



[Au moins vingt civils réfugiés dans la base de l'ONU à Bor (est du Soudan du Sud) ont été tués jeudi et 70 autres blessés lors d'une attaque armée, selon les Etats-Unis. L'ONU avait annoncé auparavant que l'attaque avait fait des dizaines de blessés parmi les 5.000 civils réfugiés dans la base, ainsi que deux blessés parmi les Casque bleus qui protégeaient la base, mais n'avait pas fait état de morts. Ces civils ont fui les violences ethniques dans une des régions les plus disputées du pays.]

BURUNDI :

Burundi : un diplomate de l'ONU est expulsé du pays

le Jeudi 17 Avril 2014/Jeuneafrique.com

Le Burundi a expulsé un diplomate de l'ONU, a annoncé jeudi le ministère des Relations extérieures du pays. Cette décision fait suite à la diffusion d'une note interne des Nations unies selon laquelle le gouvernement burundais armerait certains des militants du parti au pouvoir.

Le gouvernement burundais a annoncé, jeudi 17 avril, avoir expulsé de son territoire le responsable de la sécurité du bureau des Nations unies au Burundi (Bnub), Paul Debbie. Bujumbura réagit ainsi à la diffusion d'une note interne de l'ONU selon laquelle le gouvernement armait et formait les membres de l'Imbonerakure, l'aile jeunesse du parti au pouvoir. Ces allégations avaient été qualifiées de "rumeurs sans fondement" par le pouvoir, qui avait exigé des excuses de l'ONU.

"Ce monsieur a été déclaré persona non grata", a ainsi déclaré le ministre des Relations extérieures, Laurent Kavakure, précisant qu'il semblerait que Paul Debbie "soit à l'origine de ces fausses informations qui portent atteinte à l'image du Burundi". Celui-ci aurait 48 heures pour quitter le

Burundi, ce qu'une source au Bnub a confirmé, précisant que le bureau a été notifié de la décision jeudi matin.

"Cela ne résout pas le vrai problème"

"Comme le pouvoir burundais ne peut pas s'en prendre aux Nations unies, il est malheureusement en train de personnaliser ses attaques, c'est une escalade regrettable", a commenté un diplomate, sous couvert d'anonymat, ajoutant : "mais cela ne résout pas le vrai problème soulevé par ces allégations".

La tension politique monte au Burundi alors que l'élection présidentielle de 2015 approche et que la candidature du président Nkurunziza pour un troisième mandat est attendue, malgré la limite à deux mandats imposée par la Constitution. Le principal parti tutsi, l'Uprona, s'est retiré du gouvernement, dominé par les Hutus, le mois dernier.

Le gouvernement a accusé le Bnub de s'être allié avec l'opposition et de chercher à nuire à la paix et à la sécurité nationale. L'ONU a adressé la semaine dernière une sévère mise en garde au pouvoir en place, lui demandant de prendre d'urgence des mesures pour apaiser la violence politique et respecter les droits de l'homme.

Jeuneafrique.com

Burundi : adoption du projet de loi portant création de la cour spéciale des terres

French.china.org.cn/le 18-04-2014

L'Assemblée nationale burundaise a adopté jeudi le projet de loi portant création de la cour spéciale des terres et autres biens.

Dans l'exposé des motifs, le ministre burundais de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux, Pascal Barandagiye, a indiqué que la Commission Nationale des Terres et Autres Biens (CNTB) n'ayant pas de compétence judiciaire, les actes posés par elle et qui ne trouvent l'assentiment commun des parties en conflit, tombent en annulation suite aux recours systématiques contre ses décisions devant les juridictions existantes.

Il a précisé qu'en pareilles situations, la connaissance des litiges relatifs aux terres, aux logements et autres biens abandonnés ou spoliés suite aux événements tragiques qu'a connus le Burundi, ne peut être confiée aux juridictions existantes qui sont guidés par des principes d'une justice ordinaire selon une procédure très longue, fatigante et plus coûteuse.

Les groupes parlementaires UPRONA (Union Pour le Progrès National) et FRODEBU-NYAKURI (Front pour la Démocratie au Burundi) ont boycotté les travaux de la séance plénière pour l'adoption de ce projet de loi.

Ils ont accusé le parti au pouvoir CNDD-FDD "forcer" le processus d'adoption de ce projet de loi. Ils ont par ailleurs indiqué que cette cour "viole" le principe constitutionnel de séparation des pouvoirs et "ne vise qu'à exécuter la volonté d'une commission administrative qu'est la CNTB relevant du pouvoir exécutif". F

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

RDC : l'ONU va vérifier les circonstances de la mort du milicien Paul Sadala
(Xinhua)/18.04.2014

La Mission de l'ONU pour la Stabilisation du Congo (MONUSCO) enverra une mission d'évaluation pour s'enquérir de la situation qui a conduit à la mort du chef milicien Paul Sadala alias Morgan, a déclaré mercredi à la presse, Charles Bambara, porte-parole de la MONUSCO.

M. Bambara a annoncé qu'une mission de l'ONU se rendra dans la province Orientale pour avoir des informations précises ayant conduit à la mort du chef milicien Paul Sadala.

"Nous au niveau de la MONUSCO nous regrettons cette mort car nous aurions bien aimé comme beaucoup d'autres personnes que Paul Sadala soit traduit devant la justice pour les crimes qu'il a commis à travers cette zone", a regretté le porte-parole onusien, ajoutant que "si il avait été traduit devant la justice cela nous aura permis de comprendre pas mal de choses".

Samedi dernier, le gouvernement a été informé d'une offre de reddition de Morgan et d'une quarantaine de ses hommes. Ils étaient attendus à Bandegadio, à 300 km au sud-ouest de Bunia dans le district de l'Ituri, d'où ils devaient se rendre vers Bunia afin d'être présentés aux autorités militaires et judiciaires.

