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BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

UN's 'exceptional courage' medal named for hero soldier in Rwanda genocide

The Associated Press/Thursday, May 8, 2014

The Security Council has voted unanimously to establish a United Nations medal for "exceptional courage."

The award will be created in the name of an unarmed UN peacekeeper from Senegal who lost his life after saving hundreds of Rwandans from death in the 1994 genocide. The decision led Rwanda's UN envoy to break down in tears in the council chamber.

Ambassador Eugene-Richard Gasana called Captain Mbaye Diagne "a hero" who went against orders to save lives during the 100-day slaughter in which more than 500,000 minority Tutsis and moderate Hutu's were killed by Hutu extremists.

"In the face of evil, he refused to be a bystander," Gasana said Thursday. "Armed only with courage

and a sense of responsibility Captain Diagne decided to conduct several missions ... to save hundreds, maybe a thousand Rwandans."

RDC CONGO :

Expulsions des Congolais de la RDC du Congo/Brazza : l'Unikin s'échauffe

Le Phare/congoplanete.com/8 mai 2014

Les étudiants de l'Université de Kinshasa se sont soulevés brièvement hier mercredi 7 mai 2014 en début d'après-midi. Mouvement pacifique qui n'a pu évoluer à cause d'un déploiement des éléments de la police nationale congolaise aux alentours de cet établissement. Créant ainsi la psychose au sein de la population riveraine ainsi qu'auprès des élèves du groupe scolaire du Mont-Amba qui se trouvaient déjà sur le chemin du retour à la maison.

Motif de leur mécontentement : les traitements inhumains et dégradants des Congolais de la RDC par les autorités de Brazzaville. Ces expulsions qui, selon les manifestants, ne respectent pas les principes universels des droits de l'homme. Ces étudiants s'insurgent aussi contre la passivité des autorités de la République démocratique du Congo face à cette vague d'expulsions. Ils veulent voir les autorités RD congolaises réagir face à l'opération « Mbata yz bakolo »

Selon eux, bon nombre d'étrangers vivent en RDC de manière illégale sans inquiétude. Cette hospitalité qu'offre la RDC aux étrangers même en situation irrégulière ne doit pas être comprise comme une situation de faiblesse. Il faut noter qu'il y a quelques semaines que les autorités de Brazza ville expulsent les RD congolais. Il leur est reproché d'être en situation irrégulière. Mais, pour bon nombre de ces RD congolais expulsés, les autorités brazzavilloises, principalement les éléments de la police, se livrent à des actes déplorables.

Il est inadmissible de vivre dans un pays étranger sans papier mais cela ne peut pas justifier les scènes de violence. Par ailleurs, il faut signaler que ce n'est pas seulement le Congo Brazza qui traite de la sorte les RD congolais ou « zaïrois » de la sorte. Cette manière d'agir est aussi observée en Angola alors que toutes les populations étrangères vivent paisiblement à Kinshasa et autres provinces comme des autochtones.

UGANDA :

Equality House gets fresh paint job to support cause in Uganda

May 8, 2014/by CNN Wire,

TOPEKA, Kan. (WIBW) — The Equality House has a new look. The normally rainbow colored-home that sits across from the Westboro Baptist Church has been partially repainted with the colors of the Ugandan flag.

According to their Facebook page, the makeover is meant to “show continued solidarity with the persecution LGBT Ugandans face.” They are also doing it to highlight their newest initiative, the Uganda Underground.

Planting Peace, who owns the Equality House, describes the Uganda Underground as a “safe-housing project with sites positioned throughout the African nation.” The non-profit organization said they modeled it on the Underground Railroad, which transported American slaves to Canada in the 19th century, and provides shelter and refuge for people there.

SOUTH AFRICA :

Ruling ANC party wins South African elections

9 May 2014/By Africa correspondent Martin Cuddihy, wires/radioaustralia.net.au

The governing African National Congress party has won its fifth straight election in South Africa.

The governing African National Congress party has won its fifth straight election in South Africa.

More than 16 million South Africans voted in the national elections, and most of the vote has been counted with the ANC coming out the clear winner with 60 per cent of the vote.

Officials said voter turnout was high across 22,000 polling stations nationwide, and voting passed off smoothly, although the ANC said one of its members was shot dead outside a polling station in rural KwaZulu-Natal, president Jacob Zuma's home province.

