



[The African Union demanded that the Security Council vote Friday to shelve the International Criminal Court trial of Kenya's president on crimes against humanity charges for a year. Diplomats say the draft resolution asking for the delay appears doomed, with only seven of the 15 council members known to be supporting it. It would need nine votes to pass, and even then it could be vetoed by strong ICC supporters Britain or France. The United States has not joined the court, but generally supports its goals and case work.]

#### BURUNDI :

**Miremont. 90 personnes au repas pour les enfants du burundi**  
15/11/2013/ladepeche.fr

Le repas africain organisé par L'association miremontaise «Action pour les Enfants de Bubanza au Burundi» a réuni 90 personnes autour de plats traditionnels. Cette année, l'ambiance était également de la partie, avec tout au long de la soirée des danses traditionnelles rwandaises et burundaises très appréciées du public. Les bénéfices de ce repas vont permettre de reverser des fonds à une association relais sur place afin d'acheter les livres et le matériel scolaire nécessaires à une année d'école pour les 5500 enfants (5200 en 2012) scolarisés dans les orphelinats de Bubanza au Burundi.

#### RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

### **'God Loves Uganda' connects missionaries, climate of hate**

By Michael O'Sullivan/The Washington Post/seattletimes.com/Thursday, November 14, 2013

A three-star review of "God Loves Uganda," a look at the American evangelical movement in Africa.

You'd never guess the subject matter of "God Loves Uganda" from its innocuous-sounding title. Although the documentary begins as an examination of the work of American Christian missionaries in Uganda, it methodically, and in almost roundabout fashion, circles ever closer to its true target, which is the anti-homosexuality bill currently being considered by the Ugandan parliament. The most controversial feature is a proposed death penalty for so-called repeat offenders.

Just as alarming is the connection that the film draws between the brand of conservative Christianity being imported into the country and this legislative attempt to institutionalize barbarism. One Ugandan pastor, Robert Kayanja, compares homosexual activity to murder. Another, the U.S.-educated Martin Ssempe, is shown delivering a fiery anti-gay sermon in which he presents graphic images of coprophilia, as if that behavior, along with child molestation, were the norm of gay sex.

The film by director Roger Ross Williams, who won an Oscar for his 2010 short "Music by Prudence," proceeds largely without narration. The Rev. Kapyia Kaoma, a Zambian priest and Ugandan gay-rights researcher who fled to Boston because he feared for his life, sets up the film's central premise: that however well-intentioned, the American Christian missionaries in Uganda have facilitated a climate of hate.

To be fair, most of the young, beaming, well-scrubbed missionaries shown in the film do not say anything terribly inflammatory, though nearly all condemn the sinfulness of homosexual activity. A few, however, go off the deep end.

"God Loves Uganda" starts slowly. And because it avoids the type of facts and figures that one typically sees in documentaries, it's hard to tell the exact state of things in Uganda.

Whatever the state of homophobia in Uganda — which Kaoma likens to an incipient wildfire — "God Loves Uganda" clearly lays the blame for it at the feet of the American evangelical movement. The movie doesn't really argue its case, preferring to stand back as the representatives of that movement are shown with the match in their hands.

### **Gay Ugandan Activists Arrested, Detained Without Charge**

November 14 2013/advocate.com/BY Sunnivia Brydum

A prominent LGBT activist in Uganda has been arrested and detained for more than 48 hours

without being informed of the charges against him.

A prominent LGBT advocate in Uganda has been arrested, jailed since Tuesday, and three times had his home raided — all without being informed of the charges against him. At least four other LGBT advocates have been arrested with him, according to reports from Ugandan activists. Police have refused to confirm under what, if any, crimes the activists are suspected of committing.

Samuel K. Ganafa is the executive director of Spectrum Uganda and the board chairman for Sexual Minorities Uganda, two of the most prominent LGBT rights organizations in the East African nation, where homosexuality is illegal.

On Tuesday, Ganafa responded to a phone call from Kampala police asking him to come to the Kasangati station on the outskirts of the city, where he was immediately arrested. According to a press release from SMUG, Ganafa was then loaded into a police van and driven back to his home, where police twice raided his property without presenting a search warrant or providing a reason for his arrest. During the unwarranted search, Ugandan police arrested three houseguests who were staying with Ganafa. All four are still in police custody, though none have been formally charged. Uganda's constitution stipulates that those accused of a crime and detained must be brought before a court within 48 hours — a threshold that has already been crossed.

