



[At least 22 people including three staff members of medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres were killed during a weekend attack by gunmen on a Central African hospital, in the latest atrocity to hit the violence-plagued country. The brutal attack in the northwest was blamed on the mostly Muslim rebels known as the Seleka, whose coup in March last year unleashed a vicious cycle of sectarian violence.]

BURUNDI :

Burundi : Agathon Rwasa plaide pour la réunification des ailes du FNL pour les élections de 2015

Mardi 29 avril 2014 /Xinhua

BUJUMBURA (Xinhua) - Agathon Rwasa, leader des Forces pour la libéralisation nationale (FNL), a plaidé lundi pour la réunification de son aile avec celle dirigée par Jacques Bigirimana, reconnue par le pouvoir, afin de bâtir un parti FNL solide capable de concurrencer les autres partis lors des élections de 2015.

"Je crois qu'il faut surseoir aux intérêts personnels et égoïstes de ceux-là qui croient qu'ils profitent de la situation actuelle et réellement se déterminer à bâtir un parti FNL solide capable de concurrencer les autres partis. Sinon, ça ne serait pas du tout mûr de continuer à jouer les prétentieux en sachant qu'on n'amène nulle part le parti", a souligné Agathon Rwasa, dont l'aile n'est pas reconnue par le pouvoir depuis les dernières élections de 2010.

Pour lui, une réconciliation peut se faire par un vote consensuel par ceux-là qui sont statutairement congressistes par rapport aux statuts du FNL, c'est-à-dire, les organes qui ont été mis en place par le

congrès de 2009.

"Parmi ces organes, il y en a qui sont avec Jacques Bigirimana et il y en a qui sont encore avec moi. C'est cela qui est clair et démocratique pour rétablir le parti dans ses droits. Ce qu'il faut, c'est la bonne volonté, sinon ça serait toujours ce jeu de mascarade, prétendre qu'on est FNL alors qu'on est sous la houlette du parti au pouvoir", a expliqué Agathon Rwasa.

Agathon Rwasa s'était exilé peu après les élections communales en 2010, avant de regagner le Burundi, en août 2013.

Burundi : Vers le lancement d'un projet de traçabilité des minerais coltan, wolframite et cassitérite
Mardi 29 avril 2014 /Xinhua

BUJUMBURA (Xinhua) - Le gouvernement burundais lancera solennellement en mai prochain un projet de traçabilité des minerais coltan, wolframite et cassitérite, a annoncé lundi M. Côme Manirakiza, ministre burundais de l'Energie et des Mines.

M. Manirakiza, qui s'exprimait dans une conférence consacrée aux réalisations de ce ministère au cours du premier trimestre 2014, a reconnu que depuis l'année 2012, le Burundi était sous un embargo international sur la vente de ces minerais pour n'avoir pas encore initié le processus de mise en place d'un projet de leur traçabilité.

Cependant, a-t-il précisé, cet embargo sur la vente de ces minerais a été levé depuis le 1er avril 2014 à la suite d'une convention d'une valeur de 850.000 USD signée entre le Burundi avec une ONG internationale habilitée à la mise en oeuvre de ce projet de traçabilité.

La mise en oeuvre de ce projet est consécutive à une décision des chefs d'Etat des 11 pays africains réunis au sein de la Conférence Internationale pour la Région des Grands Lacs(CIRGL) sur la lutte contre l'exploitation illégale des minerais de cette région, a dit le ministre Manirakiza.

"Si je passe en revue l'état d'avancement de ce processus, il faut reconnaître que le Burundi a passé pas mal de temps sans que cet outil en rapport avec la traçabilité ne soit mis en place. Toutefois, si on jette un regard rétrospectif, on découvre que récemment la RDC a délivré des certificats dans une région et le Rwanda lui a emboîté le pas. Alors, de notre côté, nous nous sommes dits que nous devons tout faire pour que le Burundi soit le troisième pays à pouvoir mettre en place ce système de traçabilité ", a-t-il souligné.

M. Manirakiza a fait remarquer que les programmes d' exploitation des minerais sont suivis au niveau des instances internationales.