While the party is happy with the result, it is the smallest margin the ANC has won since the end of apartheid 20 years ago, when the party was led by Nelson Mandela.

The ANC's leader President Zuma will continue his leadership, despite sluggish economic growth, damaging union strikes, and criticism from prominent South African political figures including Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The next best performing party was the Democratic Alliance, which ended up with about 22 per cent of the vote.

President Zuma defeated his opposition from the far left, with the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) party, led by his former protégé Julius Malema, performing worse than expected with less than 5 per cent of the vote.

The ANC's enduring popularity has confounded those who had expected its support to wane as voters focused on the scandals and controversies that have typified Zuma's first term.

Africa's most sophisticated economy has struggled to recover from a 2009 recession and the ANC's efforts to stimulate growth and tackle 25 per cent unemployment have been hampered by the unions.

South Africa's top anti-graft agency accused Zuma this year of "benefiting unduly" from a \$23 million state-funded security upgrade to his private home at Nkandla in KwaZulu-Natal.

The president has denied any wrongdoing and defended the upgrades as necessary for the protection of a head of state.

Prior to the election he said the Nkandla controversy was "not an issue with the voters".

A.N.C. Leads South Africa Vote, but Others Gain

By NORIMITSU ONISHI/nytimes.com/MAY 8, 2014

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's long-ruling African National Congress was headed to another big victory in national elections on Thursday, though it appeared to fall short of President Jacob G. Zuma's goal of a two-thirds majority, incomplete results showed.

The A.N.C. led with 63 percent of the vote after nearly 83 percent of the ballots had been tallied, in keeping with projections that the party, mired in corruption scandals and headed by the unpopular Mr. Zuma, would shed a few percentage points off its share of the total this election. In the last general election, in 2009, it won 65.9 percent of the vote.

If the A.N.C.'s lead holds until the final returns are tabulated on Friday, Mr. Zuma, who has battled charges of corruption and rape in recent years, should easily earn a second term.

Party officials, appearing on television throughout the day, seemed relieved. An overwhelming victory was never in doubt in what has effectively been a one-party state since the A.N.C., under Nelson Mandela, won South Africa's first all-race election in 1994.

But a less resounding victory, one falling below the psychologically important level of 60 percent, could have imperiled Mr. Zuma and caused much soul-searching within the party.

"We are quite humbled by the confidence and trust our people have shown," said Nomvula Mokonyane, an A.N.C. leader who is the premier of Gauteng, the province that includes Johannesburg and is the nation's richest, according to the South African Press Association.

The main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, was in second place with 22 percent, significantly more than the 17 percent it won in 2009. Even as the A.N.C.'s share of the vote has been declining since peaking at 70 percent in 2004, the Democratic Alliance has steadily made gains by reaching beyond its core supporters of whites and South Africans of mixed race, who account for less than 20 percent of South Africa's population.

By fielding black candidates, campaigning in black townships for the first time and emphasizing a policy of job creation, the Democratic Alliance appears to have drawn middle-class black voters away from the A.N.C.

Its power in the Western Cape, the only one of South Africa's nine provinces not under A.N.C. control, grew as it won 59 percent of the vote, with 94 percent of the ballots counted. The party wrested the province away from the A.N.C. in 2009; its leader, Helen Zille, who is white, is also the province's premier.

The Democratic Alliance has also made gains elsewhere, including in Gauteng, according to the preliminary results.

"We're feeling good about the elections because what they're saying is that the D.A. is the only party that's consistently grown since 1994," Mmusi Maimane, who is the party's candidate for premier in Gauteng and is black, told the South African Broadcasting Corporation. "It also shows the fact that the people are saying, 'We like what we're seeing.'"

The election on Wednesday presented two basic narratives. The A.N.C. insists that during its tenure basic services like running water and electric power have been provided to millions who were denied them during the long years of apartheid.

Opponents of the A.N.C. say it has fallen victim to corruption, scandal and ineptitude, unable to deliver services to meet the needs of the ordinary people it claims to represent.

That message resonated especially among the young, who tend to be less loyal to the A.N.C. than older voters who lived under apartheid. A former head of the A.N.C.'s youth wing, Julius Malema, attracted many of those voters to his party, the Economic Freedom Fighters, by proposing a radical solution of nationalizing mines and other economic assets in the country without compensation to the owners.