SMUG reports that Ganafa was also subjected to an HIV test without his consent or a court order demanding such a test.

On Wednesday, SMUG learned that a man named Disan Twesiga had filed a complaint alleging that Ganafa infected him with HIV — and today, Twesiga hosted a press conference at the Kasangati police station, attended by most of the nation's major media outlets. Police "paraded" Ganafa before the press, despite the fact that he has not been charged with or found guilty of a crime and should therefore legally be presumed innocent, notes SMUG.

Police ignored repeated media requests to explain the charges against Ganafa, though Ganafa himself told local reporters he was being charged with sodomy. LGBT advocates in Uganda report that local media is portraying Ganafa as "a sodomy rapist who infected someone with HIV/AIDS." When reporters asked police for medical proof of these allegations, police could not produce any such evidence.

"He is being targeted because the propagandists are looking for someone in the movement with a high profile and he suits that," Kasha Jaqueline, a Ugandan lesbian and LGBT activist who is currently in Stockholm, tells The Advocate. "The accuser has changed his statements over and over, and on the news he said that he was advised by his pastor. Now we know the invisible power to this absurd scenario."

Jacqueline suspects that Ganafa was targeted for his quiet but long-standing and consistent support of Uganda's embattled lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex community. She says Ganafa has readily opened his home to Uganda's persecuted LGBTI citizens — and that's why anti-LGBT bigots have targeted him.

"Sam is one of the most honest, gentle, caring, and intelligent people this movement has ever seen," says Jacqueline, who has been involved with Uganda's LGBTI movement since the late '90s. "It's because of his generosity that he is now a victim of a blackmail scam. It's very unfortunate because Sam has been there for every one of the elders of this community. Many in the world didn't even know he existed, and may be shocked to read his name, but Sam is one of the backbones of this movement. It's heartbreaking that now his life has been destroyed for simply being a good

man."

Spectrum Uganda, SMUG, and the Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law are following the case and have called for the immediate release of all those arrested in connection with Ganafa, unless the accused are presented before a court immediately. The pro-LGBT coalition notes that Ganafa's arrest is not an isolated incident, but rather the latest in a long-running campaign that targets and intimidates LGBTI people in Uganda.

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

**Africans demand UN delay Kenya leader's trial**

By PETER JAMES SPIELMANN/Associated Press/ Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013

UNITED NATIONS UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The African Union demanded that the Security Council vote Friday to shelve the International Criminal Court trial of Kenya's president on crimes against humanity charges for a year.

Diplomats say the draft resolution asking for the delay appears doomed, with only seven of the 15 council members known to be supporting it. It would need nine votes to pass, and even then it could be vetoed by strong ICC supporters Britain or France.

The United States has not joined the court, but generally supports its goals and case work.

The African Union says the trial delay would give Kenya time to beef up counterterrorism efforts. Pressure for a deferral has intensified following September's deadly terror attack by militants on a Nairobi mall that killed 67 people, which underscored Kenya's strategic importance.

The Hague-based International Criminal Court charged Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto with crimes against humanity for their alleged roles in postelection violence that left more than 1,000 people dead in late 2007 and early 2008.

Kenyatta also is accused of responsibility for rape and other inhumane acts carried out by a criminal gang known as the Mungiki, which were allegedly under his control.

Kenyatta — who was elected president earlier this year, despite his indictment — insists he is innocent, as does Ruto, whose trial is already underway.

Last month, the International Criminal Court delayed Kenyatta's trial from mid-November until

Feb. 5, but the African Union said that's not enough time and stepped up pressure for a one-year deferral.

Kenyatta has successfully rallied leaders across Africa to denounce the International Criminal Court as an institution that unfairly targets Africans. All of the court's eight current cases involve Africa, but four of them were requested or referred by African nations themselves.

Only the Security Council can ask for a delay on the grounds of a threat to international peace and security, under the Rome Statute treaty that founded the International Criminal Court.

Amnesty International is urging the council to vote against a deferral, saying victims of Kenya's 2007-2008 postelection violence have waited too long for justice.

"It would be a shame if Security Council members prioritized the personal interests of political leaders over those of victims of crimes against humanity," said Tawanda Hondora, deputy director of law and policy at Amnesty International.

Kenyans in recent months have watched televised ICC proceedings against Ruto, who also faces charges for his alleged role in directing postelection violence.

