



[National leaders and ordinary citizens around the world joined Thursday in mourning Nelson Mandela, who spent 27 years as a prisoner in South Africa for opposing apartheid, then emerged to become his country's first black president, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and an enduring symbol of integrity, principle and resilience. Mandela died "peacefully" Thursday night at 95 at his home in Johannesburg, surrounded by family, according to South African President Jacob Zuma.]

BURUNDI :

Le Burundi lance un projet de renforcement des services de santé de la reproduction

Jeudi 5 décembre 2013/Xinhua

BUJUMBURA (Xinhua) - La ministre burundaise de la Santé publique et de la Lutte contre le sida, Mme Sabine Ntakarutimana, a lancé jeudi à Bujumbura un projet baptisé "appui à l'expansion de la planification familiale et accroissement des services de santé intégrés au Burundi".

Ce projet de trois ans, financé par les Pays-Bas à raison de 4, 5 millions d'euros et qui sera mis en oeuvre par l'ONG internationale "Population Service International" (PSI), vise à renforcer les activités de planification familiale et les services de santé intégrés dans trois provinces du pays, a noté la ministre.

Au Burundi, 23% des jeunes font des rapports sexuels avant d'avoir 18 ans avec un taux de fécondité de 11% chez les jeunes filles de 15 à 19 ans, a rappelé Mme Sabine Ntakarutimana, en citant une enquête démographique et de santé du Burundi réalisée en 2010.

Pour elle, cette frange de la population est fortement confrontée à des risques de contamination au

VIH/Sida et aux maladies sexuellement transmissibles (MST).

Par ailleurs, les femmes en âge de procréer au Burundi repré sentent près de la moitié de la population féminine totale, soit 46%, avec un indice synthétique de fécondité de 6,4 enfants en moyenne par femme, a-t-elle signalé.

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

Uganda Gives All Members of Parliaments iPads to 'Make Them More Efficient'
nigerianbulletin.com/05122013

Uganda's parliament has given iPads to all its MPs at a cost of \$370,000 in order to make them 'more efficient'.

According to Parliamentary commissioner, Emmanuel Dombo who described it as an 'administrative decision', the move will ensure that MPs can access official documents on the move.

He said the funds had been raised by reducing the budget for paper, which would no longer be needed as the MPs now have superior technology.

Ugandans are not impressed regarding it as a waste of money.

"Taxpayers are already paying too much to take care of their MPs," opposition MP Semujju Ibrahim Nganda said. (BBC)

Last year, the MPs voted to increase their salaries by 38% raising the previous amount to more than \$8000.

They have also been given more than \$41,000 each for car purchases.

SOUTH AFRICA :

World mourns Nelson Mandela, former South African president and anti-apartheid leader
December 05, 2013/FoxNews.com

National leaders and ordinary citizens around the world joined Thursday in mourning Nelson

Mandela, who spent 27 years as a prisoner in South Africa for opposing apartheid, then emerged to become his country's first black president, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and an enduring symbol of integrity, principle and resilience.

Mandela died "peacefully" Thursday night at 95 at his home in Johannesburg, surrounded by family, according to South African President Jacob Zuma.

Zuma, dressed in black, announced Mandela's death in a nationally televised address, saying " Our nation has lost its greatest son. Our people have lost a father. Although we knew that this day would come, nothing can diminish our sense of a profound and enduring loss."

Mandela had spent almost three months in a Pretoria hospital after being admitted in June with a recurring lung infection.

Zuma said the man considered by many as the father of his nation would be accorded a full state funeral.

In Washington, President Obama called him one of the "most influential, courageous and profoundly good" people to ever have lived.

"He achieved more than could be expected of any man," an emotional Obama said, in remarks from the White House, adding: "He belongs to the ages."

Obama ordered U.S. flags to be lowered immediately to half staff until Monday evening in tribute to Mandela.

Meanwhile, South Africans gathered to celebrate Mandela's life and mourn his death.

Outside the Soweto home where he once lived, some residents sang and danced while others gathered outside his Johannesburg home, where the mood also was lively. A makeshift shrine appeared composed candles, a national flag and bouquets of flowers, along with a picture of him inscribed "Rest in peace, Madiba" -- his clan name..

Mandela, who once said, "the struggle is my life," was a beloved hero of both South Africa and the world itself. His face was instantly recognizable in virtually any country, his story famous enough that he was portrayed in movies at least four times - by Morgan Freeman ("Invictus"), Sidney Poitier ("Mandela and de Klerk"), Danny Glover ("Mandela") and Dennis Haysbert ("Goodbye Bafana").

Stamps were issued with his likeness, songs written about him, statues erected in his honor everywhere from Johannesburg to London and more than 50 universities around the world awarded him degrees. Even a species of spiders was named in his honor.

Mandela, who had been in increasingly frail health in recent years, retired from public life in 2004. He is survived by his third wife, Graca Machel, three daughters (three other children died) and multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In one of his last public appearances, televised in May 2012, Mandela sat in an armchair with a blanket pulled over his lap at his rural home in Qunu and received a symbolic flame to mark the centenary of the African National Congress.

Ironically, the leader hailed as a symbol of peace at one point was on a U.S. terror watch list

because of his affiliation with the ANC, which was designated a terrorist organization by South Africa's apartheid government. He was finally taken off the list in 2008.

Mandela, although initially committed to non-violence, had, in fact, once been involved with the militant wing of the ANC, which was founded in association with the South African Communist Party and carried out a campaign of violence against government targets.

The man who died an anti-apartheid hero, world statesman and symbol of the strength of the human spirit was born Rolihlahla Mandela in a village near Umtata in the Transkei on July 18, 1918. Rolihlahla literally means "pulling the branch of a tree" but more colloquially, "troublemaker."

His father was primary councilor to the Acting Paramount Chief of Thembuland and after his father's death, the 9-year-old Mandela became the chief's ward. He received the English name Nelson from a primary school teacher at his mission school.

He attended the University College of Fort Hare, a prestigious residential college for blacks in South Africa, where he was expelled over a student boycott, and then ran away from home to Johannesburg to avoid an arranged marriage.

He eventually completed his bachelor's degree via correspondence courses, studied law and joined the African National Congress in 1942.