Selon le commandant des FARDC en Ituri Fal Sikabwe, Morgan a refusé d'être conduit à Bunia. Une altercation aurait alors eu lieu entre ses hommes et les militaires congolais venus l'escorter vers Bunia. Un officiel de la MONUSCO a annoncé pour sa part que Morgan est mort après des échanges des tirs entre ses combattants et les militaires congolais dans la localité de Molokai.

Paul Sadala est le fondateur d'un groupe Mayi-Mayi renfermant des déserteurs, braconniers et bandits, appelés "Mayi-Mayi Simba". Il est responsable de nombreuses attaques mortelles, y compris contre la réserve d'Okapi d'Efulu, où ses hommes ont tué plusieurs individus et tous les Okapis en captivité.

UGANDA :

Somalia - Ugandan Guard Unit Arrives in Mogadishu for UN Personnel, Bases Protection
17 April 2014/Garowe Online (Garowe)

Mogadishu — The first division of United Nations Guard Unit (UNGU) departed Uganda for Somalia to protect UN staff and facilities in the war-torn Mogadishu on Thursday, Garowe Online reports.

A plane carrying 64 soldiers who are set to comply with a new UN mandate landed at Adan Adde International Airport in step towards tight security in and around UN bases in Mogadishu as Al Shabaab targeted the main compound with deadly rampage last year.

"The new soldiers [from Uganda] are not part of our mission [in Somalia], under new UN mandate, they will guard UN bases," said African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) spokesman Col. Ali

Adan Humad.

Uganda's military advisor to the UN, Maj. Gen. Silver Kayemba says, the Ugandan guard unit arrived in Mogadishu in response to United Nations request according to Uganda's New Vision: "We got a request for this force from UN in February and in less than two months we are ready to deploy. This means we are ready to maintain peace in the region".

Uganda, a key troop contributing country deployed infantry battalions of the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) in the war-ravaged horn of Africa nation.

The southern part of the country has been recovering from two decades of bloody stalemate and bitter feud that further have deteriorated humanitarian and security situation.

Ugandan men to go on trial on homosexuality charges

Barbara Among in Kampala/ theguardian.com/Thursday 17 April 2014

Kim Mukisa and Jackson Mukasa face life imprisonment if found guilty in first such case since introduction of new anti-gay law

Two Ugandan men will go on trial next month accused of homosexuality, the first people to be charged since a controversial new anti-gay law was passed.

Prosecutors said on Wednesday that they had sufficient evidence against Kim Mukisa and Jackson Mukasa, who denied the charges when they first appeared in court earlier this year. They have been held in Luziro prison in Kampala since December.

Mukisa, 24, a businessman, was charged with "having sexual knowledge of a person against the order of nature" and Mukasa, 19, with permitting a person to have sexual knowledge of him against the order of nature.

They are the first Ugandans to face trial on homosexuality charges, with an earlier case collapsing before it reached court and the majority of those arrested paying stiff fines to avoid prison.

Uganda's president Yoweri Museveni signed the anti-gay law in February. It punishes first-time offenders with 14 years in jail and allows life imprisonment as the penalty for acts of "aggravated homosexuality".

Since the law was passed several donors have cut aid to Uganda, while others have diverted development support to projects that promote human rights.

Mukisa and Mukasa, however, have been charged under the 1950 Penal Code Act, which also prescribes life imprisonment if a person is found guilty of homosexual acts.

They are expected to defend themselves during the trial, which is scheduled to start on 7 May.

Uganda: Fight Erupts Over 'Museveni 2016' Cash

By Trevor S Baleke/The Observer (Kampala)/17 April 2014

The NRM MPs' drive in Busoga to sell President Museveni as the party's sole candidate for 2016 got off to a chaotic start on Wednesday.

While Uganda's opposition is crippled by a chronic lack of money, the NRM campaign was dogged by near-fist fights over how to share money. Party MPs began their tours, having been given Shs 4m for each sub-county.

Each MP is essentially covering two sub-counties in his/her constituency. Usually flanked by the district LC-V chairperson or LC-III chairperson, the MPs are meeting LC-I executives, youth and women leaders, councillors, religious leaders and any other persons who may wish to attend. It has been established that the Wednesday meetings attracted between 200 and 250 people.

"In February, we [MPs in Kyankwanzi] unanimously agreed that in order to avoid waste of resources, and in appreciation and recognition of the fundamental change brought by our president, none of us [NRM cadres] shall stand against him in the party primaries.

"That is why we are meeting our people to popularize the resolute decision and have the views of the people as well," Iganga Woman MP, Olivia Kwagala Kabaale told The Observer yesterday.

During the meetings, participants in each sub- country decide how they want to share the Shs 4m.

"The groups we met yesterday [Wednesday] decided to have their money shared amongst themselves in cash... Others spent part of it on lunch and shared the balance," Kwagala said.

MP survives

In Nawandala sub-county in Kigulu North constituency, Iganga district, the meeting that began well turned rather rowdy. Area MP Edward Balidawa Kafufu survived being beaten over the Shs 4m. Kafufu was manhandled by his constituents after he paid only 86 participants out of the 250 who attended one meeting.

People familiar with the meeting said Kafufu wanted to give money to people who would support him in 2016. After paying 86 people, he sought to leave but the rest blocked him.

"There is no way for you [to leave] if you don't give us our money. We are very much aware that each one of us is supposed to have a share... .. by the way, that money was given to you by Mzee [Museveni] to deliver it to us; so, we shall use any kind means to get it from you," chorused the mob.

Kafufu's pleas were drowned out by the loud voices of his angry constituents. He was saved by MP Kwagala who intervened and persuaded him to pay everyone. The team later proceeded to Nabitende sub-county, where they met about 200 people.

Successor not born

Joseph Mudhola, the Nabitende sub-county youth councillor, got a thunderous applause when he said the person who can replace President Museveni was not yet born.

Mudhola, who referred to Museveni as the father of Uganda's current peace and democracy, mocked whoever wants to stand against Museveni.

"How can you say you are your father's heir before he dies? Mzee [Museveni] is still available and he is the only one we want," Mudhola said amid applause.