A new poll released Thursday that found that 67 percent of 2,060 Kenyans surveyed think President Uhuru Kenyatta should attend his trial at the International Criminal Court. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.2 percentage points.

ANGOLA :

Angola 'investment drive is secure'

by Colin McClelland/Bloomberg/novembre 15 2013

LUANDA — Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos's reiteration of comments that he is beginning to consider stepping down will not affect the country's drive for investment, analysts including Mike Davies of Kigoda Consulting said.

The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), which has ruled the country since independence from Portugal in 1975, is considering his succession plans, the president said in an interview with a Brazilian television station, state-run Jornal de Angola reported on Thursday. President dos Santos gave no date or party timetable for selecting its next leader, or who that might be.

The head of Angola's \$5bn sovereign wealth fund (FSDEA) José Filomeno dos Santos said on Tuesday his appointment by his father, President dos Santos, was not part of a campaign to groom him for the presidency, as has been speculated.

José Filomeno dos Santos, who was appointed to head the fund's board in June, said he had long been in the financial sector, dismissing speculation that his 71-year-old father might try to forge a dynasty in Africa's second-biggest oil producer.

"This has in no way anything to do with a political campaign of any kind.

"In my career I have been in the financial sector most of the time, in insurance and banking, doing similar investment assessments to the ones that we are doing," he said.

His father, who has been in power for 34 years and secured another five-year term last year, has long kept everyone guessing about his political plans. In an interview with Brazil's TV Band last month, President dos Santos signalled he was preparing a succession, saying his MPLA party was discussing a transition of power internally. He did not name a chosen successor.

Many observers see vice-president Manuel Vicente as the favourite candidate, but some analysts say the president's eldest son, who has no direct political experience, could be an alternative. "It's likely that Dos Santos will continue to play an important role in politics in the short term," Mr Davies said.

"There's unlikely to be a radical shift in the investment environment under his successor."

The \$114bn economy of Angola, Africa's largest crude oil producer after Nigeria, will probably expand 5.1% this year, Mr dos Santos said in a speech last month. Companies such as Chevron, Exxon Mobil and Total helped to pump 1.71-million barrels a day of crude last month. The country is also seeking investment in industries ranging from sugar to egg production.

Carolina Fortes, a spokeswoman for the MPLA in Luanda, did not answer repeated calls to her cellphone seeking comment. Mario Jorge, a spokesman for the president, referred queries to Ms Fortes.

The president justified his 34 years in power in the interview by saying the 27-year civil war that lasted until 2002 prevented democracy and the consolidation of state institutions.

The remarks, which expand on an answer given to Portugal's SIC television in June, come after police cracked down on protests by young urban dwellers against the MPLA's re-election in August this year.

The constitution could see dos Santos remain in power until 2022 if the party wins the next national vote due in 2017.

"Dos Santos's close associates have a controlling stake in much of the Angolan economy, and investors will want to see that the transition is managed in such a way that control of the economy remains in the same hands," said Justin Pearce, a teaching fellow at the University of Cambridge in England.

"This will not answer the growing clamour within Angolan society for a more profound process of democratisation and an end to the current endemic cronyism."

Angola ranks 157th out of 176 countries on Transparency International's 2012 corruption perceptions index.

Foreign investment this year in Angolan industries excluding oil was \$1.9bn by end-September, compared with \$2.3bn for all of last year, Maria Luisa Abrantes, chairwoman of the National Private Investment Agency, said last month.

An estimated \$20bn a year is invested in petroleum exploration and production in Angola, according to London-based GlobalData and Oilfield Support Angola of Luanda.

Bloomberg

AU/AFRICA :

Africa News Round Up, November, Friday 15, 2013

November 15, 2013/independent.co.ug/by Administrator

In Kenya, a group of 20 victims of post-election violence that rocked Kenya almost six years ago have withdrawn from the International Criminal Court case against Vice President William Ruto, Aljazeera reports.

Citing its own judges, the Hague-based court said on Thursday that the group told their lawyer “that they no longer wish to continue participating in the present proceedings”.

The judges added: “The decision to withdraw could have been motivated by a range of factors including security concerns.”

The court’s confirmation comes after it received a letter in early June by 93 victims who allegedly said they wanted to stop participation in the two Kenyan cases before the ICC.

The victims’ withdrawal came as a new poll found that a majority of Kenyans want the ICC to try their president for alleged crimes against humanity.