After 20 years of leading a non-violent campaign against the South African government, his philosophy switched to armed struggle. In 1964 he was sentenced to life imprisonment for plotting to overthrow the government by violence.

For 18 of his 27 years in prison, he was inmate #46664 on Robben Island, a notorious maximum security facility off Cape Town, where he became a worldwide symbol of resistance to racial oppression.

In 1982, he was moved to Pollsmoor Prison, on the nearby mainland, where he spent much of his time in solitary confinement. In 1985, President P. W. Botha offered to release him if he would renounce armed struggle but he refused, saying "only free men can negotiate. Prisoners cannot enter into contracts."

Finally released from this third prison, Victor Verster – an event broadcast internationally - on February 11, 1990, he was elected president of the ANC in 1991.

In 1993 he and President Frederik Willem De Klerk were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and in 1994, at the age of 75, he was inaugurated as the first black president of South Africa.

Mandela served as president until 1999, when he retired and became an advocate for a number of human rights organizations and also a spokesman for the fight against AIDS. In 2001 he was treated for prostate cancer.

His philosophy of learning to love instead of hate made him one of the moral leaders of his era.

"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion" he wrote in his autobiography.

"People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

Mandela was married three times. His first wife was Evelyn Ntoko Mase, from 1944-1957, and they had four children – one son died in a car crash, one son of AIDS and one daughter as an infant.

His second wife was Winnie Madikizela-Mandela (1958-1996) and they had two daughters before divorcing. On his 80th birthday in 1998 he wed Graca Machel, widow of Samora Machel, the former Mozambican president.

But his nation was his beloved offspring as well. "My daughter Zinzi says," he once observed, "that she grew up without a father, who, when he returned, became a father of the nation...for me, there is no place like home."

7 ways Nelson Mandela changed South Africa

By Alastair Jamieson, Staff writer, NBC News/2013/12/05

Almost two decades have passed since the end of legalized racial segregation in South Africa, yet the abolition of apartheid remains the biggest legacy of Nelson Mandela.

Anyone aged 18 or under will not have witnessed the public separation of whites and blacks enshrined in law, yet that was the daily reality in a country where races had been kept apart since colonial times.

South Africa continued to enforce racial division, denying blacks the right to vote, until Mandela's release from prison in 1990 allowed him to begin negotiations with then-president Frederik Willem de Klerk. Apartheid ended with the arrival of multi-racial elections in 1994.

This transformation was achieved almost entirely peacefully despite the country's long history of racial violence and a brutal police force.

On his release from captivity in 1990, Mandela's African National Congress continued its historic commitment to an armed struggle against apartheid.

The 1993 assassination of ANC figurehead Chris Hani by right-wing white extremists heightened fears that the country was destined for a racial bloodbath, but Mandela issued an appeal: "Now is the time for all South Africans to stand together against those who, from any quarter, wish to destroy what Chris Hani gave his life for – the freedom of all of us."

Here are six other ways Mandela changed his country:

Forsaking bloodshed

The renunciation of violence was one of the defining moments of the political process, and earned Mandela and de Klerk the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize.

Forging a political path

The transition formally turned South Africa into a democracy, bringing in one of the world's most progressive constitutions and allowing blacks not only into polling booths, but also into the corridors of power.

In doing so, South Africa also lost its global pariah status. Apartheid had been punished by sanctions including a trade embargo and a ban on direct flights to dozens of countries, like the United States.

A global player

In his inauguration speech in 1994, Mandela heralded the country's re-entry onto the world stage, saying it should become "a rainbow nation" that would never again be seen as "the skunk of the world."

He said: "We enter into a covenant that we shall build a society in which all South Africans, both black and white, will be able to walk tall, without any fear in their hearts, assured of their inalienable right to human dignity - a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world."

Peace and forgiveness

Mandela's biggest influence on the new South Africa was his personal determination that anger over the crimes of the past, including his 27 years as a political prisoner, should not motivate future laws and actions. Key to this was his 1995 establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission that investigated historic human rights violations and gave vent to grievances.

A cultural power

That same year, South Africa hosted the Rugby World Cup – the first event of its kind to be held there since the end of the apartheid-era sporting boycott. Along with cricket, rugby was a game played and enjoyed almost exclusively by whites, making the event tough for Mandela's fledgling democratic government to "sell" to a wider population.

Despite resistance on both sides, Mandela swung the rainbow nation behind both the team – the Springboks – and the tournament, which South Africa won. That achievement, documented in the 2009 film "Invictus" starring Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon, illustrated the extent of South Africa's rehabilitation and also set the country back on the path of sporting success.

A generous soul

Mandela's other key legacy is his extensive charitable work, including the creation of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and 46664 – the HIV-AIDS initiative named after his prison number.

In 2009, the United Nations declared that July 18, Mandela's birthday, would be a worldwide day of community service known as Nelson Mandela International Day.

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

African leaders complain of bias at ICC as Kenya trials get underway

By Michael Birnbaum/washingtonpost.com/December 5

THE HAGUE — There are eight cases and 21 defendants in front of the International Criminal Court, and every last one of them is from Africa. Now the continent's leaders are debating whether that's a problem.

The 11-year-old court of last resort was set up to take on some of the world's most heinous crimes. But its choice of cases has frustrated African leaders, who say that comparable crimes elsewhere in the world are being ignored and that race is a factor in the decision-making. With Kenya's president and deputy president on trial, African leaders are pushing for changes that some ICC advocates say would undermine the court completely.

At stake is the future of a court whose creation was touted as a major breakthrough in ensuring that those who commit crimes against humanity do not escape justice — a dream that African nations, more than any other region in the world, signed up for. Now, however, the African Union is campaigning against the court, with some leaders voicing disillusionment and saying that justice does not seem to be equally applied around the globe.

Atrocities in Syria, Colombia and Afghanistan have gone unpunished, African leaders say, even as the U.N. Security Council was quick to authorize the ICC in 2011 to turn its attention to North Africa and take up work against Libya's leaders at the time: Moammar Gaddafi, his sons and his intelligence chief.

"They're treating us like toddlers," Kenyan Foreign Minister Amina Mohamed said in an interview in The Hague, where Kenyan Deputy President William Ruto is on trial in one of the ICC's small wood-lined courtrooms on the outskirts of the Dutch city. "Africa feels marginalized."