Describing himself as a fan of nationalist leaders like Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Hugo Chávez of Venezuela, Mr. Malema campaigned with his followers in military-style red berets and uniforms.

Though Mr. Malema formed his party only last July, it came in third, ahead of many older parties.

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

ANGOLA :

Chinese premier arrives in Angola for visit

Editor: Ren Zhongxi/Xinhua/05-09-2014

LUANDA, May 8 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Premier Li Keqiang arrived here Thursday for a visit aimed at further enhancing the strategic partnership between China and Angola.

Noting that Angola is an example of the fast growing African continent and an important cooperation partner of China in southwest Africa, the Chinese premier said he is looking forward to an in-depth exchange of views with Angolan leaders on bilateral issues and matters of common concern.

"China would like to expand and enrich its cooperation with Angola on the basis of existing achievements, so as to inject fresh impetus into the development of bilateral ties," he said.

During his stay, Li is scheduled to meet with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and hold a seminar with Chinese companies and overseas Chinese, according to the Foreign Ministry of China.

A number of agreements are expected to be signed between the two countries, their enterprises and financial institutions during Li's visit, Chinese Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng said.

"The signing of those agreements will be the biggest highlight of the visit," he said.

Gao did not disclose the financial details of the agreements, but said the documents will cover areas of medical science, hydro-power, agriculture and people's livelihoods.

"Angola is the third stop of Premier Li's Africa tour. The visit is of great significance in comprehensively improving China-Africa strategic partnership and consolidating the solidarity and cooperation among developing countries," he said.

Internal conflict and political instability had ravaged the country for years. Since the end of a civil war in 2002, Angola's economy has been growing rapidly thanks to the resumption of oil exploitation and massive reconstruction programs.

China has participated actively in Angola's post-war reconstruction and played a major role in building and repairing the country's poor infrastructure, including highways, railways, power plants and harbors.

In 2013, trade between the two countries reached 36 billion U.S. dollars. By the end of 2013, China's accumulative investment in Angola had exceeded eight billion dollars. Angola has become China's second largest trading partner in Africa.

Basilio Cassomo, an economic adviser to the Angolan president, said in an interview with Xinhua that Angola appreciates China's contribution to the reconstruction of his country.

Angola is currently trying to diversify its oil-dependent economy, and Li's visit will usher in a new era in bilateral cooperation and inject new vigor and vitality into the two countries' strategic partnership, he said.

Angola is the third leg of Li's four-nation Africa tour, which has already taken him to Ethiopia and Nigeria. He will then travel to Kenya.

AU/AFRICA :

Africa and China Strategic Partnership gets new impetus with the visit of China Premier to the AU headquarters

By: SEM Contributor/sierraexpressmedia.com/May 9, 2014.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 5th May, 2014: The Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Li Keqiang, has reiterated China's commitment to reinforce the Sino-Africa strategic partnership. Mr. Keqiang was speaking on Monday 5 May 2014 while addressing AU Officials and staff; the diplomatic Corps; the Chinese community in Addis Ababa, representatives of the international organizations; AU Members States; the media; business people, and other invited guests, at the African Union Conference Complex in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The official visit of the Chinese premier to the AU featured a tour of the facilities of the New AU Conference Center, a gift from the Chinese government to Africa, in the presence of Mr. Erastus

Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the AUC, followed by a tete-a-tete with Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the AUC and a brief working session with the AUC Commissioners before proceeding to the plenary hall to address the public. In his statement, the Chinese Premier enumerated some main projects and areas of cooperation between the two parties. Hailing the economic development witnessed in the African continent, he called on the two parties to make use of this opportunity for the common interest of their respective populations and for a brighter future “given that Africa and China have a common historical past”, he noted.

Welcoming the Chinese Premier at the AU Headquarters, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Dr. Dlamini Zuma highlighted the long standing cooperation between Africa and China. “The African Union considers today an important milestone in the historical relationship between Africa and China. This strategic and unique relationship is an expression of a long, deep and enduring solidarity between Africa and China. It was built in the long walk of Africa’s struggles against colonialism and foreign domination, and Africa’s pursuit for self-determination, freedom, justice, peace and prosperity,” she underscored. She added that this visit, therefore, “is an affirmation of the shared ideals and strong commitment we share to our collective destiny and that of humanity as a whole”. (See complete statement of AUC Chairperson on the AU website: www.au.int).