The poll, released on Thursday, found that 67 percent of 2,060 Kenyans surveyed think Kenyatta should attend his trial at the ICC.

Kenyatta has successfully rallied leaders across Africa to denounce the ICC as an institution that unfairly targets Africans.

Last month the continental body, the African Union, said the ICC should delay Kenyatta’s trial, in part because Kenya faces increased security challenges after September’s siege on Nairobi’s Westgate Mall that killed 67 people.

In Saudi Arabia, about 23,000 Ethiopians have surrendered to authorities since a clampdown on illegal migrant workers began in the oil-rich kingdom last week, BBC reports.

Some of them have already been repatriated, with the first group arriving in Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa, on Wednesday, reports from Ethiopia say.

The clampdown has led to clashes in the capital, Riyadh, with at least five people killed.

Saudi authorities say they are trying to reduce the 12% unemployment rate among native Saudis.

An estimated nine million migrant workers are in Saudi Arabia.

They are said to make up more than half the workforce, filling manual, clerical and service jobs.

Riyadh governor Prince Khaled bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz said the clamp down was aimed at illegal migrants, and not any “specific group”.

“We will continue these campaigns until we ensure all residents in our country are staying legally,” he is quoted by al-Riyadh newspaper as saying.

Earlier this month, the authorities began rounding up the migrants following the expiry of a seven-month amnesty for them to formalise their status.

In Cameroon, gunmen kidnapped a French priest working in northern Cameroon, nine months after Nigerian Islamist sect Boko Haram seized a French family in the same lawless area, France24 reports.

A church official in France said around 15 gunmen stormed into the parish church of Nguetchewe, 10 km (6 miles) from the Nigerian border, demanding money late on Wednesday.

The 42-year-old priest, Georges Vandenbeusch, had time to alert the French embassy by phone before the gunmen burst into his room. They marched him barefoot across the village before fleeing on motorbikes.

“His suitcase was found on the road to Nigeria with only a chequebook in it,” Monseigneur Gerard Daucourt, the bishop in Paris responsible for the priest, told a news conference.

A regional Cameroonian official said he might have been targeted by Boko Haram for sheltering Nigerians who had fled across the border to escape attacks by the group, which has struck churches, schools and security posts.

“This was premeditated, targeting a Catholic priest who was French because we are in Mali and in Mali it’s considered that we are soiling Muslim lands,” said former intelligence officer Louis Caprioli, who now advises for private security firm GEOS.

UN/AFRICA :

**African Union pushes UN vote on delay in Kenyan leader’s trial for crimes against humanity**  
By Associated Press/Friday, November 15

UNITED NATIONS —

The African Union demanded that the Security Council vote Friday to shelve the International Criminal Court trial of Kenya’s president on crimes against humanity charges for a year.

Diplomats say the draft resolution asking for the delay appears doomed, with only seven of the 15 council members known to be supporting it. It would need nine votes to pass, and even then it could be vetoed by strong ICC supporters Britain or France.

The United States has not joined the court, but generally supports its goals and case work.

The African Union says the trial delay would give Kenya time to beef up counterterrorism efforts. Pressure for a deferral has intensified following September’s deadly terror attack by militants on a Nairobi mall that killed 67 people, which underscored Kenya’s strategic importance.



The Hague-based International Criminal Court charged Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto with crimes against humanity for their alleged roles in postelection violence that left more than 1,000 people dead in late 2007 and early 2008.

Kenyatta also is accused of responsibility for rape and other inhumane acts carried out by a criminal gang known as the Mungiki, which were allegedly under his control.

Kenyatta — who was elected president earlier this year, despite his indictment — insists he is innocent, as does Ruto, whose trial is already underway.

Last month, the International Criminal Court delayed Kenyatta's trial from mid-November until Feb. 5, but the African Union said that's not enough time and stepped up pressure for a one-year deferral.

Kenyatta has successfully rallied leaders across Africa to denounce the International Criminal Court as an institution that unfairly targets Africans. All of the court's eight current cases involve Africa, but four of them were requested or referred by African nations themselves.

Only the Security Council can ask for a delay on the grounds of a threat to international peace and security, under the Rome Statute treaty that founded the International Criminal Court.

Amnesty International is urging the council to vote against a deferral, saying victims of Kenya's 2007-2008 postelection violence have waited too long for justice.

