue.» Quand ce ne sont pas les militaires ou les policiers qui abusent de leur pouvoir...

Ces femmes battues et violées, sans le sou, rejetées par leur famille et souvent avec plusieurs enfants à charge, trouvent donc une bouée de sauvetage à la MFB: soutien psychologique et nourriture pour elles et leurs enfants d'abord. Notamment via un programme de format ion à l'alimentation des enfants en partenariat avec l'ONE. Mais ensuite, c'est un véritable projet de redémarrage dans la vie qui se construit pour ces femmes avec l'aide de la MFB et les associations locales qui gravitent autour d'elles.

Car la MFB fédère 41 associations de femmes qu'elle soutient en proposant des programmes de formations (notamment en gestion, santé, prévention sanitaire, etc.) et en offrant des microcrédits.

RWANDA:
RDC CONGO:
UGANDA:
SOUTH AFRICA:
South Africa's 'miracle transition' has not put an end to white privilege Azad Essa/theguardian.com/Monday 21 October 2013

An Afrikaner group claims white people are victims of discrimination, but black people continue to bear the brunt of inequality

In his final address to the African National Congress (ANC) in 1997, Nelson Mandela stunned the western world by attacking white privilege – that enduring postcolonial swear word that lays bare the legacy of white entitlement.

It was surprising to many observers, ordinarily accustomed to an affable, reconciliatory Mandela

who appeared intent on banishing race-based politics to the past. But the former South African president was direct when he described the ANC as being weighed down by those "committed to the maintenance of white privilege", and that Afrikaners were "imprisoned by notions of white supremacy and of supposed Afrikaner interests that are separate and opposed to the interests of the rest of the population".

Fast forward 16 years and little appears to have changed.

Just last week, a new working-class, black consciousness party was launched on the pretext of ending of white economic domination. The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), steered by former ANC Youth League leader Julius Malema, seeks to inveigle the working-class vote away from the ANC, pointing out that the ruling party has fallen short of fulfilling its promises to the poor.

And yet the EFF's founding ideologies are contested. Just three days ahead of the launch of the party a small group of Afrikaners took to the streets under the banner of the "Red October" campaign to complain of economic marginalisation and persecution of Afrikaans-speaking white people in South Africa.

While advocates of the Red October campaign speak of "reverse discrimination" instituted by the ANC, the EFF speaks of the need for a radical transformation of the South African economy where white people need to "share the wealth" and "give back stolen land". Red October, however, is based on a fraudulent premise.

Research that delves past the excitable rants of a fringe minority show that white Afrikaners are not being singled out for persecution, economic or otherwise. But there is something more disturbing about this campaign. The organisers purposefully prey on an archaic, racist fear of the black majority – incidentally, the original basis of apartheid.

Yes, many white South Africans, liberal, rational and generous, were quick to distance themselves from the flawed campaign and concede their "embarrassment" at the claims of "white genocide" and "persecution".

But even these condemnations of Red October neglect to sufficiently interrogate the sophisticated and popular perceptions of the juggernaut of "white privilege".

White South Africans also suffer class distinctions, which are often overlooked. There is no complexity expressed in the feverish discussions of white privilege that periodically grips South Africa's chattering class.

Worse still, commentators, in all their benevolence, have been even less forthcoming about how their wealth should actually be divided. Of course, white liberals would be ill-disposed to give up their "hard-won" comforts.

The twin launches of Malema's EFF and the Red October campaign then are serendipitous in the larger story of the ignored history of post-apartheid South Africa.

For the majority of black people who have lived under colonial rule for the best part of almost 400 years, five decades of which were under the guise of institutionalised racism, or apartheid, white privilege is still the barbed wire fence they must scale. Today, South Africa has the world's highest level of income inequality. And it is the black majority that still teeters precariously, at the bottom end of the scale. Ten per cent of the population controls 80% of the land.

The farce of South Africa's "miracle transition" is fast unravelling. The ANC is no longer the vanguard of the revolution; the beloved party has been caught on the frontline of the protection of white interests. And yes, despite the cold, hard facts of socioeconomic inequality, South Africa is subject to conflicting narratives. A non-racial South Africa simply cannot exist if 9% of one racial group earn six times more than the majority.