"This is a good time to think about the relationship between Africa and the international community. Not just Africa and the ICC," she said.

Ruto and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta were indicted in 2011 on charges that they helped stoke violence, some of it ethnically targeted, that killed at least 1,100 people after disputed elections in December 2007. Both profess innocence. They have sought permission to skip ICC proceedings in the name of national security and have pushed for immunity from prosecution for sitting heads of state.

A four-day siege of Nairobi's Westgate mall in September by gunmen possibly tied to the Somali group al-Shabab, which is linked to al-Qaeda, has only increased pressure from the Kenyans. Ruto was in The Hague on the day the attack started but was excused to rush home to coordinate a response. Kenyan officials have said that the ICC prosecutions are distracting their leaders from counterterrorism efforts.

After the attack, Kenya helped convene an October summit of the African Union, at which the ICC's focus on Africa was condemned. It pushed the court and the U.N. Security Council for a delay in the case and lost at both venues, although Kenyatta's trial was pushed back until next year for unrelated reasons. But at a meeting of the court's governing body last month, Kenya's leaders won concessions that will make it easier for them to skip some court sessions and to attend others remotely by video link than in person at The Hague.

Kenyan politicians aim to curb press freedoms

06 Dec 2013/aljazeera.com

The bill, if penned by the president, will set up a governmental committee to monitor media outlets and journalists.

Kenyan politicians have adopted amendments to a controversial media bill despite an opposition walk out and international concern about press freedom.

The bill, which was passed in October but sent back to parliament with presidential changes, will see journalists and media outlets policed by a special quasi-government body.

It also calls for huge fines that could force the shutdown of news organisations.

Beryl Aidi, an official from the Kenya Human Rights Commission, said it was "bad news", arguing that the most contentious elements of the bill remain despite presidential changes, including the power to impose up to 20 million Kenyan shillings (\$234,000) in fines.

"It does not improve the bill ... it does not improve the situation," she told AFP news agency on Thursday.

The bill has sparked furious reactions from Kenya's vibrant independent media, with front pages declaring that democracy and free speech were under attack.

The US-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has said the amended bill still contained "draconian provisions".

Politicians from the opposition Coalition for Reforms and Democracy walked out of parliament as the bill was debated and voted upon.

"If we do not do this with deep thought, we will be setting a dangerous precedent," opposition MP Jakoyo Midiwo told parliament. "We will also be opening up the window for a future rogue president."

Crippling fines

Possible individual fines for journalists were cut from one million to 500,000 Kenya shillings (5,775 dollars), but that is an amount still crippling for most.

"That is still way too high," Aidi added.

Earlier this week United Nations human rights experts urged Kenya to reject the media bill, warning it could severely rein in democratic freedoms in the country.

If implemented, it "could lead to restrictive interpretations that would unduly limit the rights to freedom of association, and opinion and expression," UN expert Frank La Rue said in a statement.

L'Assemblée kényane adopte la loi de contrôle des journalistes

Le Monde.fr avec AFP/ 05.12.2013

Les députés kényans ont adopté jeudi 5 décembre une loi donnant des pouvoirs étendus au gouvernement pour contrôler les médias. Le texte prévoit notamment la création d'un tribunal spécial qui pourra infliger des amendes très élevées aux journalistes, pouvant aller jusqu'à 20 millions de shillings kényans (173 000 euros)

Le premier projet de loi avait été adopté au début de novembre par l'Assemblée kényane, mais le président, Uhuru Kenyatta, avait mis son veto. Il avait renvoyé le texte, assorti de ses recommandations, que les députés kényans ont adoptées jeudi.

Ces recommandations « n'améliorent pas la loi », a néanmoins commenté Beryl Aidi, chargée de la

communication de la Commission kényane des droits de l'homme (Kenya Human Rights Commission, KHRC). Cette ONG avait combattu le texte au côté de nombreux journalistes dans le pays.

LES AUTORITÉS EN COLÈRE

Le vote de cette loi s'inscrit dans le cadre d'une série de mesures du gouvernement kényan pour renforcer la sécurité nationale après la sanglante attaque islamiste contre le centre commercial Westgate de Nairobi en septembre.

Les médias avaient déclenché la colère des autorités en dévoilant des images prises par les caméras de sécurité du centre. Elles montrent des soldats probablement en train de piller les magasins pendant l'opération contre le commando islamiste.

Le directeur d'une chaîne de télévision et deux journalistes avaient d'ailleurs été convoqués par la police. Celle-ci avait finalement dû faire machine arrière devant le tollé. Avant de revenir sur sa décision, la police avait néanmoins expliqué « qu'il existe des limites » à la liberté d'expression, accusant les journalistes d'inciter au soulèvement contre les autorités.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

UN/AFRICA :

U.N. approves Central African Republic intervention as violence escalates

By Nima Elbagir. Laura Smith-Spark and Faith Karimi, CNN/December 5, 2013

Bossangoa, Central African Republic (CNN) -- Months after a coup escalated chaos and violence in the Central African Republic, the U.N. Security Council on Thursday unanimously approved the deployment of African and French forces there.

The council also voted to impose an arms embargo on the nation, which is east of Cameroon and north of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

A representative of the Central African Republic told the council the vote would "give reasons to hope for a new dawn" for the country's embattled population.

Speaking after the vote, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power said the U.S. government was "deeply disturbed" by ongoing reports of brutality in the nation.

"It is clear that urgent action is needed to save lives," she said, adding that the crisis has affected nearly half the country's population.

The Security Council resolution, put forward by France, authorizes an African Union-led peacekeeping force to intervene with the support of French forces to protect civilians, restore humanitarian access and stabilize the country.

Hours before the meeting, heavy gunfire erupted near the presidential palace in the capital of Bangui, witnesses said.

Samuel Henryon, of Doctors without Borders, told CNN that eight people were killed and 65 wounded in clashes in the city.

The agency, also known as Medecins Sans Frontieres, has 16 people helping at two hospitals where the wounded have been taken, it said in a statement. Twenty are badly hurt, most with gunshot, machete or knife wounds.

An official with the African-led peacekeeping force in the Central African Republic, Jean Pierre Sadou, told CNN he had seen eight bodies in the street. He said he had been told there were more bodies near the National Assembly.

Violence has raged in the country since a coalition of rebels ousted President Francois Bozize in March, the latest in a series of coups since the nation gained independence.