"It would be a shame if Security Council members prioritized the personal interests of political leaders over those of victims of crimes against humanity," said Tawanda Hondora, deputy director of law and policy at Amnesty International.

Kenyans in recent months have watched televised ICC proceedings against Ruto, who also faces charges for his alleged role in directing postelection violence.

A new poll released Thursday that found that 67 percent of 2,060 Kenyans surveyed think President Uhuru Kenyatta should attend his trial at the International Criminal Court. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.2 percentage points.

US/AFRICA :

**US military faces Africa cuts**

2013-11-15/news24.com

London - US military forces in Africa may lose well over a tenth - or some \$40m - from their 2014 budget, the US Africa Command said on Thursday, although it saw success against militants in Somalia and Mali.

The bulk of such cuts will fall on headquarters and training programmes, Africom commander General David Rodriguez said, most likely forcing smaller exercises.

The size of Africom headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany, is to be reduced by some 20%.

The planned cuts are part of broader across-the-board U.S. spending restrictions dubbed "sequestration" and imposed after Congress failed to agree deficit reduction measures.

Africom - set up in 2007 to co-ordinate US military activity on the continent - retains at least 5 000 troops in Africa at any time, primarily in Djibouti. Much of their focus is on building local military capability and training forces for missions such as the African Union mission Amisom in Somalia and its UN counterpart in Mali.

"The budget is going to be reduced ... although I would expect that the number of places where we have exercises will remain approximately the same," Rodriguez told a press briefing in London.

"We've had to reduce the size of some of these exercises and change the nature of some ... to involve fewer troops."

After the September 2012 attack on the US consulate in Benghazi, Libya, however, Rodriguez said Africom and the State Department had stepped up security at some embassies and improved its information sharing and emergency protocols.

Rodriguez said he believed Amisom had begun to push back Islamist al Shabaab militants in Somalia and that UN forces in Mali had significantly disrupted al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (Aqim).

Analysts say French and Chadian troops did much of the work in curbing Aqim before the mission became part of a UN peacekeeping force in June, and operations now still primarily involve French and Malian troops.

Rodriguez said the just over 100 special forces operators supporting regional militaries in the hunt for Ugandan former Lord's Resistance Army chief Joseph Kony had also markedly reduced LRA operations, even if Kony himself remained elusive.

Occasional direct action in Somalia

Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea remained a serious worry, Rodriguez said, with US forces working to train local navies and coastguards. Africom was also working on training and information-sharing with Nigeria's military as it battles a growing insurgency by Islamist group Boko Haram.

Despite rumours to the contrary, however, he said Washington had no plans to deploy troops or drones in Nigeria despite listing Boko Haram as a banned terror group.

The United States will continue to take its own occasional direct action in Somalia, he said. Although it rarely comments on specifics, Washington has been widely suspected of being behind several drone strikes on al-Qaeda and al-Shabaab.

In October, US special forces carried out an unsuccessful raid on an al Shabaab leader dubbed "Ikrinna" and suspected of plotting a host of attacks on Western and other targets.

It was not clear whether or not he was involved in the attack the previous month on Nairobi's Westgate shopping mall that killed 67 and was claimed by the Somali group.

"The effort in Somalia has dislocated al Shabaab," Rodriguez said, adding that the group had been pushed from the capital Mogadishu in some other areas.

"Amisom have to keep the pressure up - and that's just the military picture. A model of things have to be done as well." That included making Somalia's transitional government more effective, he said.

In Mali, where Washington has also provided airlift and intelligence to French, UN and Malian troops, Rodriguez said Aqim fighters had been dispersed and less effective, even though their overall numbers had likely not fallen.

Despite an upsurge in fighting between Mozambique's government and the Renamo opposition, Rodriguez said Africom had no plans to increase support to the Mozambican military.

### **Nigerian envoy opposes Boko Haram's US 'terrorist' tag**

World Bulletin / News Desk/November 2013 Friday

The Nigerian ambassador to the U.S. has slammed the decision to name Boko Haram a terrorist group.

Nigerian Ambassador to the U.S. Ade Adefuye has said his government opposed Washington's designation of Boko Haram as a "terrorist organization," fearing a possible backlash on law-abiding Nigerians abroad.

"We had resisted pressures from many organizations who wanted Boko Haram designated a terrorist organization," Adefuye told Anadolu Agency on Thursday by phone.

"Our reasons are that such a step would send wrong signals to the outside world," he added.