Speaking earlier, H.E. Mr Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia saluted the joint ventures in the areas of investment and establishment of Chinese industries in Africa which he said will create employment as well as transfer technology in the continent.

A guided tour of an exhibition of the Chinese aviation and railway networks concluded the visit of Prime Minister Li Keqiang to the AU headquarters.

AMT/EAT

10 Memorable Quotes From The 2014 World Economic Forum On Africa

5/08/2014/forbes.com

The 24th edition of the World Economic Forum on Africa is currently taking place in Abuja, Nigeria. The event, which has brought together close to 1,000 regional and global leaders, is centered on the theme of forging inclusive growth and creating jobs for Africa’s growing population. The began on Wednesday and is slated to close tomorrow. Here are some of the more memorable quotes from Thursday’s plenary and brainstorming sessions:

Africa is an article of faith. I believe in this continent. – Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chairman, Bharti Airtel

Nowhere in the world do you get the kind of returns you get in Africa. – Olabisi Onasanya, Group CEO, First Bank of Nigeria

Africa is going through growing pains, but the potential is great. – Mohamed Alabbar, Chairman, Emaar Properties

This is the right time for anyone to come and invest into Africa. - Stephen Olabisi Onasanya, Group CEO, First Bank of Nigeria

Africa’s rise will make the world more stable, more democratic, more robust. – Chinese Premier

Li Keqiang

Africa's people have taken their destiny into their own hands. – China's Li Keqiang

Don't be afraid to invest in Africa. – Jean-François van Boxmeer, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Heineken International

Africa has been rising for a long time. I hope we will eventually get to a point where we have risen. – Albert Kobina Essien, Group Chief Executive Officer of Ecobank Transnational

As the economies of Africa grow, progressive businesses will grow with them. – Jean-François van Boxmeer, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Heineken International

Africa represents our fastest-growing region in the world. If you want to be relevant, you need to be in this part of the world – Dominic Barton, Global Managing Director of McKinsey & Company

Bharti Airtel to invest \$1 bn every year in Africa

PTI /businessstoday.intoday.in/May 9, 2014

Abuja

Telecom major Bharti Airtel will invest \$1 billion every year on its African operations over the next few years.

"Airtel will invest \$1 billion in Africa per annum over the next few years," Bharti Enterprises Founder and Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum.

Airtel has operations in 17 African countries. The company has deployed 3G network in 14 of them.

Mittal, who is the co-chair of the event, said that company will focus on existing operations across 17 countries rather than expanding to newer markets.

Airtel had entered the African market in 2010 after acquiring Zain Telecom for about \$10.7 billion.

In the last fiscal, Airtel had made capital expenditure of \$635 million in Africa.

The cumulative investment of Airtel was \$14,388 million in Africa at the end of 2013-14.

Airtel Africa witnessed 2 per cent growth in revenues for the last of quarter of 2013-14 to \$1.14 billion.

The company registered a net loss of \$124 million in Africa as compared to a loss of \$91 million in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The average revenue per user for Airtel in Africa saw 7 per cent decline to \$5.5.

The number of data customers in Africa during the quarter increased by 53.5 per cent to 22.3 million and now represent 32.1 per cent of the total customer base.

As Nigeria awaits the return of its daughters, it struggles to breathe

Date : May 9, 2014/smh.com.au

Abuja: Nigeria is a difficult place. It is not a country for the faint of heart.

On a good day, when our larger cities such as Abuja, Lagos and Kano are filled with the teeming masses going in so many different directions, flogged by the heat and sun, bumping down uneven roads all in the name of "the hustle", it can appear chaotic.

On a bad day - and there have been some bad days since the terrorist group Boko Haram began its latest rampage with an April 14 bombing just outside Abuja, which killed more than 70 people, and followed it three weeks later with a bombing that killed almost 30 more just a few paces from the first attack - Nigeria can seem like hell.

The darkest moment now upon us arrived after the group broke into a school in the remote town of Chibok and absconded with nearly 300 young women who are said to have been handed over to Boko Haram fighters as sex slaves or sold in neighbouring countries as wives.

As individuals and as a country, we are angry and we are pained. We have protested and we have wept. A friend here said to me: "I can't believe this is happening in our lifetime," echoing what many feel.