Christian vigilante groups have formed to battle Seleka, the predominantly Muslim coalition behind the president's ouster.

Multiple sources told CNN that the military commander of Seleka, Gen. Issa Yahya, was killed Thursday in Bangui. His second-in-command, Col. Saleh Zabari, is now thought to be in charge.

Sadou said Seleka is now back in control of the center of Bangui and the situation there is quiet. Fighting continues near the airport, however.

Members of Seleka told CNN that at least 30 people had been killed in the clashes in Bangui, men and women among them.

Christians take refuge

Left uncontrolled, militia groups are uniting along religious lines, leading to fears of sectarian violence.

The situation in Bossangoa, a town about 185 miles north of Bangui that is at the epicenter of displacement resulting from the violence, was extremely tense Thursday.

About 35,000 Christians have taken refuge in a Catholic church compound there.

The headquarters of the small regional peacekeeping mission told CNN that the second-in-command of Seleka had given the militia permission to attack the compound. The mission has sent reinforcements in defensive positions around the church to protect civilians.

A CNN team in the vicinity could hear sustained gunfire and rocket-propelled grenade fire that appeared to be directed at the church compound.

There is no word yet of any casualties or damage suffered.

Speaking to CNN before reports of the death of Seleka's commander emerged, Zabari said that it was believed there were armed elements in the compound but that unless those inside moved against them, they wouldn't attack it.

Power, the U.S. envoy, said the sectarian tension that has made the tens of thousands of Christians seek refuge in the church compound in Bossangoa, while their Muslim neighbors shelter in a mosque nearby, was a tragic result of the coup.

"Extremists on both sides, in an environment of lawlessness and an environment of state failure, have taken advantage of that vacuum and stoked animosities," she said.

The U.S. State Department said the United States was "appalled by today's reports of the murder of innocent women and children outside of Bangui" and was working with its international partners to find the best way to stabilize the situation.

"This horrifying account is the latest in a string of reports that illustrate the deteriorating humanitarian and security situation in the Central African Republic that could lead to an escalation in violence and further atrocities," the State Department statement said.

An unknown number of people have been killed in remote rural areas too risky to access. United Nations officials have warned that the violence between the Christian majority and Muslim minority now in power could lead to genocide.

More than 400,000 people -- nearly 10% of the population -- have been internally displaced, according to the United Nations.

"They are hiding in the bush without shelter, food, or drinking water, exposed to the weather and mosquitoes that carry malaria, the leading cause of death in the country," Doctors Without Borders said in a statement. The group has operated in the country for years and is helping dispatch mobile units to take care of the wounded.

French troops

An African Union force is already in the nation, but rights group say it's not enough to halt the escalating violence.

Last month, France pledged to send about 1,000 more troops to add to the 400 already there. The troops currently there are deployed to protect French nationals and help secure the airport in the capital, France said.

Sources in the African Union mission to the Central African Republic said Wednesday that more French troops are on their way to the nation.

France's ambassador to the United Nations, Gerard Araud, who holds the rotating presidency of the U.N. Security Council, welcomed the body's decision to intervene in what he said was a "forgotten crisis."

The United Nations has suggested its peacekeeping force could eventually augment the African-led mission.

Bozize fled the country after the coup led by rebel leader Michel Djotodia.

A transitional government is in place led by Djotodia, who was commander of the Seleka rebels. But the country continues to be wracked by unrest and new elections have yet to be held.

South Africa: UN Chief Pays Tribute to Life and Legacy of South Africa's Nelson Mandela

5 December 2013/allafrica.com

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has expressed his profound sadness at the passing of Nelson Mandela, extolling the life of the late human rights lawyer, prisoner of conscience, international peacemaker and first democratically-elected President of post-apartheid South Africa as an inspiration for all.

'Madiba,' as Mr. Mandela was affectionately known, passed this afternoon at his home in Johannesburg. He was 95.

"Nelson Mandela was a giant for justice and a down-to-earth human inspiration," Mr. Ban said at UN Headquarters in New York.

"On behalf of the United Nations, I extend my deepest condolences to the people of South Africa and especially to Nelson Mandela's family, and indeed our global family."

Mr. Ban noted that many people worldwide were greatly influenced by Mr. Mandela's selfless struggle for human dignity, equality and freedom. "He touched our lives in deeply personal ways. At the same time, no one did more in our time to advance the values and aspirations of the United Nations."

"Nelson Mandela showed what is possible for our world and within each one of us - if we believe, dream and work together for justice and humanity," said the Secretary-General.

"His moral force was decisive in dismantling the system of apartheid," said Mr. Ban. "Remarkably, he emerged from 27 years of detention without rancour, determined to build a new South Africa based on dialogue and reconciliation."

Mr. Mandela devoted his life to the service of his people and humanity, and he did so at great personal sacrifice, said the Secretary-General, who said he was moved by the late leader's "selflessness and deep sense of shared purpose" when the two men met in 2009.

"Let us continue each day to be inspired by his lifelong example and his call to never cease working for a better and more just world."

Recalling his memories of meeting Mr. Mandela, the Secretary-General said he had been deeply touched and inspired. "When I praised him for his lifelong contribution to end apartheid he said 'It is not only me, but hundreds and hundreds of known and unknown people that contributed.' That has stuck with me ever since."

UN warns 1.3m people in Africa need food aid ahead of sanctioned military action

By AFP/December 6, 2013

ROME: The United Nations on Thursday said that as many as 1.3 million people in the Central African Republic needed food aid, as the UN Security Council backed an African and French

military intervention to halt growing deadly unrest.

“In Central African Republic, 1.3 million people are in need of emergency food assistance due to civil unrest,” the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said in a report on world cereal production and needs.

The figure, which represents more than a quarter of the country’s total population, was up from an assessment of 1.1 million provided by the UN a month ago.

The report also issued a food warning for five Sahel countries further West – Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal – saying that crops and pastures had been affected by a delayed and short rainy season.

“The situation could lead to a new surge in food insecurity and malnutrition,” it said.

The organisation said that continued civil conflicts had created “severe food insecurity” for six million people in Syria and 4.5 million in Yemen.

The report said world cereal production in 2013 is expected to reach a new high of 2,500 million tonnes – almost 8.4 per cent more than last year and six per cent higher than the previous record in 2011.