Celles-ci, a-t-il martelé, exigent la mise en place d'un projet de traçabilité pour que les minerais soient agréés au niveau international.

RWANDA :

No holds barred: Holocaust denial and the Rwandan genocide
By SHMULEY BOTEACH/jpost.com/04/28/2014

The US lecturing Kagame would no doubt carry more weight if Rwanda did not feel itself being subject to double standards.

No sooner had I returned from the twentieth anniversary commemorations of the Rwandan genocide in Kigali than I saw Howard French's assault on the man universally credited with stopping the mass killings, President Paul Kagame.

In his Wall Street Journal op-ed ("How Rwanda's Paul Kagame Exploits US Guilt," 19 April 2014) French brings us an unoriginal rehash of all the Monday-morning quarterbacks convinced they could have done a much better job of bringing Rwanda back from the brink after the fastest genocide in history.

I am mystified by French's efforts to obscure these truths and, as Jew who has watched the growing trend of Holocaust denial, I am even more troubled. When I was in Kigali I told President Kagame that if he was not careful in 10 years' time the world would say there was no genocide, but merely ethnic strife. He responded, "10 years? It's happening already today." As outrageous as it would be to describe the Armenian, Cambodian, Jewish or Bosnian genocides as occurring without agency, the Rwandan genocide is no different. There were good guys and really, really bad guys. And despite all French's efforts to obfuscate the truth, Kagame is the acknowledged hero of the plot.

French contends that America's guilt over its inaction to stop the genocide causes our government today to overlook alleged crimes of the Kagame government. It does not occur to French that the reason the US is very friendly toward Rwanda is because Americans are amazed that in a continent marked by war, starvation and corruption Rwanda has the fastest-growing economy, the highest immunization rates, a celebrated war on corruption and, as any visitor can witness, is a model for racial harmony and integration? While traveling through Rwanda I was amazed to see the entire country shut down at 2 p.m. each day during the annual genocide remembrance week, to sit outdoors in groups of a few hundred to talk through ethnic differences and foster reconciliation so that such violence never repeats itself. I have never seen anything of its kind, not even in Israel or the United States.

French is a downer, a profound cynic and pessimist whose prejudices against Kagame would deny him even this astonishing achievement. In a world filled with mass murderers like Bashar Assad and Kim Jong-Un, who continues to starve his people to death, French eviscerates any pretension to objectivity when he says, quoting a Belgian scholar, that Kagame is "probably the worst war criminal in office today." But any objective observer who drives through the pristine and immaculate roads of Rwanda will conclude that Kagame has exceeded any expectation the world would have had for a country that in 1994 had so many bodies in its rivers that the waters actually ceased to flow.

That is not to say the president is perfect. It is to say that before we hurl accusations against a man who witnessed the world's abandonment of his people to machetes and axes, we ought to be somewhat understanding of his aggressive security policies that ensure his people are never subject to extermination again. As Yogi Berra famously said, "Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean they're not out to get you."

Writers like French find it easy to condemn countries like Rwanda or Israel for taking the fight to their enemies rather than continuing to be sitting ducks. Would French really advise Kagame to leave the murderers who perpetrated the genocide right on his border in Congo? Would he tell Kagame to rely on international assurances and the United Nations to protect his people, the same UN that categorically refused to allow its commander, General Romeo Dallaire, to disarm the Hutu militias and who evacuated most of its peace-keepers just as soon as the genocide began? I claim no

expertise in the ongoing travails of Congo.

But French loses all credibility when he lays all the country's suffering at Rwanda's door. Congo, well before Rwanda's incursion, was ruled by the ruthless dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, a violent autocrat who ran a kleptocracy, amassing vast personal wealth, and who was seen as an archetypal African dictator. After the Tutsi genocide, the main body of perpetrators fled to, and were granted sanctuary in Congo.

Surely even the biggest critic would cut Kagame some slack when they imagine some two million Rwandan refugees still camped across the border under the command and control of the former genocidal government.