On Wednesday, the U.S. officially designated Nigeria's Boko Haram and the Ansaru splinter group - known for kidnapping and bank robberies - as "foreign terrorist organizations" and "specially designated global terrorists."

"Nigeria is safe and capable of curtailing the group," Adefuye insisted.

"If we could end a better organized insurgency in the Niger Delta, we can handle this, too, with the assistance of our foreign partners," he said.

Boko Haram, a hitherto peaceful organization that had preached against corruption, suddenly turned violent following the 2009 murder of leader Mohammed Yusuf while in police custody.

In the years since, the group has been blamed for thousands of deaths and attacks on churches and security posts across Nigeria's northern region, especially the three northeastern states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa.

Boko Haram and Ansaru have long been proscribed by the Nigerian government, with anyone who assists their cause risking a 20-year jail term under Nigeria's Anti-Terrorism Act.

### **BACKLASH**

Adefuye, a scholar of diplomacy, fears the possible consequences of the U.S. move on the country and on millions of its innocent citizens both at home and abroad.

He said that while the US decision might curb the activities of the two groups in question, it could

also create problems for blameless Nigerian travellers.

"We feared that Nigerians might be subjected to some unpalatable experiences, such as horrendous searches at US entry points, and we don't want that," Adefuye said. "Nigerians are law-abiding people."

Nearly 300,000 Nigerians are believed to be permanent residents in the U.S.

The U.S. is believed to be the second concentration of Nigerians after Nigeria itself.

### US crushes 6 tons of 'blood ivory' in largely symbolic move

Suzanne Goldenberg, US environment correspondent/[theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com)/Friday 15 November 2013

Crush of ivory trinkets shows Obama administration's resolve in ending illegal trade but stops short of a complete ban on domestic ivory sales

The Obama administration fed six tons (5.4 tonnes) of ivory trinkets – all made from the tusks of dead elephants – into a giant blue industrial rock crusher on Thursday to demonstrate its resolve to end an illegal \$10bn (£6bn) trade that is funding international crime and terrorism.

The highly symbolic act of destruction at a government repository in Denver is part of a broader crackdown by Barack Obama on blood ivory. Conservation groups fed the first load of ivory into the crusher.

But the crush of the grisly animal artefacts stops short of the complete ban on domestic ivory sales campaigners are demanding.

Campaign groups this week urged Obama to ban all domestic sales of ivory until there is sufficient recovery of African elephant populations.

"I am convinced more than ever of the necessity of destroying all stockpiles and ending trade in ivory in order to disrupt the world's addiction to ivory," said African Wildlife Foundation's chief executive, Patrick Berrigan.

"Many countries, including China and the United States, still allow domestic trade, which has served only to sustain demand for ivory products while providing legalised cover for the illicit industry."

The US bans the import and export of African ivory, but it is still legal to sell ivory that came into the country before 1989. Ivory is still available for sale in luxury shops and, increasingly, over the internet.

Wayne Pacelle, the president of the Humane Society of the United States, called on Obama to ban all domestic sales of ivory, and introduce stronger state and federal laws against ivory trafficking.

"We hear a lot about China, and concerns about the trade there are warranted, but the fact is, the United States is the second-largest market for ivory in the world," he said in a statement.

"Ivory trade laws in the U.S. are riddled with loopholes... and smugglers take advantage of this deficiency."

Other campaigners said it would be more effective for Obama to call on China and other countries to ban ivory sales.

The ivory pulverised on Thursday will likely be donated for use as a monument to slaughtered elephants, or as an exhibit about the trade, US Fish and Wildlife officials said.

They rejected the idea the crush would fuel demand for illegal ivory.

"This ivory would never be made available to the market," the agency said in a statement. "Its destruction has no impact on the overall supply and does not create any incentive for poaching. By demonstrating our commitment to combat poaching and illegal trade, and to arrest and prosecute people who engage in these activities, we are providing a strong disincentive to poachers and wildlife traffickers."

The crush is part of a broader crackdown by Obama on an illegal trade which has exploded over the last five years, fuelled by demand for ivory trinkets by a rising middle class in China and other countries in Asia.

Conservation groups said some 35,000 African elephants were slaughtered for their ivory last year – the highest figure since a ban on the legal ivory trade in 1989. They say they expect this year's toll to rise even higher.

As demand for ivory outstrips supply, criminal syndicates and terrorist groups have moved in, using the huge profits to fund operations.