It said food prices had remained stable, with the FAO Food Price Index averaging 206.3 points in November compared to 206.6 points in October.

US/AFRICA :

Nelson Mandela: His impact on American activism, politics and pop culture

By Chelsea J. Carter, CNN/December 6, 2013

(CNN) -- Word of Nelson Mandela's death spread quickly across the United States, bringing with it a mix of reverence and grief for a man who was born in South Africa but in the end belonged to the world.

President Barack Obama ordered American flags to be lowered immediately to half-staff until Monday in tribute to Mandela, a rare honor for a foreign leader.

Memorials to the former South African president popped up from Los Angeles to Chicago, where flowers and candles were laid in front of murals bearing his likeness. In Washington, people gathered in front of the South Africa's embassy.

For many Americans, the death of Mandela was akin to losing one of their own.

He loomed large in the actions of activists and politicians; he inspired music and movies.

Here's a look at the Mandela's impact on the United States:

ACTIVISM

It began with a financial boycott, of sorts.

Students on campuses across the country in the late 1970s called for their universities and colleges to divest from investments in South Africa.

That led to sit-ins and protest marches that by the mid-1980s drew thousands .

"We had marches day after day, thousands of people got arrested in Washington, D.C.," civil rights attorney Charles Ogletree said. "They were all released and ultimately not charged with any offense. Because it was a national issue -- black, white, male, female, people on the left and right, everybody was involved in it."

In 1986, Rep. Ron Dellums, D-California, sponsored a bill that called for a full trade embargo against South Africa as well as divestment by American companies. The bill, which passed the House, was vetoed by then-President Ronald Reagan. Congress then overrode the veto.

Today, this type of activism -- financial boycotts -- have become a protest staple. For example, fast food workers called this week for a boycott of their respective restaurants to protest low wages.

POPULAR CULTURE

It began in 1985 with musician Steven Van Zandt's "Sun City," a song that protested the South African policy of apartheid.

The music brought together such musical powerhouses as Bruce Springsteen, Run DMC, Bonnie Raitt, Miles Davis, George Clinton, Jackson Browne and dozens more to record the single and video.

That was followed in 1986 with the release of Paul Simon's "Graceland," which featured South African musicians -- including Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

Simon on Thursday praised Mandela as one of the world's greatest teachers.
Pres. Obama reflects on Mandela's impact

"He conceived a model for mortal enemies to overcome their hatred and find a way through compassion to rebuild a nation based on truth, justice and the power of forgiveness," the singer said in a statement to CNN. "His passing should reignite a worldwide effort for peace."

On Thursday, the famed Apollo Theater in Harlem -- that hosted so many of these artists -- paid tribute to Mandela. Its marquee said, simply: "He changed our world."

Hollywood was a long-time supporter of Mandela's fight against apartheid, releasing a number of movies inspired by the civil rights leader's plight.

"We count ourselves unspeakably fortunate to have been immersed in Nelson Mandela's story and legacy," said Harvey Weinstein, whose company is releasing the biopic "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom" this month.

A number of Hollywood heavyweights have portrayed Mandela, including Danny Glover, Sidney Poitier and Terrance Howard. Morgan Freeman earned an Oscar nomination for best actor for his portrayal of Mandela in "Invictus."

The latest to step into the role is Idris Elba, who plays the South African leader in "Mandela: The Long Walk Home."

"What an honor it was to step into the shoes of Nelson Mandela and portray a man who defied odds, broke down barriers, and championed human rights before the eyes of the world," Elba said.

POLITICS

Perhaps nowhere is Mandela's influence more evident than on America's politicians.

As a student at the University of California, Berkeley, California Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner participated in the divestment protests in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

So when Mandela was released and the South African government began its transition, "I think we felt like we were part of that," Skinner said.

She learned of Mandela's death during a Democratic caucus in California.

"That strategic, spiritual, political leadership has no equal," she said.

President Obama recounted to the nation on Thursday how he drew inspiration from Mandela during his first public speech.

"My very first political action, the first thing I ever did that involved an issue or a policy or politics, was a protest against apartheid. I studied his words and his writings," he said in a televised address shortly after Mandela's death was announced.

"And like so many around the globe, I cannot fully imagine my own life without the example that Nelson Mandela set, and so long as I live I will do what I can to learn from him."

"He no longer belongs to us," Obama told the nation in a televised address. "He belongs to the ages."

CANADA/AFRICA :

How Brian Mulroney spearheaded Canadian push to end apartheid in South Africa and free Nelson Mandela

Mark Kennedy, Postmedia News/05/12/13

Nelson Mandela thanked Brian Mulroney for his friendship and support

On June 18, 1990, exactly 127 days after he walked out of the gates of a South African prison, Nelson Mandela entered Canada's House of Commons to thunderous cheers and applause.

He was led into the chamber by then-prime minister Brian Mulroney, whose leadership on the international stage against South African apartheid had been impressive.

It was one of the most memorable occasions ever to occur in the Commons, as both Mandela and Mulroney delivered speeches to a packed house.

“A historic moment is in sight,” said Mandela, as he thanked Mulroney and Canadians from all walks of life for supporting South Africa’s blacks.

“It will not be long now before we, as South Africans, stand up to proclaim that the apartheid fountainhead of racism throughout the world is no more and that political power has passed into the hands of the whole people.”

“Never should racism in our country, from whatever quarter, raise its ugly head again. All of us as South Africans, both black and white, must build a common sense of nationhood in which all ideas of vengeance and retribution are impermissible.”

In his speech, Mulroney told Mandela the world was “remarkably fortunate” to have a person of such “rare qualities” leading the movement for equality in South Africa.

“To emerge from prison after so long in incarceration and to retain an understanding of the concerns of your jailers is truly extraordinary,” said Mulroney.

“To resume your life and your leadership with neither bitterness nor malice is a powerful compliment to the strength of your character and to the soundness of your values.”

More than two decades later — with the death of Mandela, at age 95 — it’s clear that Canada played a significant role in the international sanctions campaign in the years leading up to his release from prison.

It’s a story of two men and two life experiences — one a black African lawyer who had been the imprisoned leader of an oppressed people, the other a white Canadian politician from a paper mill town on Quebec’s north shore whose personal sense of morality was deeply offended by the systemic racism in South Africa.