Congo's government openly collaborated with the FDLR, which is on the US terror list.

Most venomous of all is French's assertion that Rwanda's incursions into Congo was the result of "Rwanda's pursuit of coldblooded ethnic revenge." Such unsubstantiated conjecture would turn the tables and make the man who stopped the genocide, Paul Kagame, into the only true génocidaire, and reminds me of former Pink Floyd front-man Roger Water's claim that Israel is now the Nazis.

French wishes his readers to believe that the current Rwandan government is just as guilty of "genocide" as its predecessor, making victims into villains. This unfortunate moral equivalence is something of which we Jews have learned all too well as Israel is regularly and falsely accused of being an apartheid state, even as it affords its 1.5 million Arab citizens equal rights to every Israeli and more rights than any Arab nation on earth.

Legitimate criticism of the Rwandan government is important. The US government is pressing President Kagame for greater press freedoms and allowing for greater political opposition. There are troubling allegations of select opposition leaders and even journalists who have been murdered. Kagame's defenders argue that there is no evidence linking his government with these deaths.

I raised these subjects with President Kagame on more than one occasion. I told him that as the only man alive to have stopped a genocide he is a hero to me and countless millions the world over. He must remain so and make morality and democracy the cornerstone of his policies amid the legitimate need to protect his people against so many that wish them harm. A man whose country has suffered indiscriminate slaughter has a special responsibility to uphold human rights and stop all abuse.

But the US lecturing Kagame would no doubt carry more weight if Rwanda did not feel itself being subject to double standards, as the world's sole superpower pursues a policy of inaction in Syria, North Korea and the Central African Republic, where millions continue to die with barely an American objection.

RDC CONGO :

Congo - Brazzaville : expulsion de congolais vers la RDC

Écrit par Olivier Ribouis/lanouvelletribune.info/ 27 avril 2014

Deux peuples frères incapables de s'accepter et de cohabiter. C'est ce qu'on peut dire des Congolais du Congo Brazzaville et des Congolais de la République Démocratique du Congo (Rdc).

Accusés de séjourner de façon irrégulière dans le pays et soupçonnés de banditisme, plus de 1 300 Congolais de la RDC ont été expulsés du Congo Brazzaville en avril 2014.

En réaction à cette expulsion dramatique, le ton est monté à Kinshasa. La nouvelle société civile exige des autorités de Kinshasa une réponse proportionnelle au tort qui est causé aux leurs en demandant une expulsion des ressortissants du Congo-Brazzaville vivant irrégulièrement sur le territoire de la Rdc. La nouvelle société civile a officiellement porté sa doléance aux autorités de Kinshasa au cours d'une conférence de presse tenue dans la capitale de la Rdc ce samedi.

Le gouvernement de la Rdc qui jusque-là, n'a pas encore donné la réponse du berger à la bergère a été sommé de réagir immédiatement pour laver cet affront qui leur est fait chez leur voisin. Mais ceci, dans le strict respect des droits humains, selon le président de la nouvelle société civile, Jonas Tshiombela qui déclare « Nous ne demandons pas à ce que notre gouvernement viole les droits. Mais tous ces Congolais qui sont sur notre sol dans des conditions d'irrégularité, qu'ils soient reconduits immédiatement à la frontière. Il n'y a même pas d'explication à leur donner. Nous sommes inquiets, nous ne sommes pas protégés. Voilà pourquoi nous dénonçons la passivité de notre gouvernement ».

Sans attendre

Ayant le feu aux fesses et se voyant très menacés par la situation qui se dégrade davantage, les ressortissants du Congo Brazzaville vivants en Rdc n'attendent pas la réponse du gouvernement de RDC. Ils, en majorité des étudiants du Congo-Brazzaville réclament leur rapatriement dans leur pays avant que les choses ne dégénèrent. Selon des sources officielles, environ 500 ressortissants du Congo-Brazzaville sont déjà rentrés chez eux dès samedi.
« La gifle des aînés »

L'expulsion de Congolais de Brazzaville ne s'est pas faite

UGANDA :

Uganda: Turkish Firm Eyes Uganda Cement

27 April 2014/East African Business Week (Kampala)

Kampala — Kolin Construction, a Turkish-owned tourism and trading company has expressed interest in Uganda's cement manufacturing industry after noticing an abundance of raw materials.