That elevated blood ivory into a security threat – the finding that pushed Obama to action.

A report from the director of national intelligence last September warned that high demand for ivory had pushed the price so high the illegal items were being used to finance terror operations, and were corrupting wildlife officials in east, central and southern Africa.

But conservation groups hope Thursday's highly symbolic event will help crush any talk of allowing limited ivory sales. Conservation groups say a limited sale of ivory to China led to the current spike in elephant poaching.

"Our government is increasingly sending a clear message to ivory traffickers," said Cristián Samper, president of the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Campaigners also say Obama's support could help build momentum to a crush movement started by Kenya and Gabon.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

### Un prêtre français dans le piège africain

14/11/2013 /lefigaro.fr

INFOGRAPHIE - Enlevé dans le nord du Cameroun, Georges Vandenbeusch pourrait être entre les mains de Boko Haram.

Un prêtre français a été enlevé jeudi près de Koza, dans le nord du Cameroun. Le père Georges Vandenbeusch a été capturé au milieu de la nuit par un commando d'une quinzaine d'hommes armés dans la paroisse de Nguetchewe, dont il était le curé.

Selon sœur Françoise, qui travaille avec le religieux, il «a été enlevé vers 23 heures alors qu'il se trouvait chez lui dans l'enceinte de la paroisse». «Les ravisseurs s'exprimaient en anglais. Il nous a semblé qu'ils étaient venus à pied. Nous n'avons pas entendu de bruit de voiture. Ils ne portaient pas de cagoules. Nous ne savons pas ce qu'ils ont pris chez le père. Ils nous ont demandé de l'argent.» Un autre témoin, le père Henri Djongyang, a expliqué sur Europe 1 que les assaillants étaient à la recherche de fonds. «Le père avait dans son bureau un coffre-fort, qu'ils ont traîné dans le salon. Ils n'ont pas pu l'emporter.» Les voleurs ont finalement pris la fuite, emmenant le prêtre français avec eux. Ils auraient rapidement franchi la frontière nigériane, située à une vingtaine de kilomètres, à moto selon certains témoignages.

Décrit d'une nature calme et robuste, le prêtre s'était installé il y a deux ans au Cameroun, après neuf années passées à Sceaux. Il avait été informé «que c'est une région extrêmement dangereuse. Néanmoins, il avait voulu rester là-bas», a dit Laurent Fabius. Le président François Hollande a appelé jeudi les ressortissants français à «ne rien faire qui puisse mettre en danger leur vie». Mais il a assuré que «tout serait fait» pour que le prêtre puisse être libéré. Émus et choqués, les paroissiens de la commune de Sceaux se sont rassemblés jeudi soir pour une veillée de prière et de soutien à leur ancien curé.

Un acte purement crapuleux, dans cette région dangereuse et mal contrôlée par le gouvernement, n'est pas totalement écarté. Mais la proximité avec le Nigeria, berceau de Boko Haram, et le fait que les ravisseurs parlent anglais ou haoussa - l'une des principales langues du Nigeria -, renforcent la piste de ce mouvement islamique très violent. Le parquet de Paris a ouvert une enquête pour enlèvement et séquestration en bande organisée en relation avec une entreprise terroriste. «Il a sans doute été victime des gens de Boko Haram même s'il n'y a pas de preuve formelle», suppose-t-on dans l'entourage du président camerounais Paul Biya. Le 19 février dernier, le groupe avait déjà été à l'origine du rapt d'une famille française, les Moulin-Fournier, capturés eux aussi dans l'extrême nord du Cameroun. Ils avaient été libérés fin avril, après de délicates négociations conduites par les autorités camerounaises et sans doute le versement d'une rançon de plusieurs millions de dollars.

### Motivations financières

Les motivations du rapt du prêtre pourraient donc être de nature financière. Mais Boko Haram est aussi un mouvement qui a l'habitude de s'en prendre aux communautés chrétiennes nigérianes et aux étrangers. Souvent qualifiée de secte, Boko Haram, fondée en 2002, a tout d'abord affirmé lutter contre «l'influence occidentale» sur le nord du pays, à majorité musulmane. Après la mort de son leader charismatique en 2009, Boko Haram a intensifié sa lutte contre le gouvernement d'Abuja et les chrétiens du Nord, perçus comme des envahisseurs. Noël 2010 fut particulièrement sanglant, avec plusieurs attaques contre des églises, dont celle de Jos qui fit plus de 80 morts. Les attentats et

la répression conduite par l'armée nigériane ont fait plusieurs milliers de victimes.