“Canada was a leader within the Commonwealth, and a leader in the West,” says Bernard Wood, who played a key role at the time.

Wood was head of the independent North-South Institute when Mulroney called on him in the fall of 1985 to reach out to other Commonwealth nations as his “personal representative” on how to impose sanctions on South Africa.

“It was very much driven by Mulroney’s personal convictions,” says Wood.

“He was passionate about this. He said to me, ‘Every day, I wake up at 24 Sussex and I look across the street to the South African High Commission. And every day I get angry.’”

Starting in 1985, Mulroney spearheaded an aggressive Canadian push within the Commonwealth for sanctions to pressure the white South African government to end apartheid and release Mandela from the prison where he had been locked up for a quarter century.

That put him at odds with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who wrote to Mulroney: “Like you, I loathe apartheid and want to see it abolished at the earliest possible moment.”

But Thatcher steadfastly opposed sanctions because she insisted they were “counterproductive.”

Britain, with significant economic ties to South Africa, would be hurt by sanctions. She also argued

that South Africans themselves would be harmed by further sanctions and that many blacks would lose their jobs, leaving their children to go starving — a consequence she described as “immoral.”

But Mulroney wasn't buying it. He saw a nation where five million whites dominated 24 million blacks who did not have the right to vote and where racism was endemic.

“The very notion of South Africa's apartheid was anathema to me, and while I was under no illusions about Canada's economic strength in the world, I also knew that Canada's role was not unimportant,” he later wrote in his memoirs.

“I viewed apartheid with the same degree of disgust that I attached to the Nazis — the authors of the most odious offence in modern history.”

“I was resolved from the moment I became prime minister that any government I headed would speak and act in the finest traditions of Canada.”

Mulroney and Thatcher had fierce internal debates, but Mulroney and his external affairs minister, Joe Clark, stuck to their guns on sanctions.

After a particularly critical August 1986 meeting in London that left an isolated Britain on the sidelines, Canada moved with other Commonwealth nations on 11 additional sanctions such as bans on new air links, new investment in South Africa and promotion of tourism to the country.

At the time, Canada was receiving no support from the United States administration, where President Ronald Reagan — in the dying years of the Cold War — also opposed sanctions and feared that Mandela and other leaders of the African National Congress were communists.

History now shows just how wrong Reagan was, and how Mulroney's instincts were right.

Once released from prison, Mandela rejected vengeance, ended apartheid as national leader, and was transformed into a global icon for peace and tolerance.

But in the 1980s, when he needed foreign friends the most, it was Mulroney's Canadian government who led the way.

Mandela never forgot it. The day after his release from prison in 1990, he spoke with Mulroney on the telephone.

“We regard you as one of our great friends because of the solid support we have received from you and Canada over the years,” he told Mulroney, according to the Canadian prime minister's memoirs.

“When I was in jail, having friends like you in Canada gave me more joy and support than I can say.”

Mandela said he wanted to return the favour by choosing Canada's Parliament as the first legislature to make a speech.

“Mr. Mandela, you can count on me getting a plane over there real fast,” Mulroney replied.

Eventually, the two men forged a friendship that grew even stronger after they both left politics. On his annual business trips to South Africa, Mulroney made a point of visiting Mandela.

In 2004, the aging South African sent Mulroney a letter.

“You provided strong and principled leadership in the battle against apartheid,” he wrote.

“This was not a popular position in all quarters, but South Africans today acknowledge the importance of your contribution to our eventual liberation and success.”

Nelson Mandela’s ties to Canada were forged long before he earned global praise for his role in bringing an end to apartheid rule in South Africa. Here are some key events that helped cement his relationship with Canada:

1986: Canada implements trade sanctions against South Africa, curtailing a relationship valued at the time at \$500 million.

Feb. 11, 1990: Mandela is released from prison after 27 years behind bars on Robben Island.

Feb. 12, 1990: Prime Minister Brian Mulroney sends Mandela a letter inviting him to visit Canada and offering him help to build a new, non-racial South African democracy.

June 17, 1990: Mandela arrives in Canada for his first visit to the country. Mulroney announces the establishment of a \$5 million fund to help relocate South African exiles. Mandela addresses parliament in Ottawa.

Sept. 24, 1993: Mandela requests Canada lift economic sanctions against South Africa during a speech to the United Nations. Hours later, External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty announces Ottawa would comply.

Sept. 24, 1998: At the start of Mandela’s second visit to Canada, he is made an honorary Companion of the Order of Canada. Mandela was one of only a handful of people born outside of Canada to be inducted into the order.

Sept. 25, 1998: Mandela addresses a rally of more than 40,000 students at Toronto’s Sky Dome with Prime Minister Jean Chretien and other dignitaries in attendance.

Nov. 17, 2001: Mandela begins a three-day visit to Canada by attending a ceremony to rename a Toronto public school after him. He and his wife Graca Machel later receive honorary degrees from Toronto’s Ryerson University.

Nov. 19, 2001: Mandela becomes the first living person to be made an honorary citizen of Canada.

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

New ways to play an old song

With French soldiers once again on their way south, how much has changed in military relations?

WHEN President François Hollande welcomes African heads of state to Paris on December 6th for a summit on peace and security, he will be well-briefed. For weeks he has been preparing to dispatch troops on a mission to restore security—if not peace—to the heart of their continent. On December 5th the UN Security Council was preparing to authorise a peacekeeping operation in the Central African Republic (CAR), led by 1,000 French soldiers. Their mandate is to break a cycle of violence in the former colony that has been described as “pre-genocidal”.

One paradox will not be lost on those attending the banquets and seminars in Paris. Mr Hollande says that “Africans must themselves guarantee their security in Africa”, as he put it in a speech earlier this year. He will repeat the message to African leaders gathered at the Elysée Palace, promising French logistics and planning support for regional peacekeeping forces so that they can take on the task more convincingly. Yet he finds himself on the cusp of his second military intervention on the continent this year, having sent French troops into Mali in January to fight Islamist extremists (see article).

Five years ago, a defence review under his centre-right predecessor, Nicolas Sarkozy, concluded that France needed to shift its military focus from sub-Saharan Africa towards a “strategic arc” of instability reaching from the Maghreb to the Horn of Africa and the Gulf. To this end, Mr Sarkozy shut France’s permanent military base in Senegal, one of three on the continent, kept one in Djibouti, and opened another in Abu Dhabi, its first in the Gulf. It was not a withdrawal from Africa, officials stressed at the time, but a response to a changing security threat.