The company Chairman Naci Kologlu who met President Yoweri Museveni last week, said they have successfully worked on construction of the Hoima- Tonya road in Bunyoro Sub-Region in Western Uganda. This is one of the many projects they are handling in Uganda.

"There are many opportunities and we think the cement industry is still not so crowded," Kologlu said.

President Museveni asked them to tap into the abundant opportunities that Uganda has in value addition of agro-products and minerals.

He specifically urged them to work out projects in relation to value addition to the maize crop that Uganda produces, leather and minerals such as cement and iron ore. He also concurred with the

proposal to build hotels to cater for the budding tourism industry.

"The government is ready to help you build a hotel in Kampala and we shall facilitate you to establish a cement factory in the country," said Museveni.

The president also met Sseko Designs Shoe Industry, based in the United States of America, who manufacture and export ladies shoes to the United States of America. The company is based in Kyebando a Kampala suburb.

According to Ashley Paulus, the company's Operations and Programmes Manger they currently produce 8,000 units per month valued at \$300,000.

The company, she added, employs a work-force of women only with particular emphasis on those that are disadvantaged socially and physically such as people living with HIV/AIDS and widows among others.

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

Tanzania: Chinese in U.S. \$20 Million for Tanzanian Units

27 April 2014/East African Business Week (Kampala)

Dar es Salaam — A Chinese firm has heightened competition in the local real estate market by announcing plans to spend \$20 million in new housing projects. Dong Xiang has already acquired a 7,930 square metre piece of land along the Msasani beach suburb in Dar es Salaam.

This is for construction of 98 residential apartments for both upper and middle-class income earners. The Deputy Director for Dong Xiang Liu Yupeng said last week, the residential project being undertaken by his firm was focusing on providing accommodation for Tanzanians.

Xiang said his project would be able to generate tax for the government, creating employment to Tanzanians as well as providing Tanzanians public with descent homes. According to the recent published online survey on the cost of living calculator, expatistan.com, Tanzania is said to be offering the highest rents.

In affluent areas house rentals can be as much as \$2,711 (Tsh 4.3 million) a month. The survey Tanzania experienced a growth of 5.3% in the real estate sector between July and September 2013 resulting from the increase in demand of accommodation and business services.

Xiang however said, his firm was making sure that they enter into partnerships with local real estate firms and Tanzanians with land for a win-win situation.

He said this would enable most citizens to own affordable homes. "Land is very necessary for our projects and in the near future we would encourage Tanzanians landlord to come forward for joint venture projects," Xiang said.

Currently Tanzania major firms involved in the real estate includes the state firm National Housing Corporation (NHC), the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and other social security firms.

Tanzania Reduces Infant Mortality

27 April 2014/East African Business Week (Kampala)

Dar es Salaam — Tanzania is moving closer to attain the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) number four and five on the reduction of infant mortality. According to UN report on child mortality estimates, Tanzania has attained MDG number four and five, the target for Tanzania was to reduce under five mortality rate to 54 per 1000 live births by 2015.

This has been said by the Vice President Dr Mohamed Bilal when officiate the Jhpiego's Maisha end of project stakeholders' meeting held in Dar es Salaam last week.

This great achievement is a result of improved malaria control, sustained high immunization coverage, high vitamin 'A' supplementation coverage and Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) and health sector reforms, he said.

Dr Bilal said based on the trend in under-five mortality since 1999, "Tanzania is on track to reach its targets for child mortality by 2015 under MDG4."

But to achieve this monumental national goal, he said concerted efforts to address newborn deaths-which are inextricably linked to maternal healthcare-are essential to ensure the continued rapid decline in child mortality.

The Vice President East African Business Week that this was made possible through strong partnerships, financial support and collaboration with development partners and stakeholders.

"The success gives us the motivation to further push and accelerate progress as it is unacceptable for any child to die from preventable causes," he said.