Depuis mai dernier, les militaires d'Abuja ont lancé une vaste offensive dans l'État de Borno et repris en partie le contrôle de la capitale locale, Maiduguri. Cette victoire, même ténue, a fragilisé Boko Haram mais pas au point de l'empêcher de lancer des opérations de plus en plus violentes. Cela a poussé les États-Unis à les inscrire sur leur liste noire «terroriste», il y a deux jours, les accusant d'être liées à al-Qaïda au Maghreb islamique (Aqmi). Ansaru a également été placé sur cette liste par Washington. Cette scission de Boko Haram a revendiqué le rapt de l'ingénieur français Francis Collomp au Nigeria, en décembre 2012.

### **Mali : nouvelle opération de l'armée française contre des membres d'Aqmi**

14.11.2013/leparisien.fr

Une opération militaire ponctuelle a été menée dans la nuit de mercredi à jeudi dans le désert malien, lors de laquelle des armes ont été saisies et des membres d'Aqmi «neutralisés», a annoncé l'amiral Edouard Guillaud, chef d'état-major des armées (CEMA).

Interrogé jeudi matin par Europe 1 sur la situation dans ce pays, le haut responsable a relevé que les opérations militaires «ne sont pas encore terminées». Edouard Guillaud a ainsi apporté des précisions : «Cette nuit même, à 2 h 30 du matin, nous avons mené une opération spéciale contre un pick up dans le désert, à à peu près 200-250 kilomètres à l'ouest de Tessalit, donc en plein milieu du désert, où nous avons neutralisé un certain nombre de gens d'Al-Qaïda». L'opération, a relevé l'officier général, «continue et maintenant nous récupérons le matériel qui va -parler- d'une certaine façon».

Une opération qui était prévue ? «Non», a répondu l'amiral Guillaud. «Nous agissons de deux façons, soit sur de grosses opérations comme il y a 15 jours avec Hydre, où nous sommes en chasse», soit sur «réaction sur des tas de renseignements, dont beaucoup viennent de la population», a-t-il dit.

Au Mali, «ce n'est pas fini»

Au Mali, «ce n'est pas fini», même si «le niveau de violence a énormément baissé» et si depuis l'intervention française en janvier, «nous avons fait des avancées phénoménales», a-t-il relevé. «Nous travaillons aussi bien avec les pays voisins, Niger, Burkina Faso, éventuellement Tchad et nous coopérons aussi avec l'Algérie» de façon qu'il «n'y ait pas de sanctuaire», explique aussi l'amiral Guillaud.

Interrogé sur l'assassinat des deux journalistes de RFI près de Kidal, il a renvoyé à la conférence de presse, mercredi, du procureur chargé de l'enquête et a assuré que «tout pointe vers al-Qaïda». «Nous fournissons tout le soutien nécessaire» aux enquêteurs sur place «et nous ferons tout pour exploiter tous les renseignements, d'un point de vue militaire, pour arrêter les auteurs dès qu'ils seront localisés», a-t-il promis.

Al-Qaïda voulait avoir des Français

Le chef d'état-major des armées a également opposé jeudi un démenti formel à des accusations de brutalité formulées la veille par un chef rebelle touareg contre des militaires français. «Ce n'est pas la façon dont travaillent les militaires français depuis largement plus d'un demi-siècle maintenant», a plaidé le haut responsable militaire sur Europe 1. Il a assuré au contraire que «tout excès serait évidemment sanctionné, immédiatement».

Au même responsable malien assurant que son mouvement aurait les moyens de retrouver les meurtriers de Ghislaine Dupont et Claude Verlon si on le laissait agir alors qu'on l'aurait empêché, Jean-Louis Guillaud a tranché : «non, c'est faux. D'ailleurs s'il a les moyens qu'il le fasse je crois que cela aidera beaucoup les enquêteurs».

Les deux journalistes ont-ils été tués parce qu'ils étaient journalistes ou parce qu'ils étaient journalistes français? «J'ai tendance à vous répondre: les deux. Manifestement al-Qaïda voulait, pour sa propre aura, avoir des Français peut-être comme otages. Le fait qu'ils soient journalistes ne pouvait que renforcer leur valeur».

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 15 Novembre 2013... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 15/11/2013