Even if there are select black people and people of Indian descent within the much-feted new middle class, it is white South Africans who must now stop pretending to be interested in transforming the economy towards a more equitable and sustainable distribution of wealth. The time of hiding behind the parochial economic policies of the ANC – once designed, in part, not to scare off white people – has long passed.

SAA sets sights on West Africa expansion

by Nicky Smith/bdlive.co.za/21 octobre 2013

SOUTH African Airways (SAA) is gearing up to establish a hub in West Africa in two years' time and is exploring opportunities to help build airline capacity for the Nigerian government.

CEO Monwabisi Kalawe, who started at the airline on June 1, has moved fast to firm up a way forward for SAA, for whom establishing a hub in West Africa has long been a strategic goal.

Boosting connectivity between south and west will lift intra-regional trade and shore up SAA's share of the African market which has attracted interest from the wealthy, aggressive Gulf carriers.

Air connectivity in West Africa is weak and it is still the norm for those flying to a neighbouring country to have to fly through Europe because of vast under-investment in the sector. Airline Association of Southern Africa CEO Chris Zweigenthal says aviation is being held back by ill-considered protectionist policies.

Establishing a hub in the region would potentially give SAA access to the more than 300 million people in the 15-member Economic Community of West African States. The hub model allows an airline to have its own support services at an airport and serves as a transfer point for passengers where direct services are not available.

Mr Kalawe told Business Day that SAA was reviewing the suitability of at least five African countries — Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Gabon and Togo — for a new base. Feasibility studies should be concluded in six to 12 months.

SAA's latest turnaround strategy identifies Africa as its major strategic focus. "There is an intense focus on taking advantage of the African opportunity for all key areas: passengers, cargo and technical services," he said.

"We are investigating setting up a hub for cargo and passengers in West Africa. There is a lot of movement between West Africa and the US; West Africa and Asia. There are also a lot of people who want to come to Southern Africa ... and now they have to go through Europe first," he said.

Mr Kalawe said SAA would be working with Air Traffic Navigation Services and Airports Company SA in the coming months to identify overlapping projects between the three state-owned groups that are focused on extending the reach of their services into Africa, as part of identifying the best location for a hub.

Commenting on the "Nigerian n ational c arrier" project, Mr Kalawe said SAA had been approached "by a group of Nigerians ... a government group. They would like us to explore working together in Nigeria," he said.

These discussions had been handed over to the departments of international relations and cooperation and public enterprises, Mr Kalawe said.

Nigerian national carrier Nigeria Airways collapsed in 2003. According to reports in recent months, a number of Nigeria's leaders have been talking about the creation of a new carrier, Nigeria One.

Mr Kalawe has moved to bring stability to SAA and staunch losses at its subsidiaries.

Loss-making catering unit Air Chefs will soon have a new CEO after Alison Crooks and SAA reached a confidential "consensual termination" agreement, Mr Kalawe said.

At struggling SAA Technical, Mr Kalawe has suspended chief financial officer Sikhumbuzo Zulu. A disciplinary process was under way, Mr Kalawe said.

SAA is still awaiting a much-needed capital injection to restructure its debt-crippled balance sheet. The airline is surviving on a R5bn guarantee from the Treasury.

The tabling of the airline's financial statements has been delayed for a second year as the Department of Public Enterprises has had to ask the Treasury to extend the guarantee beyond the initial two-year period.

The turnaround strategy plots a 20-year journey for the airline and sets the scene for the integration of all of the state's aviation assets under a single holding structure.

The plan has many moving parts and includes the rationalisation of the long-haul routes — all of which are loss-making — new partnerships through code share agreements, and a wide-body fleet renewal.

Africa: South African Archbishop Condemns Anti-LGBTI Violence - Statement in Video Challenges African Leaders

21 October 2013/Human Rights Watch (Washington, DC)/allafrica.com

press release

Banjul — Southern Africa's Anglican archbishop calls for an end to violence and discrimination on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, in a video Human Rights Watch released today.

The remarks by the Most Revd Dr. Thabo Makgoba, Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town and Metropolitan of Southern Africa, challenge arguments put forward by several African governments that culture, tradition, and religion justify the marginalization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people.

"Don't fear," Archbishop Makgoba says in his message. "You've been given this task of helping the rest of humanity to realize that we are called to respect and we are called to honor each other. People may come and say this is un-African, and I'm saying love cuts across culture."