However, the vice president said despite progress in reducing child mortality, Tanzania is lagging behind in improving maternal and newborn health.

"Why should our mothers continue to die from preventable causes, and at such a high rate while giving life to another?" he asked.

He noted, I am pleased to hear that Maisha and its partners with the ministry of health have worked tirelessly to address causes of maternal deaths in the past five years.

"It is my hope that these important investments will lead to positive results in upcoming survey showing further reduction for maternal mortality from the level in 2010 which was 454 per 100,000 live births," he said.

According to Bilal, deliberate efforts are being made to mobilize more resources towards critical health interventions, including maternal newborn and child health services.

This meeting is happening at the right time when "we are all looking back and taking stock of the progress we have made in our five year national roadmap strategic plan to accelerate the reduction of maternal, newborn and child deaths."

The Deputy Minister for Health and Social Welfare, Dr Kebwe Steven Kebwe said Tanzania is among the few African countries that have attained MDG number four by reaching and exceeding the target.

"We have reached and exceeded the target set by MDG on reducing under five mortality from 165 per 1000 live birth in 1990 to 50 per 1000 live births by 2015," Minister Kebwe said.

The Minister said, this means we have attained the target even before 2015. "I thank all the partners who collaborated for these results.

KENYA :

SOMALIA: President says relations between Kenya, Somalia is not souring

April 29, 2014/raxanreeb.com

Mogadishu (RBC) Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said that the relations between the governments of Kenya and Somalia was not souring as high diplomatic tension between the two countries exists, RBC Radio reports.

Speaking to the local media shortly after he returned from one-day trip to the neighboring Djibouti, President Mohamud confirmed that Somalia recalled its ambassador to Kenya to hold further consultations following the arrest of the Consular General of Somali Embassy in Kenya Siyad Mohamud Shire.

"The ties between Somalia and Kenya is not on bad terms, but we are sorry on how Kenyan continues to treat with Somali citizens in Kenya." President Mohamud said.

He said Somalia seeks Kenya an official explanation on the arrest of Somali diplomat in Nairobi last week.

Mr Shire was picked up from his home, and released a few hours later following the intervention of Somalia's ambassador, Mohammed Ali Nur.

Both Ambassador Nur and the consular Shire are now in Mogadishu to give details of the arrest to the cabinet and the parliament.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Lawless Central Africa Republic sees a 'fight for wheels'

April 29, 2014/thenational.ae

BAMBARI, CAR // Vehicles without wheels are a common sight across the strife-torn Central African Republic, where drivers have long since resorted to extreme but risky measures to protect their precious property.

At first sight, one might assume that car owners are afraid of having their tyres pinched, but for more than 16 months, people have removed wheels and propped their vehicles on stones mainly to prevent armed groups from making off with them.

Owners first turned to this tactic in December 2012 when mostly Muslim rebels of the Seleka alliance marched on the southern capital Bangui from the north. Many of the fighters were on foot and car theft rapidly spread.

Initially the Seleka, which seized power for 10 months in March 2013, singled out property belonging to people from the Christian majority.

The bishopric of Bambari, about 300 kilometres from Bangui, had eight of its 4x4 cars stolen.

“First they stole the vehicles of relief workers parked on our premises, then they took ours,” said a priest who asked to be named simply as Sebastien. “We didn’t know what to do for a while. Then we told ourselves, ‘Let’s hide the wheels’.”

When they first tried, the priests’ plan was a failure since they merely put the wheels away in a nearby garage. Seleka fighters would find them, bolt them back into place and drive off unhindered.

The clerics, like a growing number of car owners, have sought ever more ingenious ways of concealing their wheels, but that sometimes means risking lives to save a motor.

Today, when former rebels or their largely Christian adversaries grow frustrated during a search, they get angry and force their victims to divulge the hiding place under threat.

Sebastien said that in Grimari parish, 80 kilometres from Bambari, clerics decided to remove a car’s steering wheel. But they finally handed it over when an armed gang threatened to kill one of them.