Karim Dheyongera, the leader of the elderly in the district, asked Parliament to scrap presidential elections until Museveni dies. He said it was a waste of public resources to organise presidential elections when 'everyone' clearly knows that Museveni is an automatic winner.

"He has won more votes each time we had an election and sincerely, even if we had one tomorrow, he would win massively," Dheyongera said.

With that, the meeting ended and those who attended shared their money.

SOUTH AFRICA :

Pause dans le procès Pistorius, le doute persiste

17-04-2014/sport24.lefigaro.fr

Ajourné au 5 mai prochain, le procès d'Oscar Pistorius soulève toujours plus de questions.

«Get the f*** out of my house !» (Dégage, sort de chez moi!) Ce sont les mots qu'Oscar Pistorius a prononcé dans le couloir sombre de sa chambre, le 13 février 2013, quelques instants avant d'abattre Reeva Steenkamp. Cherchait-il à intimider un cambrioleur, comme il continue à l'affirmer ? Ou s'adressait-il à sa petite amie, qui s'était réfugiée dans les toilettes, suite à une dispute de couple, comme tente de le démontrer le parquet sud africain ? Après 25 jours d'audience à la Haute Cour de Pretoria, le procès d'Oscar Pistorius, qui a été ajourné au 5 mai prochain, soulève aujourd'hui plus de questions qu'il n'apporte de réponses.

Emouvant, presque théâtral, le procès du champion paralympique manque pourtant de preuves tangibles et de témoins fiables. Dans un contre-interrogatoire très agressif, le représentant du parquet avait passé cinq jours consécutifs à tester la version des faits d'Oscar Pistorius, à la recherche de la moindre omission ou contradiction. Mais l'accusé n'a pas craqué, criant toujours plus son innocence. De son côté, l'avocat de la défense, Me Barrie Roux, avait consacré tout son temps à détruire la version des experts du Parquet. Mais ses contre-experts n'ont pas nécessairement fait le poids, Après six semaines de procès, aucune des deux versions ne s'impose.

«Je vous le dis, Oscar Pistorius, votre version est non seulement fautive, mais aussi tellement improbable que cela ne peut raisonnablement pas être vrai» avait lancé Gerrie Nel lors de son contre-interrogatoire. La version d'Oscar Pistorius souffre effectivement de bizarreries. L'estomac de Reeva était plein alors que Pistorius affirme qu'ils avaient dîné vers 19h00. Certains voisins ont entendu des cris de femmes. La lumière dans la salle de bain était allumée. Le pantalon de la victime traînait par terre alors que tous ses autres vêtements étaient soigneusement rangés. La victime avait emmené son portable aux toilettes. Un garde de la compagnie de sécurité affirme que Pistorius lui a dit que tout allait bien après les coups de feu.

La défense a tenté de répondre à tout. L'analyse des résidus de l'estomac n'est pas une science exacte. D'autres voisins n'ont entendu que des pleurs d'homme. La lumière n'a été allumée que quand Oscar a défoncé la porte pour sortir Reeva. Le pantalon avait été posé sur l'amplificateur de la chaîne pour couvrir la petite lumière qui empêchait le couple de dormir. Le portable avait été amené aux toilettes pour servir de torche. À en croire la facture de téléphone, c'est Oscar Pistorius qui a appelé la sécurité, et pas l'inverse. Il a également appelé son voisin et une ambulance. À aucun moment, il n'a appelé un avocat.

Quant au motif du crime, il est plus flou que jamais. Si le parquet s'est attardé sur deux ou trois messages tendus entre Pistorius et sa petite amie, force est de constater que plus de 99% des communications entre les amants n'avait rien d'anormal. Me Roux a même tenu à terminer son interrogatoire en faisant lire à l'accusé le cadeau que la victime lui avait apporté pour la Saint Valentin. Il s'agissait d'un cadre avec plusieurs photos du couple et un message : «c'est le bon jour aujourd'hui pour te dire que je t'aime.»

Reste la prestation à la barre d'Oscar Pistorius. Elle a été beaucoup plus riche que ses dépositions écrites, mais parfois contradictoire. Difficile, par exemple, de comprendre l'état d'esprit exact dans lequel il se trouvait pendant l'acte fatal. Il avait originellement plaidé la légitime défense. Mais il a ensuite parlé de «panique», puis d'«accident», avant d'affirmer qu'il n'avait pas tiré sur «le danger perçu» mais en direction de la porte, n'ayant pas l'intention de tuer.

«En changeant sa ligne de défense, il perd aux yeux de la Cour sa crédibilité » fait remarquer William Booth, expert en criminologie. L'état émotionnel d'Oscar Pistorius risque aussi de ne pas jouer en sa faveur. Ses pleurs incessants sont interprétés par beaucoup comme un moyen d'éviter les questions embarrassantes. La Cour s'est aussi inquiétée de ses trous de mémoires réguliers. «Si vous êtes trop fatigué, M. Pistorius, il faut nous le dire» lui avait fait remarquer la juge Masipa. Le parquet peut effectivement demander qu'un accusé qui n'est pas en état de témoigner soit rejugé à une date ultérieure.

Suspendu jeudi pour permettre au parquet de se consacrer à une autre affaire, le procès du Sud-Africain Oscar Pistorius reprendra le 5 mai. La juge Thokozile Masipa a précisé qu'elle mettrait à profit ces deux semaines de pause pour étudier les minutes d'audiences, qui couvrent déjà plus de 2.000 pages.

Par Caroline Dumay, notre correspondante en Afrique du Sud.

Safety in South Africa

eveningtimes.co.uk/18042014

I USUALLY get a wee feeling of joy when my home country of South Africa appears in the news.

I say usually, because sometimes the news isn't so good and any tingle of happiness from seeing or reading about home is tainted by the detail that follows.

Striking miners shot dead by police one day, superstar athlete shoots girlfriend the next.

Violent crime occurs so frequently there, that the local media only reports on the most horrible of cases.

If someone were to be hijacked in Glasgow, there would be wall-to-wall coverage. Yet every day in South Africa, people are hijacked - and in many cases shot dead.