The strategy appealed to those keen to turn the page on *françafrique*, that tangle of informal ties between France and its former colonies kept in place by arms deals, business contracts and political favours, which Mr Sarkozy said belonged to a “bygone era”. It made good financial sense at a time when the French defence budget was being squeezed. It also dealt with frustrations in France that the former colonial power was playing regional gendarme in Africa, while China, India and other emerging economic powers secured more of the commercial rewards. As a French report published on December 4th points out, China is now the world’s biggest exporter to the continent. France languishes in fifth place.

Since that defence review, however, growing insecurity across the region, from the Sahel to the Great Lakes, has made it hard for France to sit on the sidelines militarily. Regional African forces are in better shape than they were, but they still struggle to respond to an emergency. The instability and seepage of arms generated by the Arab spring, the entrenchment of al-Qaeda and other terrorist networks in the Sahel and northern Nigeria, the increased hostage-taking of French nationals—all raise the spectre of an “Afrghanistan” to Europe’s south, focusing French minds and putting security back at the top of the agenda, as this week’s summit suggests.

At first glance, more French meddling might look like a resumption of old ways. But there has been a shift in thinking about the nature of intervention, which began at the end of Mr Sarkozy’s watch. In 2011, stung by accusations of complicity with deposed north African leaders, he sent French soldiers to oust Laurent Gbagbo in Ivory Coast, who had refused to accept defeat at the polls. In Mali, Mr Hollande built further credibility for French intervention. The idea is that, by acting in consultation with regional leaders and alongside African forces, France can operate more efficiently, get out faster and restore influence on a continent otherwise looking to China, America and elsewhere.

The CAR mission, named Sangaris after a local butterfly, will be a big test. It responds to a humanitarian crisis. In this mostly Christian and animist country (though with a big Muslim minority), at least 400,000 people, nearly a tenth of the population, have fled their homes amid horrific violence. But France also sees the CAR as a strategic matter. The collapse of the state in this landlocked, mineral-rich country, with a history of military coups and borders with six countries involved in regional conflicts, could draw in terrorists and traffickers, destabilising the region.

“One of the lessons of Mali is that French military bases are extremely useful and enable us to act immediately,” says Camille Grand, director of the Foundation for Strategic Research, a Paris-based think-tank. In Bangui, the CAR capital, some 400 soldiers are already guarding the airport; logistics specialists began to arrive this week, and a French military convoy is on its way from neighbouring Cameroon. Meanwhile many political and military leaders in the region sit on their hands—if they are not jetting to Paris. Thanks to the swift French deployment, some armed gangs loyal to the mostly Muslim Séléka rebellion are said to be heading out of Bangui already.

France insists that its effort amounts to a “bridging force”, designed merely to restore order while a regional peacekeeping force of 2,000 men is prepared for the job. Jean-Yves Le Drian, the French defence minister, thinks this may take six months. “We are not there to replace the African force, but to strengthen it,” says an official. Yet the great difficulty, both in the short run and beyond, is as always building up a credible regional alternative. When French forces first went into Mali, Laurent Fabius, the foreign minister, said that the main operation would be a “question of weeks”. Nearly a year later, 2,800 French soldiers are still there on the ground.

Centrafrique: l'opération française a commencé à Bangui, annonce Paris
le 06-12-2013/tempsreel.nouvelobs.com

Paris (AFP) - Le ministre de la Défense Jean-Yves Le Drian a annoncé vendredi matin que l'opération française en Centrafrique avait commencé, avec des patrouilles dans Bangui.

Sur RFI, M. Le Drian a déclaré: "L'opération a commencé, dans la mesure où les forces françaises qui étaient déjà présentes à l'aéroport de Bangui, avec une mission limitée à la protection de cet aéroport et de nos ressortissants, dès cette nuit, ont développé des patrouilles dans Bangui. La nuit a été calme".

"Une compagnie est arrivée de Libreville hier soir et aujourd'hui un détachement d'hélicoptères sera sur zone", a encore déclaré le ministre. Il a évoqué aussi le développement de la force africaine sur place qui se coordonne avec les forces françaises. "Ce qui fait que j'espère que les deux objectifs que nous poursuivons pourront se réaliser rapidement".

Il a défini ces deux objectifs : "une sécurité minimum, permettant à une intervention humanitaire de se mettre en œuvre, ce qui n'est pas le cas aujourd'hui". Elle passe "par la sécurisation des rues, des itinéraires principaux pour permettre aux gens d'aller même à l'hôpital". Ensuite il s'agit parallèlement "que les forces africaines soient en situation d'assurer la sécurité du territoire en attendant la transition politique".

Le président François Hollande avait annoncé jeudi une action militaire "immédiate" en République centrafricaine, en proie à des soubresauts meurtriers, après le feu vert donné plus tôt par l'ONU à cette intervention.

Jean-Yves Le Drian a assuré vendredi que la France serait en Centrafrique "pour un moment court", possiblement six mois. Le président François Hollande avait jusqu'ici évoqué une période de "4 à 6

mois".

Les objectifs français - sécurisation du pays, aide au déploiement de la force multinationale africaine - sont-ils atteignables en six mois ? "Ce n'est pas exclu", selon M. Le Drian. Un prolongement est-il envisageable ? "Ce n'est pas dans la logique de ce que nous avons décidé, (de ce) qu'a décidé le président de la République, c'est une phase transitoire", a répondu le ministre.

Des tirs sporadiques d'armes automatiques ont été entendus dans la nuit de jeudi à vendredi à Bangui, placée sous couvre-feu, et qui présentait au petit matin un visage de ville déserte, ont constaté des journalistes de l'AFP. Aucun bilan d'éventuelles victimes de ces tirs, qui dans certains quartiers, ont cessé à l'aube, n'était disponible dans l'immédiat.

"On ne sait pas pourquoi ils tiraient. On n'a pas entendu parler d'incidents", a expliqué un habitant du quartier de Ben Zvi. Malgré la levée du couvre-feu à 06H00, les rues étaient totalement vides en tout début de matinée. Contrairement à la veille où ils patrouillaient la ville toute la journée, les pick-ups bondés de soldats se faisaient discrets.