Hundreds of civilians — Muslims and Christians — run huge risks to hold on to their vehicles, a potential lifesaver in a country that has sunk into chaos and where more and more people are going hungry.

Transport is so scarce that anything on wheels is routinely confiscated, including lorries. Even heavy goods vehicles can be seen standing on chocks.

Getting around at all has become a luxury in the former French colony, where remaining vehicles are so rare that some passengers will form gravity-defying human pyramids aboard the few rusty old bangers serving as public transport.

One elderly Peugeot saloon can easily carry 15 people on the outside, with at least one propped against the windscreen, along with its “seated” passengers and goods such as bags of rice.

While cars are more prevalent in Bangui, the crime rate is also highest in the capital. A Christian garage owner in the once cosmopolitan district of PK-5 — where a few thousand Muslims have remained after an exodus — has put out of service six of the 11 vehicles in his care.

The garage owner varied his methods. He took the wheels off a large Italian saloon car and hid them inside the passenger compartment. The rim nuts of a 4x4 were carefully stowed away. From other vehicles, he removed parts of the engine.

The Seleka has been put to flight in much of the south, with the help of French troops and a multinational African Union force, but the garage owner today fears trouble from mostly Christian “anti-balaka” vigilante bands, which emerged in response to atrocities by the ex-rebels.

These young militia forces have above all massacred Muslim civilians whom they hold responsible for backing the Seleka while abuses were perpetrated, but they also attack Christians.

Almost every night, people of every faith in Bangui are killed, decapitated with machetes, hacked to death or gunned down. Bodies have been found in wells.

Almost random violence has succeeded inter-religious brutality. Many residents hide indoors, no longer daring to venture out even in daytime.

Despite the violence at PK-5, no one turned up for treatment at the district hospital.

In the weed-choked courtyard of the pink and yellow compound, a blue car with its back wheels missing was propped on two deflated front tyres.

A pennant inside the car proclaims “I love Central Africa Republic” in English, while a silver Christmas garland decorates the rear parcel shelf.

“A woman police colonel parked that there as a precaution,” a hospital orderly said.

- Agence France-Presse

VIDEO. Algérie : Bouteflika prête serment, Sellal reste Premier ministre
le 28.04.2014/leparisien.fr

La scène est hallucinante ! Une arrivée en fauteuil roulant, une voix faible, une allocution abrégée : la prestation de serment du président algérien Abdelaziz Bouteflika, réélu le 17 avril pour un quatrième mandat, risque d'alimenter à nouveau la polémique sur sa capacité à diriger le pays.

L'homme est malade, très affaibli. Il a ensuite re-nommé Abdelmalek Sellal Premier ministre. Ce dernier avait quitté ce poste le temps de la campagne électorale durant laquelle il avait sillonné le pays pour vanter le bilan des quinze années de pouvoir de Bouteflika.

Costume trois pièces bleu et cravate rouge, tassé dans son fauteuil, la main droite sur le Coran, l'autre invisible, le chef de l'Etat algérien a répété d'une voix faible le texte du serment lu par le président de la Cour suprême, Slimane Boudi, long de 94 mots avait ironisé la presse algérienne. Très affaibli depuis un AVC il y a un an, il a ensuite fait une brève déclaration qualifiant l'élection du 17 avril de «grande victoire de l'Etat».

Avant de prêter serment, le président algérien, 77 ans, a passé en revue, les mains sur les genoux, un détachement de l'armée qui lui a présenté les armes à l'extérieur du Palais des nations, à Club des Pins, en bord de mer. Dans les couloirs du palais, il a serré la main au président du Conseil constitutionnel Mourad Medelci et aux membres du gouvernement.

Abdelaziz Bouteflika a ensuite été accueilli par une salve de youyous dans une salle où étaient massés les nombreux invités: ministres, parlementaires, diplomates, chefs militaires, hauts cadres de l'Etat, artistes qui ont entendu l'hymne national après la déclaration du président. La cérémonie aura duré au total une trentaine de minutes. Afin de clore cette sortie exceptionnelle, le président algérien est allé sous grande escorte à l'est d'Alger, au cimetière Al Alia, où sont enterrés les hautes personnalités algériennes, afin de rendre hommage aux martyrs de la révolution.