Unless there is a particularly unusual element to the story, such events are not deemed newsworthy.

Talking down South Africa is almost a hobby among ex-pats, and it's something that gets my back up.

It seems anyone who left South Africa feels the need to tell those who will listen just how horrible it is in an attempt to justify their decision for emigrating.

The horror stories about life in South Africa are often exaggerated but even when they aren't, they paint a miserable picture.

I talk my country up whenever I can and I visit home whenever I can.

But the Oscar Pistorius trial is raising some uncomfortable questions.

Of course the gory details of what happened to Reeva Steenkamp are horrendous, and watching Pistorius squirm under relentless bombardment from the prosecutor seems like the most perverse form of entertainment.

Seeing Steenkamp's family in court while her injuries are described or displayed, is heartbreaking.

And the questions friends ask me about the trial show how alien South Africa seems to them.

WHAT kind of a place is a country where, in a gated community, people still live in terror of home invasion robberies?

They have high fences and security guards - yet still South Africans wealthy enough to live in such communities have guns at home, burglar alarms and apparently are so scared they shoot blindly.

Pistorius's explanation as to what happened that night might seem far-fetched, but when you put it into the context of a place where violent criminals kill people as often as they don't, it may not be so unbelievable to imagine that, in the grip of fear, someone might fire through a closed door at a perceived threat. Whether he was in fear for his life is for the judge to decide.

But it is not just Pistorius's reputation on the line in that Pretoria courtroom - the Rainbow Nation itself is on trial.

South Africa's reputation being dragged through the mud by Pistorius's defence is just another sad result of this real-life horror story.

South Africa's Ruling Party Facing Defections Ahead of Critical Vote

Anita Powell/voanews.com/April 17, 2014

JOHANNESBURG — As South Africa's powerful ruling party hits 20 years in power, it is bleeding loyalists - including big-name supporters who helped the party back when it was banned and seeking to overthrow the oppression of apartheid. The growing group of defectors says it is tired of the corruption in the African National Congress and it thinks that more should be done to improve the lives of South Africans.

Justice Magagula knows that the African National Congress is the party that won him the freedom he enjoys in today's South Africa. He was born just before the death of the racist apartheid system, and says he remembers well the awful treatment that he endured as a young black South African - and then, on that historic election day in 1994, how everything changed.

But in the last 20 years, persistent inequality, widespread complaints about the ANC-led government's failures to provide basic services, and a series of embarrassing scandals around President Jacob Zuma have led many South Africans to disavow the party they fought for during the nation's darkest days.

A new campaign headed by former ANC stalwarts is calling on citizens to vote against the party in May - or to intentionally spoil their ballots to show their dissatisfaction.

Magagula is part of this growing demographic: the disgusted voter. Except, he says, he plans to skip the polls entirely.

"I'm not gonna vote, to be honest with you... I'm just going to... go on with my life because my life is more important than everything about... this thing, of voting, voting," said Magagula.

He is not alone, says journalist and analyst Khadija Patel, who runs a Web site called SA Votes, which tracks trends around this election and has surveyed tens of thousands of voters.

"We are hearing a lot of South Africans telling us that instead of changing - especially ANC voters - we're hearing from them that they're not voting at all in this election because they don't see their vote to have made any difference. They can't see any tangible difference made in their lives, so they find the whole exercise of voting rather futile," said Patel.

Patel also says she has picked up on another, related trend.

"What is interesting here that instead of shipping over their vote to any of the opposition parties, instead they are choosing not to vote at all. A lot could be said here, then, of the weakness of the opposition in South Africa. But, certainly I think this also speaks to somewhat of a growing disenchantment with the ANC, and indeed, with the political process in South Africa," said Patel.

Magagula, again, illustrates this trend perfectly. At 26-years-old and without steady employment, he is in the crosshairs of a rising political party that was formed out of disgust for the ANC, the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters. But, Magagula says he has little faith in that party's key figure, expelled ANC youth leader Julius Malema.

"I'm gonna say I'm gonna vote Malema, but after that, what is Malema going to do? He's gonna betray every one of us. So what am I going to do is, I'm just going to shut up, not vote for anyone, just go for my life," he said.

Gardener Jeremiah Phakedi says he was a supporter of the ANC before. But this time around, he says the scandals around Zuma - including spending \$23 million of taxpayer money on upgrades to one of his personal homes - have left him uncertain.

"I can't think about the ruling party just now. Because I think all the parties have got corruption... Maybe I can vote for another party, yes. Because I'm looking first for the other [another] president, not Zuma," said Phakedi.

No one expects the ANC to do anything as drastic as lose at the polls. The party has won a consistent majority since its debut election in 1994, under Nelson Mandela. The ANC maintained that level - never going over 70 percent - in subsequent elections, but some critics say the end is near.

Helen Zille is the leader of the nation's top opposition party, the Democratic Alliance. She says the ANC is overburdened with scandal, and that this election will be the start of its downward slide.

"The realignment of politics is going to involve the disintegration of the ANC as we currently know it, and the reconstitution of the new majority at the non-racial center of South African politics. And

if that happens by 2019, we will have saved our constitution and our democracy and be on a very good platform to grow our economy and to create jobs that will include everybody in a meaningful economy for the future," said Zille.

The nation votes May 7.

GM South Africa Apartheid Suit Allowed by U.S. Judge

By Karen Gullo/bloomberg.com/Apr 18, 2014

General Motors Co. (GM), Ford Motor Co. (F) and International Business Machines Corp. lost a bid to stop victims from suing them in the U.S. for allegedly aiding the former apartheid regime in South Africa.

U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin in Manhattan ruled yesterday that corporations may be liable for human rights abuses committed overseas under a law that allows non-citizens claiming violations of international laws to sue in the U.S. She rejected the companies' argument that earlier court rulings interpreting the 1789 Alien Tort Statute shield multinationals from such lawsuits.