Human Rights Watch interviewed the archbishop for the video as part of an effort to highlight supportive voices for the LGBTI movement in Africa.

Makgoba's statement reinforces the persistent efforts of his predecessor, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu, to combat homophobia and transphobia in Africa and around the world, Human Rights Watch said.

Tutu has spoken out against a number of laws and practices that violate the rights of LGBTI people, including Uganda's proposed Anti-Homosexuality Bill and Burundi's criminalization of same-sex conduct in 2009.

"When you violate somebody on the basis of difference you're not only violating them but you are demeaning yourself," Makgoba says in the video. He exhorts leaders to take up their "moral responsibility to stop the violence against people who are different."

Makgoba's statement was released amid high levels of violence against LGBTI people in Africa. In Cameroon, Eric Ohena Lembembe, a gay activist, was murdered in July 2013, but government officials have refused to acknowledge that his murder might be a hate crime. In South Africa, lesbian and bisexual women and non-gender-conforming people face endemic rape and assault; the killing of Duduzile Zozo in July is the most recently reported example of such targeted violence.

"Archbishop Makgoba's statement should serve as a call to national, religious, and cultural leaders across Africa who support the rights of LGBTI people to speak out publicly," said Graeme Reid, LGBT Rights director. "And the archbishop's message of respect for everyone's rights should challenge leaders who have opposed the rights of LGBTI people to reconsider their positions."

TANZANIA:

Tanzania wants China to refurbish Tazara railway

By Prof. Dr. Wolfgang H. Thome, eTN Africa Correspondent /eturbonews.com/Oct 21, 2013

The railway link between Dar es Salaam and Lusaka, which was established in the early- to mid-1970s, then financed and built by the Chinese government, has for long been ailing as a result of poor maintenance and management problems. The line, which is over 1,860 kilometers long, covers some of Africa's most challenging terrain but it was the lack of rolling stock and locomotives combined with regular line outages which have reduced the initial cargo volumes considerably in recent years, causing Zambia to increasingly use their rail links with South Africa to have reliable access to a deep sea port. The government-owned Chinese Civil Engineering Construction Corporation has now reportedly offered to refurbish the line, in phases, when meeting the Tanzanian Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda during a recent visit to Beijing.

A first section due for overhaul, once the two governments have agreed and signed the relevant agreements, will be the stretch from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro before thereafter the second section from Morogoro to Dodoma will be tackled. The TAZARA Railways is operating both cargo and passenger trains and has in the early years after the launch in 1976 provided a crucial link between Zambia and Tanzania, giving the former access to the Indian Ocean for exports and imports alike while for Tanzania it provided a vital domestic transport axis across the entire country to the border with Zambia.

KENYA:

Westgate attack: Kenya CCTV 'shows soldiers looting'

21 October 2013/bbc.co.uk

Security camera footage has emerged which appears to show Kenyan security forces looting goods during last month's siege of the Westgate mall.

In the footage, some Kenyan soldiers can be seen carrying white shopping bags, while others appear to take white boxes from a mobile phone store.

At least 67 people died when suspected al-Shabab militants stormed the Nairobi shopping centre on 21 September.

The Kenyan military says it is investigating the looting allegations.

News agencies say the CCTV footage is taken inside the entrance to the Westgate mall's Nakumatt supermarket, which sells everything from food to televisions.

In one section of footage, several soldiers are seen walking out of the supermarket, past a blood-spattered floor, carrying plastic carrier bags.

In another clip, Kenyan soldiers can be seen next to a mobile phone outlet.

One reaches over the counter, and apparently removes a white item.

Then more soldiers remove white items, which the Reuters news agency describes as mobile phone boxes.

The Westgate attack sparked a four-day siege in which large parts of the shopping centre were destroyed.

Fourth body found

The Kenyan military says it has launched an investigation into the looting allegations, which correspondents say will have angered many Kenyans.

At the weekend, Kenya's biggest-selling newspaper, The Nation, ran an article entitled "Shame of soldiers looting Westgate".

The footage of the alleged looting emerged as the Kenyan authorities announced they had recovered the body of what they consider to be a fourth attacker.

"Today, Sunday 20 October 2013, we recovered a fourth body, which we know from CCTV footage to be that of a terrorist," said the Kenyan interior minister, Joseph Ole Lenku.