In the hallways at the World Economic Forum for Africa, taking place in Abuja this week, the agenda focuses on the real positives of an "Africa Rising", but mixed in are moments of silence to remember the victims of these latest tragedies.

But Nigeria is not a country on the brink of collapse. More importantly, we are not a country where life is cheap. We are a nascent democracy with many challenges, learning how to develop an internal dialogue in a world so full of noise that shock and awe are the preferred tools of some ruthlessly unscrupulous people who want to make themselves heard.

A mass kidnapping is in many ways a more terrifying statement than the mass murder of innocent civilians by bombs, because however horrible, an explosion is a finite event. There is a before and an after, during which those who remain are permitted to literally pick up the pieces and reconstruct a new understanding of the world.

Kidnapping causes a long-term rupture in the psyche of those kidnapped and of those who wait for their return. It doesn't end. A person who has been taken is not there, but there is no body to inter for closure, no body on which to build memory. The kidnapped person is so tantalisingly close, kept alive by a devastating hope. Kidnapping or hostage-taking is perhaps the most disturbing form of terror because it turns this hope into a liability that can paralyse.

In mid-December 2012, my grandmother was kidnapped from her village in southern Nigeria by a set of people trying to make a political point. There is no more devastating feeling than to sit and wonder what is happening to the disappeared and then to try to plan a path through your day. How can you think? How can you work? How can you even breathe when your imagination conjures how a group of madmen might harm your grandmother?

Luckily, the hard work of the police and security services brought her back to us safely. In no way do I mean to equate the kidnapping of one with the kidnapping of nearly 300, but in my mind the intent is similar and clear. The kidnapping of these girls is the crudest attempt to destabilise our country. It is a cowardly act by lazy minds who lack the ability or desire to address a pluralistic nation as the democratic process demands, through the spoken or written word.

The world - indeed, Nigerians too - often forgets that we are a young democracy, essentially only 15 years old, which has experienced only two successful successive transfers of power. Nigeria shed the last of a succession of brutal military dictatorships in 1997 and adopted a democratic form of government only in 1999.

Our elections of 2003, 2007 and 2011 were complicated and fraught with tension, but each one has shown remarkable progress.

We are also a young nation, less than 60 years old, comprising almost 180 million people of multiple ethnicities and cultures, still trying to parse the overarching story of our nationhood.

The actions of Boko Haram expose a painful truth now alien to those who live in some of the older, more stable democracies of this world: that the journey toward a peaceful political discourse often requires a society to wrestle with its more violent forms of dialogue, and that those least connected to the fight are often the ones who suffer the most.

I have no desire to explain away the brutality that Boko Haram has unleashed upon my fellow citizens. We need to get our kidnapped girls back, and we need to honour the memory of those who died in the attacks. But we need to do so through vigorous support of our growing democracy and renewed commitment to the lives of the most vulnerable within it.

This has started with pleas from the families of the missing girls, social media movements, live protests, and the Nigerian soldiers and security services who are putting themselves at risk for our safety. Hashtags are important. We must #bringbackourgirls.

But the Internet is not and will never be an answer to a group committed to blowing up their own bodies in the quest for their tainted vision of governance. As Nigerians, we must hold ourselves accountable to forming an idea of who we are and how we address those who use violence as expression. The international community must stand with Nigerians through this struggle and not turn its head away as we deal with the troubles we will certainly encounter as we march toward this vision.

Together - that is how we will bring our girls back, and ultimately how our girls will bring us back to ourselves.

Uzodinma Iweala is the author of *Beasts of No Nation* and *Our Kind of People: A Continent's Challenge, A Country's Hope*. He is the editor in chief of *Ventures Africa* magazine.

Washington Post

Nigeria: l'enlèvement des lycéennes marque un tournant vers "la fin du terrorisme"

AFP/le jeudi 08 mai 2014

L'enlèvement sans précédent de plus de 200 lycéennes au Nigeria par le groupe Boko Haram, qui choque et mobilise la communauté internationale, marque un tournant vers "la fin du terrorisme" islamiste, a déclaré le président Goodluck Jonathan.

La première session plénière du "Forum économique pour l'Afrique" a démarré jeudi matin dans la capitale nigériane par une minute de silence en soutien aux familles des lycéennes enlevées.