No principle of law supports the conclusion "that the norms enforceable through the ATS -- such as the prohibition by international law of genocide, slavery, war crimes, piracy etc. -- apply only to natural persons and not to corporations," she said.

The U.S. Supreme Court insulated multinational companies from at least some lawsuits over atrocities overseas when it threw out a lawsuit in 2013 accusing two foreign-based units of Royal Dutch Shell Plc of facilitating torture and executions in Nigeria.

A majority of the justices said the Alien Tort law generally doesn't apply to conduct beyond U.S. borders. The law has been a favorite legal tool of human-rights' activists seeking to hold corporations liable in the U.S.

Selling Weapons

The plaintiffs in the South Africa case, including people who were tortured or relatives of those killed, say the companies knowingly helped the former apartheid regime by selling it weapons, providing it financing and otherwise doing business there.

Scheindlin said plaintiffs in the 12-year-old lawsuit could seek to file an amended complaint showing that the companies' actions touched the U.S. with "sufficient force" to overcome the presumption that they're not liable under the Alien Tort law. They must also show that the defendants acted not only with knowledge "but with the purpose to aid and abet the South African regime's" conduct as alleged in the lawsuit.

Greg Martin, a GM spokesman, and Kristina Adamski, a Ford spokeswoman, didn't immediately respond to e-mails seeking comment yesterday after regular business hours. An e-mail sent to IBM's media office after regular business hours wasn't immediately returned.

Racial Segregation

Apartheid, or the institutionalized system of racial segregation, came to an end in South Africa in the early 1990s, in a series of steps that led to the formation of a democratic government in 1994, the U.S. Department of State says on its website.

The case is In re South African Apartheid Litigation, 02-md-1499, U.S. District Court, Southern

District of New York (Manhattan).

South Africa: Nkandla - Using Culture to Defend Corruption Is Insulting

17 April 2014/Democratic Alliance (Cape Town)

press release

ANC Chairperson, Baleka Mbete's remarks are yet another last-ditch attempt by the ANC to defend President Jacob Zuma and his role in the "Nkandlagate" scandal.

Earlier today, Ms Mbete was quoted as saying: "The issue of a man's kraal or a kraal of a family is a holy space... " and that "in the African tradition you don't interfere with a man's kraal".

This is not only an insensitive misappropriation of our nation's cultural values, but it is also an affront to the millions of South Africans who are waiting for answers to their questions about the R260 million which was spent on President Zuma's private home in Nkandla.

Ms Mbete is just another of President Zuma's close allies, tripping over themselves to protect him from accountability. Her words are nothing more than another failed attempt at excusing the inexcusable and hiding Nkandla behind cultural practices.

Over the past few months, we have been subjected to an elaborate cover-up strategy from the entire ANC leadership over the massive abuse of state funds at Nkandla. Earlier this year Public Service and Administration Minister, Lindiwe Sisulu; Sports and Recreation Minister, Fikile Mbalula, and ANC secretary-general Gwede Mantashe took every available opportunity to rubbish the Public Protector's report on Nkandla - even before it was released.

The ANC in Parliament has now taken to delaying the establishment of the ad hoc committee that will investigate this matter and consider my motion to impeach the president and remove him from office.

Clearly Zuma's ANC has run out of credible reasons to refute the Nkandla scandal, and must now resort to reckless rhetoric and a complete disregard for the Constitution and for Parliament.

The DA will not let Zuma continue to hide behind his cadres. We will not rest until all those responsible - including President Zuma - are held to account for their actions.

Lindiwe Mazibuko, Parliamentary Leader of the Democratic Alliance

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

Kenya's Wide Net Against Terror Sweeps Up Refugees

By ISMA'IL KUSHKUSH/nytimes.com/ APRIL 17, 2014

NAIROBI, Kenya — Fardos Osman sat on the concrete floor of a cramped room in a sprawling stadium next to scores of other women, many hiding their faces. She said she had been at the stadium for four days. Her refugee document had expired, she said, and she feared that she would be sent back to war-torn Somalia.

“I don’t want to go back,” said Ms. Osman, 28.

Thousands of undocumented refugees, immigrants and Kenyan citizens have been arrested throughout the country in recent weeks, a response to what the government says has been a recent escalation in terrorist activity in this east African nation.

Refugees found in urban areas are being forced to return to camps in northern Kenya, while dozens of Somali refugees have been deported to their home country. Here in Nairobi, the capital and the center of the operation, Kasarani Stadium has been turned into a police station where hundreds of suspects have been held, a visible reminder of the scale of the campaign.

“We bring the arrested persons to this place, screen them, verify those who have documents and those who do not have; we take appropriate action,” Joseph Ole Lenku, the cabinet secretary for interior, told reporters. “The ongoing security operations in various parts of the city are being done in a humane way and within the law.”

Just outside the gates of the stadium, the confusion and outrage among families of detained individuals are palpable.

“My pregnant wife, 17-month-old child and sister are in there,” said Mahdi Ibrahim, 39, a refugee from Ethiopia. “This is the second time they come and arrest my family. Our refugee papers are valid.”

Ismail Osman, 63, a Kenyan citizen who is an ethnic Somali, said that police officers in his neighborhood the day before had arrested his 32-year-old son, who has a mental illness and was not carrying identification.

“We don’t know where he is,” Mr. Osman said tearfully, showing his son’s Kenyan citizenship papers. “The process is confusing.”

The enforcement campaign began after a series of events that have unnerved the authorities, including a bombing here in the capital and a church shooting in the coastal city of Mombasa last month.

Peter Andiego said it had been a year since he had attended church, but on a Sunday morning in late March he fatefully decided to go.

On his way through the alleys of Likoni, a district in Mombasa, Mr. Andiego said, he saw two men behind him, each carrying a small sack, but did not think much of it. He walked into the Joy in Jesus Church as the service began and took a seat.

Five minutes later, gunfire rattled the place. He was shot, and as he turned around, he saw the same two men firing indiscriminately at the congregation.

“I saw death,” said Mr. Andiego, 39, a manual laborer and a father of five. “I crawled out of the church, went a distance, then became unconscious.”