France-Afrique : le sommet de l'Elysée s'ouvre ce vendredi
le 06-12-2013/Le Nouvel Observateur avec AFP

Une quarantaine de dirigeants africains ont rendez-vous à Paris sur fond d'intervention française en Centrafrique.

Une quarantaine de dirigeants africains ont rendez-vous vendredi 6 et samedi 7 décembre à Paris à l'invitation du président François Hollande, désireux de voir l'Afrique assumer sa propre sécurité même s'il a annoncé jeudi soir une intervention militaire de la France sur le continent, en Centrafrique.

Ce "Sommet de l'Elysée pour la paix et la sécurité en Afrique" vise à traduire dans les faits la doctrine du chef de l'Etat français, affirmée à Dakar en octobre 2012, et sans cesse réaffirmée depuis : "Le futur de l'Afrique se bâtira par le renforcement de la capacité des Africains à gérer eux-mêmes les crises africaines."

Même si "la France sera toujours" aux côtés des Africains, comme le promet aussi François Hollande, elle n'entend plus apparaître comme le "gendarme de l'Afrique" ni s'ingérer dans ses affaires intérieures, explique-t-on dans son entourage.

Or, bon gré mal gré, 50 ans après les indépendances africaines, les forces françaises continuent de se retrouver aux avant-postes lorsqu'une crise menace une ancienne colonie.
Sécurité

Avant la Centrafrique, et après la Côte d'Ivoire en 2011, l'armée française est intervenue en janvier au Mali pour chasser les groupes islamistes armés qui s'étaient emparés du nord du pays, et Paris s'apprête à déployer un millier d'hommes pour rétablir l'ordre en Centrafrique, plongée dans le chaos depuis le renversement en mars du pouvoir en place.

Plus de 600 journalistes se sont accrédités pour ce sommet dominé par les questions de sécurité, objet d'une session plénière à huis clos, vendredi, sur les "menaces transversales" qui pèsent sur l'Afrique : terrorisme, piraterie, frontières poreuses ou trafics des êtres humains ou de drogue.

Le devenir de la "Force africaine en attente", qui ne verra le jour au mieux qu'en 2015 et de la

"Force d'action rapide" prévue entre-temps, sera au centre des discussions avec une double interrogation: comment gérer la transition et quels sont les points faibles des forces africaines ?

"Les Africains doivent faire leurs propres efforts notamment pour s'équiper", reconnaît un diplomate africain, "mais nous avons d'énormes besoins en matière de logistique, de formation surtout face aux nouvelles menaces comme le terrorisme, la piraterie maritime ou la cybercriminalité..."

"Gagnant-gagnant"

Samedi, les chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement plancheront sur le partenariat économique et de développement, sur la base d'un rapport remis au ministre français des Finances, Pierre Moscovici.

L'occasion, espère un diplomate ouest-africain, d'"élaborer un agenda économique partagé qui tienne compte des intérêts de chacun et soit du gagnant-gagnant".

Puis le sommet se refermera après une table ronde sur le climat, dans la perspective de la Conférence des Nations unies sur les changements climatiques prévue en France fin 2015. "Paris espère une alliance entre l'Europe et l'Afrique sur les objectifs de cette conférence", dit-on à l'Elysée.

Plusieurs événements parallèles sont organisés en marge du sommet : mercredi, une conférence économique réunissant plus de 500 entrepreneurs français et africains ; jeudi, un forum d'innovations africaines pour un développement durable et une table-ronde sur les espèces menacées, particulièrement les éléphants ; enfin, vendredi, une rencontre, en présence des Premières dames, sur les violences sexuelles faites aux femmes dans les conflits.

Sortir du pré carré de l'Afrique francophone

En lançant en mai à Addis-Abeba, siège de l'Union africaine (UA), son invitation pour le sommet de l'Elysée, François Hollande avait convié "l'ensemble des dirigeants africains", manière de sortir du pré carré de l'Afrique francophone pour s'adresser à l'ensemble du continent.

La présence du secrétaire général de l'ONU, Ban Ki-moon, des dirigeants européens Herman Van Rompuy et José Manuel Barroso, ainsi que la présidente de la Commission de l'UA, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, participe de la même ambition. "C'est une affaire qui ne concerne pas que la France et l'Afrique mais l'Europe et le monde", fait valoir le président français.

Six chefs d'Etats ont été jugés toutefois persona non grata par Paris, soit parce qu'ils ont maille à partir avec la justice internationale, soit parce qu'ils ont été exclus de l'UA : Soudan, Zimbabwe, Guinée-Bissau, Centrafrique, Madagascar et Egypte.

Sur les 54 pays africains conviés, seul le Zimbabwe de Robert Mugabe a refusé de dépêcher un représentant officiel.

CHINA/AFRICA :

China offers condolence to South Africa

Fri Dec 6, 2013 /presstv.ir

China's President Xi Jinping has offered his condolences to South Africa over the death of anti-

apartheid icon Nelson Mandela, praising him as a ‘world-renowned’ leader.

“With arduous and extraordinary efforts, he led the people of South Africa to success in the struggle against apartheid, making a historic contribution to the birth and development of a new South Africa,” Xi said in a message of condolence to South African President Jacob Zuma on Friday, according to a report posted on the central government’s website.

Mandela passed away at the age of 95 in Johannesburg on Thursday.

“Mr. Mandela was a world-renowned statesman,” the message stated.

Mandela, who visited China twice, “actively promoted friendly cooperation between China and South Africa in various areas,” Xi said.

“The Chinese people will forever keep in memory the outstanding contributions he made to... the development of humankind.”

People in Beijing laid flowers before an image of Mandela outside the South African embassy.

China’s Foreign Ministry also hailed Mandela as an “old friend of the Chinese people.”

“He was not only revered as the ‘father of the state’ by South African people, but also won the respect and love of people all over the world,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said in a statement.

Mandela, who led South Africa’s transition from white-minority rule in the 1990s after nearly three decades in prison, was one of the towering political figures of the 20th century.

He served as president of South Africa from 1994 to 1999, and was the first South African president to be elected in a fully representative democratic election.

MR/HSN

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 06 Décembre 2013... AGNEWS/ DAM, NY, 06/12/2013