"Je crois que l'enlèvement de ces jeunes filles marque le début de la fin du terrorisme au Nigeria", a déclaré M. Jonathan dans un discours prononcé pendant cette session plénière.

M. Jonathan a ensuite remercié la Grande-Bretagne, la Chine, la France et les Etats-Unis qui ont promis d'envoyer des experts afin d'aider à retrouver la trace des adolescentes enlevées mi-avril dans leur lycée de Chibok, dans l'Etat de Borno, une attaque qui a choqué le monde entier.

Les propos du président nigérian font écho à ceux prononcés cette semaine par le président américain Barack Obama.

Dans un entretien accordé à la chaîne américaine ABC, M. Obama avait estimé que cet enlèvement de masse "pourrait être l'événement qui aide à mobiliser la communauté internationale toute entière afin de faire enfin quelque chose contre une organisation aussi abjecte, qui a perpétré un crime affreux".

M. Jonathan espérait que le "Forum économique pour l'Afrique" serait une belle vitrine du potentiel économique du Nigeria, récemment devenu la première puissance économique du continent, devant l'Afrique du Sud, suite à un changement du mode de calcul de son produit intérieur brut.

Mais le "Davos africain" a été éclipsé par la forte activité criminelle de Boko Haram, qui a revendiqué l'enlèvement de 276 adolescentes de Chibok le 14 avril et a tué plusieurs centaines de personnes au cours d'une attaque d'une autre ville du Nord-Est.

M. Jonathan a remercié plus de 1.000 délégués représentant 70 pays d'avoir fait le déplacement dans la capitale fédérale nigériane, placée sous sécurité maximale suite aux deux attentats qui ont fait plus de 90 morts en moins de trois semaines à la sortie de la ville.

"Vous nous apportez votre soutien pour que nous remportions la guerre que nous menons contre le terrorisme", a-t-il ajouté.

"Si vous aviez refusé de venir par peur, c'est le terrorisme qui aurait gagné" a poursuivit le président Jonathan.

Le président Jonathan et son gouvernement, très critiqués pour leur incapacité à juguler l'insurrection islamiste, qui a fait plusieurs milliers de morts en cinq ans, ont souvent refusé la coopération sécuritaire des puissances occidentales par le passé.

Les responsables américains ont reconnu que leur armée avait assez peu de liens avec Abuja et, contrairement à de nombreux autres pays africains, le Nigeria s'est montré peu enclin à suivre des programmes internationaux de formation.

"Les Nigériens ont souvent refusé l'aide américaine par le passé, notamment dans le domaine de la sécurité", a déclaré John Campbell, ancien ambassadeur des Etats-Unis au Nigeria.

Certains espèrent que cette nouvelle collaboration dans la recherche des otages, qui "devrait être très technique, essentiellement" selon M. Campbell, permettra au Nigeria de lutter plus efficacement contre Boko Haram par la suite.

Selon des responsables américains, l'équipe envoyée par Washington au Nigeria comporte moins de dix militaires, des spécialistes du département américain de la Justice et des membres du FBI.

La France a proposé d'envoyer une équipe de spécialistes, la Grande Bretagne a dit envoyer une

équipe d'experts en planification et coordination, alors que la Chine a déclaré être disponible à partager "toute information utile recueillie par ses satellites et ses services de renseignements".

L'émotion dans le monde entier largement répercutée sur les réseaux sociaux, relative à l'enlèvement des 223 adolescentes toujours captives, n'empêche pas les islamistes de continuer à mener des attaques dans le nord-est du Nigeria.

Selon le sénateur Ahmed Zanna, 300 personnes ont été ainsi tuées dans l'attaque de Gamboru Ngala, une ville frontalière du Cameroun, lundi.

"Certains corps sont tellement brûlés qu'ils sont méconnaissables", a rapporté Babagana Goni, un habitant.

"Certains ont été tués par balle, d'autres ont été égorgés, ça m'a rendu malade. J'ai dû arrêter de compter", a-t-il ajouté.

UN/AFRICA :

UN congratulates South Africa on peaceful elections

May 09,2014/Xinhua

JOHANNESBURG, May 8 (Xinhua) -- The United Nations on Thursday congratulated the people and government of South Africa on the peaceful holding of parliamentary and provincial elections, amid reports of high voter turnout.