Mr. Andiego survived, but six people died.

Days before, the police in Mombasa, with the help of the F.B.I., said they had discovered a car filled with bombs parked near a police station. Not long after in Nairobi, explosions in the crowded neighborhood of Eastleigh left six dead.

No group has claimed responsibility for any of those events, but the authorities' suspicions have fallen on the Shabab, a Somali Islamist group that says it is fighting the Kenyan government because of the presence of Kenyan troops in Somalia. The Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack last year on the upscale Westgate Mall in Nairobi, which resulted in the deaths of 67 people at one of the country's most iconic symbols of wealth and stability.

The Kenyan government has responded forcefully to the recent episodes, undertaking what it has called Operation Usalama, or Operation Peace, in its declared "war on terrorism."

Security has been beefed up around buildings seen as possible targets, and the police have been given a green light to "shoot to kill" terrorism suspects. The authorities have said that all Kenyans will have to re-register with the government via digital means and be issued new identification cards. In Mombasa, a radical Muslim preacher who supported the Shabab, Abubaker Shariff Ahmed, was killed by unidentified gunmen this month. Many believe the security forces were responsible, an allegation that officials deny.

The Eastleigh neighborhood of Nairobi, in particular, has borne the brunt of the enforcement campaign. In the neighborhood, which is overwhelmingly populated by ethnic Somalis — both Kenyan citizens and refugees from Somalia — as well as by Ethiopians, the normally bustling market is now a shadow of what it once was, as many seek to avoid arrest and interrogation by the security forces.

Jimale Abdulahi, 44, a Somali-Kenyan, has been a resident of Eastleigh for more than 20 years and works closely with businesses and the police to ensure security in the market. What he has seen in the past few weeks has frustrated him.

Police officers, Mr. Abdulahi said, have entered homes and shops en masse, arresting hundreds of people, including women and children, and placing them on police trucks to take them to detention centers.

"They don't care if you have an ID card or not," he said.

Other police officers, Mr. Abdulahi contended, came with less professional intentions. Rubbing the thumb and fingers of his right hand together, he signaled how some Eastleigh residents had to go about getting their IDs back from the police: through extorted money or bribes.

"It is even worse than 1998," he said, referring to the year that the American Embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, were attacked, killing more than 200 people and wounding thousands.

Human rights groups and activists have expressed concern.

"Scapegoating and abusing Somalis for heinous attacks by unknown people is not going to protect Kenyans, Somalis or anyone else against more attacks," Gerry Simpson, a researcher at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement.

Ahmed Khader, 29, a Somali-Kenyan activist from Eastleigh, emphasized the need for the government to make distinctions.

“Not all Somalis are Al Shabab,” he said. “We support our government against terrorism, but not the indiscriminate nature of the operation.”

A growing sense that Kenya is becoming a more frequent target may explain the government’s sweeping approach. Mr. Lenku, the cabinet secretary, was adamant about the need for the continuation of Operation Usalama.

“The operation will continue until we are satisfied with the level of security,” he said.

But the manner in which the government intends to deal with security threats is what concerns many.

“It appears that the wide net cast by the government to capture terrorists is a major international public relations exercise, visible but not substantive — no terrorist activities have been unearthed, no plans of terrorist attacks have been revealed,” said Kwamchetsi Makokha, a writer with the newspaper The Daily Nation. “Security must rely more on intelligence and less on brawn.”

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Ebola continues to spread through West Africa, stoking fears of epidemic

April 17, 2014/Al Jazeera and wire services

Scientists believe this outbreak stems from a new strain, and they worry that it could spread across West Africa

The World Health Organization says an Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa has claimed 137 lives.

The disease, typically found in central or eastern Africa, has infected people in Guinea's remote forests, its capital and in neighboring Liberia.

The widespread geography of the new outbreak has sparked fears that a new Ebola epidemic could be on the horizon, a prospect that has caused panic across a region with weak health care systems and porous borders.

In a statement posted on its website Thursday, the U.N. health agency said authorities have identified more than 220 suspected or confirmed cases of the disease in the two countries. Nearly 200 of those are in Guinea.

There is no cure and no vaccine for the disease, which causes patients to bleed internally and externally. It is highly contagious, and infected people are usually held in isolated wards.

Further stoking concerns about the possibility of a widespread epidemic, a study published in a U.S. medical journal on Wednesday found that the Ebola outbreak is from a new strain, not one imported from countries that have had epidemics in the past.

Scientists initially believed that Central Africa's Zaire strain of the virus was responsible for the outbreak. But analysis of blood samples from infected patients researchers determined that while the Guinean form of the Ebola virus (EBOV) showed a 97 percent similarity to the strain found in Zaire, now known at the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the disease was not introduced from Central Africa.

"This study demonstrates the emergence of a new EBOV strain in Guinea," wrote the group of more than 30 doctors and scientists, who published their preliminary findings on the New England Journal of Medicine website.

Ebola is thought to have originated in forest bats. It can be transmitted between humans through body contact and the exchange of bodily fluids.

"It is possible that EBOV has circulated undetected in this region for some time. The emergence of the virus in Guinea highlights the risk of EBOV outbreaks in the whole West African sub-region," the report said.

Of the 197 clinical cases of Ebola declared in Guinea, 122 people have died, including several health workers, according to the World Health Organization's latest update, which cited Guinean health ministry figures. Sixteen of those died in the capital, Conakry.

Guinea's government had previously placed the death toll at 106. The health ministry said on Tuesday that the number of new cases had fallen rapidly and the outbreak was nearly under control.

A senior health ministry official told Reuters on Thursday the government planned to stop publicly releasing the death toll to avoid causing unnecessary panic.

In an effort to contain the epidemic, countries in the region have imposed restrictions ranging from basic health checks at airports to Senegal's decision to completely shut its land border with Guinea.

Gambia earlier this month banned aircraft bound for its capital, Banjul, from picking up passengers in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The European Union announced Thursday that it was increasing its aid to those providing care for Ebola patients to \$1.9 million.