LeParisien.fr

Egypte: tollé international après les 700 condamnations à mort

le 29 avril 2014/AFP

Minya (Egypte) (AFP)

La communauté internationale a dénoncé les condamnations à mort lundi de près de 700 partisans présumés du président islamiste destitué Mohamed Morsi, dont le chef des Frères musulmans, un mois après un premier procès de masse expéditif similaire.

Mais Saïd Youssef Sabry, le juge unique du tribunal de Minya (centre), qui avait déjà prononcé 529 peines capitales le 24 mars, en a commué lundi 492 en prison à vie sans explications.

Le jugement du 24 mars, après une seule journée d'audience, avait été dénoncé par l'ONU comme "sans précédent" dans l'Histoire récente du monde, en "violation du droit international et des droits de l'Homme".

Lundi, la Maison Blanche a condamné avec force les nouvelles 683 condamnations à mort, jugées "totalement incompatibles avec les obligations de l'Egypte en matière de droits de l'Homme", et appelé les autorités à les annuler.

Tout comme Londres et Paris, le secrétaire général de l'ONU Ban Ki-moon s'est dit pour sa part "préoccupé", estimant que ces condamnations "ne semblent clairement pas respecter les règles de base d'un procès équitable".

Lundi soir, l'ambassade d'Egypte à Washington a répondu que la justice égyptienne était indépendante et que ces condamnations étaient susceptibles d'être interjetées en appel.

Selon les experts, les nouvelles 683 condamnations à mort, comme les 37 restantes du précédent procès, devraient être annulées en appel ou en cassation pour la grande majorité, tant la procédure et les droits les plus élémentaires de la défense ont été bafoués.

Le verdict de mars n'avait néanmoins pas provoqué d'émoi en Egypte, illustrant le climat extrêmement délétère qui y règne.

Une large majorité de la population, à l'unisson des médias quasi-unanimes, applaudit à la répression implacable menée contre les islamistes par le gouvernement installé et dirigé de facto par l'armée après qu'elle eut destitué le 3 juillet M. Morsi, seul président jamais élu démocratiquement en Egypte.

Plus de 1.400 manifestants pro-Morsi ont été tués en dix mois et plus de 15.000 de ses partisans emprisonnés.

Et, pour accréditer le sentiment d'experts et d'ONG que la répression de toute contestation est devenue pire que sous le régime de Hosni Moubarak, un tribunal du Caire a interdit lundi le Mouvement du 6-Avril, un groupe laïc de gauche fer de lance de la révolte populaire qui chassa du pouvoir l'ex-raïs début 2011.

- 'Où est la justice?' -

A Mynia, à l'énoncé du verdict, plusieurs femmes se sont évanouies devant le tribunal encerclé par les forces de l'ordre. "Où est la justice?", s'est écriée l'une d'elles.

Les condamnés sont accusés d'avoir participé dans le gouvernorat de Minya aux manifestations pro-Morsi le 14 août au moment où, au Caire, 700 manifestants tombaient sous les balles des policiers et soldats.

Mais plusieurs proches ont assuré que les condamnés n'avaient rien à voir avec les manifestations de Minya, dans lesquelles au moins un policier avait été tué dans l'attaque d'un commissariat. "Mon fils est mort depuis trois ans et son nom est cité dans cette affaire", s'indignait Wada Hasaballah, la soixantaine, toute voilée de noir.

"Beaucoup de condamnés n'étaient même pas dans la manif", a assuré au téléphone à l'AFP Gamal, 25 ans, professeur d'arabe condamné à mort lundi mais en fuite, et qui revendique son appartenance aux Frères musulmans et sa participation à la manifestation. "C'est le procès politique de ceux qui s'opposent au régime militaire".

Sur les quelque 1.200 accusés condamnés le 24 mars et lundi, seuls environ 200 sont emprisonnés, les autres étant en fuite ou ayant été libérés sous caution.

