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South Africa demands apology over U.S. detention of ex-official  
October 28, 2013/robyn.dixon@latimes.com

Former ANC freedom fighter and millionaire Tokyo Sexwale was detained because he was on America's terrorism watch list.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The ruling African National Congress of South Africa demanded an apology Monday after U.S. officials detained and questioned a South African businessman and former government minister in New York last week.

In an embarrassing hangover from the apartheid era, former freedom fighter Tokyo Sexwale was detained because he was on America's terrorism watch list.

The names of some anti-apartheid activists who opposed the racist system before South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994 reportedly remain on the U.S. terrorism watch list. The U.S. didn't remove former President Nelson Mandela from the list until 2008, years after he retired from public life.

Mandela and other ANC leaders were designated "terrorists" during their struggle against apartheid. Sexwale, like Mandela, was part of the ANC's armed wing and served time as a political prisoner on Robben Island.

Sexwale, one of South African's richest men, has interests in mining and energy. In 2011, Forbes listed him among 10 African "millionaires to watch."

The ANC reacted with outrage at his detention and called for an unconditional apology.

"Comrade Tokyo Sexwale is a former minister of a democratic Republic of South Africa, a decorated freedom fighter, activist and leader of our liberation movement, not a terrorist," the party said in a statement Monday. "The very fact that the government of America continues to view members and leaders of the African National Congress as terrorists is an affront to the global anti-apartheid movement," the statement said, adding that current President Jacob Zuma was also an ANC freedom fighter during the anti-apartheid struggle.

ANC members were designated as terrorists by the apartheid government and were barred from entry to the U.S. without special permission from the State Department.

In 2008, then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice expressed her embarrassment that she had to provide special permission for Mandela to visit the United States. Later that year, the U.S. Congress passed legislation authorizing that rules rendering visitors "inadmissible due to terrorist or criminal activities would not apply with respect to activities undertaken in association with the African National Congress in opposition to apartheid rule in South Africa."

There was no State Department response to the ANC call for an apology. An email from a department official did not address whether any other senior ANC members remained on the watch list or whether there were plans to remove any ANC officials who remained on the list.

Trent Duffy, a spokesman for the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center, which administers the federal government's no-fly lists, said he was "prohibited by law from commenting on individual cases as the watch list is classified."

Ebrahim Rasool, South Africa's ambassador to the U.S., told SABC news that he intervened with the State Department to ensure Sexwale was swiftly released. The businessman returned to South Africa.

The ambassador said the State Department assured him that Sexwale would not face embarrassment in future.

Rasool said the State Department had an override mechanism to prevent the detention of South African government officials traveling to the U.S., but in Sexwale's case the mechanism lapsed when he ceased to be a government minister.

Sexwale was housing and human settlements minister, but was a leading figure in a party faction that last year opposed Zuma's reelection as party leader. Zuma retained the party presidency and soon afterward Sexwale was dumped from the Cabinet.

South African media reported that Sexwale was considering court action to force the U.S. to remove the names of former freedom fighters from the terrorism watch list.

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### South Africa G4S prison staff accused of abuse

28 October 2013/bbc.co.uk

Staff at one of South Africa's most dangerous prisons, run by British firm G4S, have been accused of "shocking" abuses and of losing control.

The South African government has temporarily taken over the running of Mangaung prison from G4S and launched an official investigation.

It comes after inmates claimed they had been subjected to electric shocks and forced injections.

G4S says it is investigating the allegations.

Andrew Harding's report contains disturbing leaked footage from inside the prison.

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

AU/AFRICA :

### Africa: AU, Partners to Discuss Africa's Peace and Security

By Peter Clotney/Voice of America (Washington, DC)/allafrica.com/28 October 2013

A spokesman for the African Union (AU) says high ranking officials from the group will meet in the Ivory Coast's commercial capital, Abidjan Tuesday to promote security and stability on the

continent.

"The whole idea is to bridge the divide between the policy makers and the practitioners," said AU spokesman El-Ghassim Wane. "It is also to facilitate coordination [and] harmonization among special envoys among officials working on the same issues on the African continent, and it provides the platform for outreach for AU's efforts on peace and security on the continent."

Also attending the meeting will be the leadership of regional economic communities, the United Nations, Arab League, European Union and member of bilateral partners, academic researchers and representatives of civil society.

"A number of stakeholders are involved in peace efforts on the African continent, and when efforts are not appropriately coordinated their impact is of course weakened," said Wane. "Secondly, it is to ensure that AU's efforts and those of our partners ... are better known to the larger African public. It is also to trigger a debate among Africa civil society groups, researchers and other stakeholders on what the AU is doing right and wrong, so we can learn from our mistakes."

Some analysts have accused the AU of not being proactive and of failing to resolve the many conflicts that keep plaguing the continent.

Wane acknowledged the continental body faces security challenges, but added that significant efforts and measures have been implemented to resolve conflict.

"We have made tremendous progress over the past decade... . We have moved forward recently in Mali, we have moved forward between Sudan and South Sudan and we have made progress in Somalia," said Wane. "We need to enhance our efforts; we need to review at times some of our action[s] to make them far more effective than they have been."

He also acknowledged the challenges the AU faces from armed insurgents and terrorists in some of its member states including Libya, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"As much as we have made tremendous progress, we are also mindful of the challenges ahead. Our objective of the meeting is to end all conflicts on this continent by the year 2020," said Wane. "We are working hard towards it and hopefully, we will achieve our target."

Abyei referendum controversy

Meanwhile the African Union has sharply condemned the "unilateral referendum" conducted by the Dinka Ngok group in the disputed, but oil-rich Abyei.

"Any unilateral action is dangerous, irresponsible and can of course reverse the progress we have made. And it is within that context that we strongly condemn, the so-called referendum organized by the leadership of the Dinka Ngok community in Abyei," said Wane.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

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