Al Jazeera and wire services

Algérie: Bouteflika en passe d'être réélu pour un 4e mandat

le 18-04-2014/AFP

Alger (AFP) - Le président algérien Abdelaziz Bouteflika, affaibli par la maladie, était en passe jeudi soir de remporter un quatrième mandat à l'issue d'un scrutin qui n'a attiré que la moitié des électeurs et qui semblait joué d'avance.

Son principal adversaire, Ali Benflis, a affirmé qu'il rejetait "en bloc et en détail" le résultat, dénonçant une "fraude à grande échelle" et de "graves irrégularités" tout au long de la journée et

partout dans le pays.

Les résultats du scrutin doivent être annoncés vendredi après-midi par le ministre de l'Intérieur Tayeb Bélaïz.

Toutefois et malgré l'absence de sondages, les partisans du président sortant ont commencé à célébrer sa victoire dans les rues d'Alger, dès la fermeture des bureaux de vote. Des cortèges de voitures, ornés du drapeau national et du portrait de leur champion, sillonnaient à coups de klaxons les principales artères de la capitale. Un feu d'artifice a même été tiré sur la place de la Grande Poste, au cœur d'Alger.

Le taux de participation s'est établi à 51,7 %, en net recul par rapport à celui de 74% en 2009. Le plus faible taux de participation a été enregistré en Kabylie (autour de 25%), où des incidents ont fait 70 blessés, et dans la capitale, où les Algérois ont été seulement 37% à voter.

Abdelaziz Bouteflika, 77 ans, affaibli par la maladie, brigait un 4e mandat après quinze ans de pouvoir, face à cinq candidats, dont son ex-Premier ministre Ali Benflis. A cette occasion, M. Bouteflika a fait sa première apparition publique depuis le 8 mai 2012, en allant voter personnellement malgré ses ennuis de santé causés par un AVC il y a un an.

Souriant, il est arrivé à l'école Bachir El Ibrahimi à El Biar, entouré de deux de ses frères, dont Saïd, son conseiller spécial à qui l'on prête d'immenses pouvoirs, et d'un jeune neveu. Il a salué la presse de la main avant de se rendre dans l'isoloir, accompagné d'un homme. Il s'est ensuite laissé photographier avant de glisser son bulletin dans l'urne, puis est parti sans faire de déclaration.

Après avoir entretenu un certain suspense, la presse semblait entériner une reconduction de M. Bouteflika pour un quatrième mandat de cinq ans.

Le quotidien francophone El Watan a parlé d'un "scrutin dénué de crédibilité", dénonçant la fraude qui "a toujours régné sur les élections algériennes".

Pour Liberté aussi, le scrutin est "dénué d'enjeux réels".

- Conjurer le mauvais sort -

Sur le terrain, plus de 260.000 policiers et gendarmes ont été déployés pour assurer la sécurité de près de 23 millions d'électeurs.

A Alger, certains policiers étaient armés de kalachnikov ou de fusils à pompe et un hélicoptère tournait dans le ciel bleu de la capitale. Une tentative de manifestation d'opposants a été vite étouffée.

A Rais, un village de la banlieue d'Alger victime de l'un des pires massacres des années 1990, les électeurs ont expliqué choisir la stabilité et la paix. Redouane, 44 ans, a ainsi voté sans grande conviction: "C'est juste une façon de conjurer le mauvais sort" car "j'ai peur de l'instabilité, de revivre l'horreur".

Arrivé au pouvoir en 1999, M. Bouteflika a été l'un des artisans de la réconciliation après la guerre civile. Le 8 mai 2012, il avait laissé envisager une succession ouverte en déclarant que sa génération avait "fait son temps".

Mais le 22 février dernier, il a finalement annoncé sa décision de se représenter sur fond de

profondes divergences au sein de l'armée, qui joue un rôle politique majeur, et malgré les doutes sur ses capacités à diriger le pays.

M. Bouteflika a exhorté mardi les Algériens à se rendre aux urnes.

Une coalition de cinq partis d'opposition a appelé à boycotter le scrutin, plaidant en faveur d'une "transition démocratique", tandis que le mouvement Barakat ("Ça suffit"), hostile à un quatrième mandat, a estimé que cette élection était "un non-événement".

Outre la participation, c'est la fraude qui fait débat, après les récentes révélations d'un ancien wali (préfet) confirmant que cette pratique avait bien lieu.

Principal rival de M. Bouteflika et connaisseur des affaires du sérail, M. Benflis en a fait un thème majeur et a affirmé dès les premières heures du scrutin qu'elle avait déjà commencé.

UN/AFRICA :

Soudan du Sud: au moins 20 morts lors de l'attaque d'une base de l'ONU
le 18-04-2014/AFP

Juba (AFP) - Au moins vingt civils réfugiés dans la base de l'ONU à Bor (est du Soudan du Sud) ont été tués jeudi et 70 autres blessés lors d'une attaque armée, selon les Etats-Unis.

L'ONU avait annoncé auparavant que l'attaque avait fait des dizaines de blessés parmi les 5.000 civils réfugiés dans la base, ainsi que deux blessés parmi les Casque bleus qui protégeaient la base, mais n'avait pas fait état de morts.

Ces civils ont fui les violences ethniques dans une des régions les plus disputées du pays.

Les Etats-Unis "condamnent fermement les récentes attaques par des groupes armés au Soudan du Sud", a affirmé l'ambassadrice américaine à l'ONU Samantha Power dans un communiqué. Washington va "coopérer avec ses partenaires pour établir les responsabilités et s'efforcer de poursuivre en justice les coupables", a-t-elle conclu.

- "Scandalisé" -

Toby Lanzer, responsable du programme d'aide humanitaire pour la mission des Nations unies au Soudan du Sud (Minuss), s'est également dit "scandalisé par l'attaque de jeunes hommes armés contre des civils réfugiés" sur la base de la Minuss à Bor, capitale de l'Etat pétrolier de Jonglei.