Le jugement "démontre une nouvelle fois combien la justice égyptienne est devenue arbitraire et partielle (...) et risque de se transformer tout simplement en un nouveau rouage de l'appareil répressif des autorités", a commenté de son côté Amnesty international.

Condamné à mort lundi pour avoir "incité" aux violences, Mohamed Badie, le guide suprême des Frères musulmans, qui ont remporté toutes les élections depuis l'éviction de Hosni Moubarak, est également jugé au Caire dans plusieurs autres procès pour lesquels il encourt la peine capitale, à l'instar de M. Morsi.

La quasi-totalité des leaders des Frères musulmans ont été arrêtés depuis le 3 juillet. La confrérie a été déclarée "terroriste" par le gouvernement qui la rend responsable d'une vague d'attentats visant les forces de l'ordre.

Les peines de mort doivent être validées par le mufti, représentant de l'islam auprès de l'Etat, mais son avis n'est pas contraignant. Concernant les 683 condamnés à mort de lundi, le juge a fixé au 21 juin sa décision finale après l'avis du mufti.

22 killed in attack on C Africa MSF hospital
April 29, 2014/AFP

BANGUI, CAR : At least 22 people including three staff members of medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres were killed during a weekend attack by gunmen on a Central African hospital, in the latest atrocity to hit the violence-plagued country.
The brutal attack in the northwest was blamed on the mostly Muslim rebels known as the Seleka,

whose coup in March last year unleashed a vicious cycle of sectarian violence.

“Armed men from the ex-Seleka and of Fula ethnicity on Saturday afternoon attacked a hospital supported by MSF in the region of Nanga Boguila, killing at least 22 people, including three Central African employees of MSF and leaving a dozen wounded,” an officer from the African-led MISCA peacekeeping force told AFP on Monday.

MSF confirmed the death of its three employees, without giving further details.

The gunmen had stormed into the building as local representatives and MSF employees held a meeting, the MISCA officer said.

“The assailants first opened fire at a group of people, gunning down four of them. Then they went to the hospital where they killed 15 other people and three members of MSF.

“They took computers and several other assets, breaking down doors probably in search for cash,” added the officer.

“France strongly condemns the deadly attack perpetrated on April 27 against the medical centre,” said French foreign ministry spokesman Roman Nadal on Monday.

“The perpetrators of this intolerable attack must be brought to justice,” he said, while adding his praise for MSF’s work “in difficult conditions and under threat to their lives”.

The Seleka rebels were ordered to disarm by their leader Michel Djotodia several months after they installed him in power in a coup. But some ignored orders and went on a killing, raping and pillaging rampage.

Mostly Christian communities then formed “anti-balaka” vigilante forces to wreak revenge against Muslims, usually targeting innocent people.

Djotodia resigned in January after failing to put down the violence that has claimed thousands of lives and displaced a quarter of the country’s 4.6 million population. And today, extremists of the Seleka alliance actively encourage de facto partition.

African and French peacekeepers, backed up recently by an EU force, have been struggling to curb the fighting ripping the country apart.

“It is a region that is not completely secured, because our forces (are not large enough) to be deployed in other sites than the main cities like Bossangoa,” said the MISCA officer, referring to a city about 100 kilometres from the scene of the MSF attack.

The weekend attack came as 1,300 Muslims left the capital Bangui on Sunday under heavy guard.

Tens of thousands have already fled northwards, almost emptying the south of the country of Muslims. They have travelled to predominantly Muslim areas in the north, while thousands of others have fled across borders into Chad and Cameroon.

The religious and ethnic faultlines that are driving the conflict are particularly disheartening in a country where these groups lived peacefully alongside each other for generations despite a succession of coups, misrule, army mutinies and strikes.

Earlier in April, UN chief Ban Ki-moon made an impassioned plea on the warring parties to prevent a new genocide on the continent, 20 years after Rwanda.

A 12,000-strong UN force is scheduled to deploy in September in the former French colony, taking over from 2,000 French and 6,000 African Union soldiers already in place.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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