"DNA and other investigations will confirm their identities. We have also recovered four AK47 assault rifles which we know were used by the terrorists in the assault. We also recovered 11 magazines of AK47 assault rifles."

Officials had initially said 10 to 15 gunmen were involved, but CCTV footage appears to show only four militants.

It is still not clear whether some of the attackers might have escaped.

The Somali militant group al-Shabab said its members staged the attack in response to Kenya's army carrying out operations on Somali territory.

Last week, the BBC's Newsnight programme revealed that one of the suspected attackers was believed to be a 23-year-old Somalia-born Norwegian national, Hassan Abdi Dhuhulow.

His family fled to Norway in the 1990s, but he returned to Somalia in 2009 and allegedly joined the Somali militant group.

Sources in al-Shabab have told the BBC Somali Service that Dhuhulow attended a training camp in El Bur in central Somalia, one of the militants' main bases.

The sources said Dhuhulow took part in many al-Shabab operations in Mogadishu and Kismayo and was well-known in jihadist circles.

ANGOLA:

AU/AFRICA:

Herpes Study Confirms That Human Migration Spread Out From Africa By Eric Brown/ibtimes.com/on October 21 2013

A new study of the herpes virus has confirmed widely held beliefs about human migration.

The study, published in PLOS One, examined strains of herpes simplex virus type 1 collected throughout North America, Europe, Africa and Asia in order to gain insight on early human migration patterns. After examining the virus' genome, researchers found ample evidence for the popular "out of Africa" model of human migration, which states that early humans first emerged on the continent before spreading out in disparate groups across the globe.

"The viral strains sort exactly as you would predict based on sequencing of human genomes. We found that all of the African isolates cluster together, all the virus from the Far East, Korea, Japan, China clustered together, all the viruses in Europe and America, with one exception, clustered together," Curtis Brandt, professor of medical microbiology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and senior author of the study, said in a statement.

"What we found follows exactly what the anthropologists have told us, and the molecular geneticists who have analyzed the human genome have told us, about where humans originated and how they spread across the planet."

Using high-capacity genetic sequencing, University of Wisconsin-Madison scientists were able to

develop a "family tree" for the virus, emerging in Africa, bottlenecking in the Middle East and ultimately spreading to Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Researchers say the HSV 1 strain was the perfect virus to work with for numerous reasons. The virus is rarely fatal and sticks with hosts for life, and because it is spread through close contact like kissing, the same strains normally run in families. It is also much smaller and simpler to work with than the full human genome, but still large enough to provide meaningful data.

"You can think of this as a kind of external genome," Brandt said.

Interestingly, the study also offers some evidence for the theory that Native Americans are descended from Asian peoples who crossed a land bridge from far eastern Siberia into the Americas thousands of years ago. Every virus sample collected in the United States matched European strains, except for one Texas-based stain that bore strong resemblances to Asian strains. Brandt says that this is likely due to immigration across a Bering Strait land bridge more than 15,000 years ago.

"We found support for the land bridge hypothesis because the date of divergence from its most recent Asian ancestor was about 15,000 years ago," Brandt says. "The dates match, so we postulate that this was an Amerindian virus."

Egypt Christians mourn after wedding party shooting Girish Gupa, Special for USA TODAY/October 21, 2013

Thousands of Christians turned out for the funerals of four members of a family gunned down as they waited outside a Coptic church for a wedding.

CAIRO — Thousands of Christians turned out for the funerals of four members of a family gunned down as they waited outside a Coptic church for a wedding, in what the Christians said was the latest murder by Muslim terrorists.

Fahmy Azer Abboud, 75, sat Monday in the Church of the Virgin Mary, where gunmen the night before fired on a family wedding party with automatic weapons. His son, his wife's sister and two granddaughters, ages 8 and 12, were killed.

"They were pure angels," he said of his granddaughters, both named Mariam. "They had the world's kindness inside them. They helped me and shared with me everything they had."

The shooting has worsened the panic among Egypt's minority Coptic Christians, who have been discriminated against for centuries by the Muslim majority. The Christians say things got worse under the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist group that was ousted from the government in July by the Egyptian military.

The Coptic Orthodox Church is one of Christianity's earliest branches and it predates the creation of the Muslim faith by centuries.

Since the ouster, attacks on Christians have risen even more against Christians, who are 10% of the country's 80-million people. The Coptics say they're blamed for the overthrow of Muslim Brotherhood President Mohammed Morsi and dozens of their churches have been attacked since the ouster.