Dans un communiqué ambigu, l'ONU elle-même avait condamné des "meurtres odieux", mais n'avait pas confirmé si l'attaque avait fait des morts. "Une foule d'hommes armés a forcé l'entrée de la base et a ouvert le feu" sur les civils, en blessant des "dizaines", a indiqué l'ONU, ajoutant que les Casques bleus avaient ouvert le feu sur les assaillants après avoir effectué plusieurs tirs de sommation, les forçant à battre en retraite.

Les assaillants avaient d'abord approché la base "en se faisant passer pour des manifestants pacifiques" désirant présenter une pétition à l'ONU, avant de lancer leur attaque, selon le communiqué.

Ravagée par les combats, la ville de Bor, située à environ 200 kilomètres au nord de la capitale, Juba, a changé de main à plusieurs reprises depuis le début du conflit.

Le ministre sud-soudanais de l'Information, Michael Makuei, a indiqué qu'un "très grand nombre" d'hommes armés de fusils avaient débordé les forces gouvernementales et attaqué les civils coincés dans le camp, ajoutant que les attaquants cherchaient à venger la prise de la ville de Bentiu (nord) par les forces rebelles deux jours plus tôt.

Le conflit au Soudan du Sud, qui a fait des milliers, voire des dizaines de milliers de morts et au moins 900.000 déplacés, avait éclaté le 15 décembre à Juba, avant de rapidement s'étendre à d'autres Etats clés du pays, en particulier ceux du Haut-Nil (nord-est), d'Unité (nord) et du Jonglei (est). Alimenté par une vieille rivalité politique, il oppose le président sud-soudanais Salva Kiir à son ancien vice-président Riek Machar, limogé en juillet 2013.

Plus de 67.000 civils sont réfugiés à l'intérieur des bases de l'ONU à travers le pays, afin de se protéger d'un conflit qui a pris une dimension ethnique, opposant les Dinka de Salva Kiir aux Nuer de Riek Machar.

En décembre, des hommes armés avaient déjà attaqué une base de l'ONU dans la ville d'Akobo, également dans l'Etat de Jonglei, tuant au moins 11 civils et deux Casques bleus indiens.

- Grand risque de famine -

L'armée du Soudan du Sud a indiqué jeudi qu'"il y a toujours des combats" autour de la ville de Bentiu, qu'elle tente de récupérer. "Bentiu est encore entre les mains des rebelles, mais nous nous en approchons", a déclaré Philip Aguer, le porte-parole de l'armée, à l'AFP.

Des Casques bleus, patrouillant dans Bentiu après que les rebelles aient pris la ville, ont indiqué avoir vu entre 35 et 40 cadavres sur le bord de la route, la majorité en uniforme militaire.

Le secrétaire général de l'ONU, Ban Ki-moon, a mis en garde mercredi contre un risque de famine alors que les combats connaissent une recrudescence.

Selon le Fonds des Nations unies pour l'enfance (Unicef), plus de 3,7 millions de personnes ont un besoin urgent d'aide humanitaire et jusqu'à 50.000 enfants vont mourir dans les prochains mois si une action immédiate n'est pas mise en œuvre.

"Le pire est à venir", a averti Jonathan Veitch, le chef de l'Unicef au Soudan du Sud. "Si le conflit continue et que les fermiers ratent la saison des plantations, le nombre d'enfants souffrant de malnutrition atteindra des sommets jamais vus ici".

Ban returns to airwaves in Central African Republic to call for end to fighting

17 April 2014/un.org

17 April 2014 – On the heels of his recent visit to the Central African Republic (CAR), where the deadly rift between Christians and Muslims continues to widen, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today in a radio message appealed to all Central Africans to build a unified country through peace.

"Your future is not partition and bloodshed. It must be unity and peace," Mr. Ban said in a personal appeal to fathers, mothers and children to end the increasing inter-communal violence that is tearing

apart the country.

He noted the Muslims and Christians “have always lived together in peace” in the CAR, and urged citizens to not give into extremists who want to destroy the country and wreck their children’s futures.

This is the second time that Mr. Ban has taken to the airwaves to make a personal appeal to CAR citizens. In a February video message, he called on religious and community leaders, Muslim and Christian, to act as messengers for peace.

The violence has taken on an increasingly sectarian nature following a 2012 rebel-led coup and has since become more brutal with reports of ongoing human rights violations and clashes that have displaced hundreds of thousands of people and left 2.2 million in need of humanitarian aid.

“Many of your fellow citizens have fled their homes,” Mr. Ban said in today’s appeal. “They must feel safe to return.”

He also warned those committing human rights abuses that they will be brought to justice.

The Security Council recently approved the deployment of 10,000 troops and almost 2,000 police for a new UN peacekeeping mission for CAR. It is not expected to be fully deployed before September.

Until then, support for African Union and French forces is considered crucial in stemming the violence. Mr. Ban had urged the European Union to continue to provide troop reinforcements.

Despite the presence of international troops, displaced families are exposed to disease, malnutrition and untold horrors beyond the gates of the African-led mission, Mr. Ban said following his visit two weeks ago to the country to show solidarity with the people, hear their stories and share them with the world.

During that visit, he also noted support needed for the transitional Government, including getting police, judges and prison guards back to work, and assistance in establishing an inclusive political process.

137 dead in Ebola outbreak in West Africa: UN

The Associated Press/Thursday, April 17, 2014

DAKAR, Senegal -- The World Health Organization says an Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa has claimed 137 lives.

The disease, typically found in central or eastern Africa, has infected people in Guinea's remote forests, its capital and in neighbouring Liberia.

In a statement posted on its website Thursday, the U.N. health agency said authorities have identified more than 220 suspected or confirmed cases of the disease in the two countries. Nearly 200 of those are in Guinea.

There is no cure and no vaccine for the disease, which causes patients to bleed internally and externally. It is highly contagious, and infected people are held in isolated wards.

The European Union announced Thursday that it was increasing its aid to those providing care for Ebola patients to 1.4 million euros (\$1.9 million).

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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