According to eyewitnesses of Sunday's killings, masked gunmen rode motorcycles past the church

in the working-class district of Warraq around 9 p.m., just as three weddings were taking place.

"I came down to find the church hall a sea of blood," said Father Elia Labib, who was to preside over one of the weddings.

"This was clearly planned," said Labib, who added that Sunday is the most popular day for weddings at the church, meaning many revelers would be waiting and could be easily targeted.

Mourners on Monday carried large crosses into the church for the funeral. A light green chair stained with blood still sat at the building's entrance, a bullet hole in the back. Abboud's sister-in-law was in the chair when shot.

Mourners rushed inside the church as the four coffins were carried in.

"Justice or to die like them," yelled mourners as the funeral came to an end. "Raise your head, you're Coptic."

Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi condemned the attack.

"These terrible acts will not succeed in sowing divisions between Muslims and Christians," he said.

The Muslim Brotherhood as well as the top cleric at the Al-Azhar mosque, the world's highest seat of Sunni Islamic learning, also condemned the violence though Christians doubt their sincerity.

Fighting between supporters of Morsi and security forces is taking place daily in Cairo. Bird shot and tear gas were fired at hundreds of protesters at the Al-Azhar university on Sunday while more than 50 people, primarily supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood, were killed in clashes in Cairo on Oct. 6.

Coptic leader Pope Tawadros II has publicly supported Morsi's overthrow and appeared alongside Defense Minister Abdel-Fatah el-Sissi, who led the coup, when it was announced.

On Aug. 14, hundreds of pro-Morsi protesters were killed by security forces as they staged sit-ins across Cairo. More than a thousand have been killed since the coup in July. No one has claimed responsibility for the latest attack.

Since August's crackdown, Amnesty International says more than 40 churches have been seriously damaged, putting blame on security forces for failing to stop what it called "revenge attacks."

Coptic leaders say the attacks are the worst in centuries.

"In the last few months, we've seen many more demonstrations by the Muslim Brotherhood outside the Church," said Father Bishay Lotfy, a priest.

While the current military leaders of Egypt have jailed many Muslim Brotherhood leaders, Lofty says the government is doing little to protect Coptics.

"Only God can protect us, not the government."

"It's God's will. They are always beating us down. Every other day now, they do this," Abboud said.

UN/AFRICA:		
US/AFRICA:		
CANADA/AFRICA :		
AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :		
EU/AFRICA:		

Une cérémonie officielle a rendu hommage aux naufragés de Lampedusa 21.10.2013 /rts.ch

Une cérémonie officielle en hommage aux 366 victimes du naufrage du 3 octobre au large de l'île italienne de Lampedusa s'est tenue lundi en Sicile, en l'absence des survivants.

Une cérémonie multiconfessionnelle s'est déroulée lundi durant une heure sur le quai San Leone d'Agrigente (Sicile), en présence des ministres italiens de l'Intérieur, de l'Intégration et de la Défense.

Venus en bus, des centaines d'Erythréens vivant en Italie et en Europe étaient présents, alors que plusieurs dizaines des 155 survivants du naufrage, en majorité érythréens et hébergés dans un centre d'accueil à Lampedusa, n'ont pas pu s'y rendre.

Ces migrants avaient tenu un sit-in dans la matinée à Lampedusa afin de demander à participer à la cérémonie, une délégation avait même été reçue à l'hôtel de ville, mais en vain. Dans l'après-midi, ces réfugiés ont jeté à la mer des couronnes de fleurs depuis les côtes de Lampedusa. Ministre de l'Intérieur pris à partie

A l'issue de la commémoration, le ministre de l'Intérieur Angelino Alfano a été contraint par la sécurité de quitter les lieux tandis que fusaient à son encontre des "assassins, assassins" jetés par quelques participants.

Depuis Rome, où elle devait rencontrer le président Giorgio Napolitano, la maire de Lampedusa Giusi Nicolini, qui avait annoncé qu'elle boycotterait la cérémonie, a souhaité que la journée du 3 octobre soit consacrée au "souvenir de tous les migrants morts en mer en voulant traverser la Méditerranée".

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CHINA/AFRICA:
INDIA/AFRICA:
BRAZIL/AFRICA:
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