"He (UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon) applauds the determination of South Africans to participate meaningfully in the democratic system the country has fought so hard to establish, starting with the first multiracial elections 20 years ago," said a statement released by United Nations Information Center Pretoria.

"The United Nations is committed to continue supporting South Africa in its efforts to advance justice and development for the benefit of all segments of society," said the statement.

South Africans voted on Wednesday to elect the new National Assembly and provincial legislatures.

It was the country's fifth all-race election since the end of apartheid in 1994.

The election has seen the highest number of votes cast in the country's democratic history, the SA Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) said.

Over 18 million votes were expected to have been cast in this national election, said IEC chief electoral officer Mosotho Moepya. "This will exceed the 17.9 million votes cast in 2009 and the 15.5 million in 2004."

He said 12.62 million votes had been captured on the result system by 18:00 p.m. Thursday.

"We remain on track to complete the count, capture and audit results for these elections in good time," Moepya told reporters at the IEC's results center in Pretoria.

US/AFRICA :

In our opinion: A House select committee to investigate Benghazi is necessary to get answers to neglected questions

Deseret News editorial/Friday, May 9 2014

Questioned recently about the Obama administration's response to the terrorist September 2012 attack on the United States Embassy in Benghazi, Libya, the former spokesman for the White House's National Security Council said, "Dude, this was, like, two years ago."

That flippant dismissal, by former spokesman Tommy Vietor, speaks volumes about the lack of seriousness with which the Obama administration has treated questions regarding the events of Sept. 11, 2012. The terrorist attack on the embassy killed U.S. Ambassador Chris Stephens and three other Americans.

Many U.S. legislators are downplaying concerns about Benghazi as a fringe obsession. "Benghazi, Benghazi, Benghazi," House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., lamented recently. "Why aren't we talking about something else?"

Because the Obama administration hasn't provided answers.

Indeed, Pelosi's question ignores the extraordinarily great lengths to which the Obama administration has gone to keep Benghazi from being a topic of conversation. Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, said that the White House has purposely hidden Benghazi documents from congressional oversight. The White House's attempts to thwart Benghazi investigations are part of a "very concerted effort [and] obstruction of Congress," Chaffetz said. "It doesn't look right. It doesn't smell right," he recently told the Deseret News. "There is smoke there, and we're going to figure out what's going on."

Some legislators seem to agree with Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., who maintains that any further digging into Benghazi would be "a colossal waste of time" because there have been "four bipartisan investigations of this already."

Yet the nation lacks a clear understanding of what the president or Secretary of State Hillary Clinton were doing before, during and after the evening of the attacks. The nub of the matter is whether the White House deliberately misrepresented facts by attributing the attack to a spontaneous demonstration — a demonstration that never took place — in response to an anti-Islamic video.

The Obama administration claims such questions are only of interest to political opportunists trying to damage the president or Clinton. Since Benghazi is now "old news," there's no reason to address the subject, according to this view. This is an excuse, not an answer. "It's embarrassing that the Democrats would suggest that this is merely political," Chaffetz said.

Given that the main players in this story are the president of the United States and a likely candidate for president, it may well be impossible to get to the heart of these questions. That does not excuse the administration for being less than forthcoming. Why, for example, are the redactions in the email documentation received by an activist group under the Freedom of Information Act different from those documents received by Congress?

We welcome the newly announced creation of a select House committee to investigate the events at Benghazi, and we hope that Democrats and Republicans will join in seeking answers to these unaddressed questions.

Former U.S. General In Africa: 'I Think We Can' Help Find Nigerian Girls

May 08, 2014/npr.org

What can the U.S. — or anyone — do to return more than 200 abducted girls to their families in Nigeria? And what might happen if the U.S. engages with another violent group of extremists? Retired Gen. Carter Ham, who until last year led the U.S. African Command, says there's still a chance to help.

Ham's former command will be part of the U.S. effort to search for the missing schoolgirls, who were kidnapped three weeks ago by the Islamist extremist group Boko Haram. The group's leader said this week that he plans to sell them. Ham says he suspects some of the girls may have already been sent to other countries.

"I suspect they've been probably dispersed by now. That'll be a difficult challenge," Ham tells NPR's Steve Inskeep on . "But we have surveillance platforms, signals intelligence and other capabilities that would be helpful."

On Wednesday, Nigerian officials offered a \$300,000 reward for help in finding the girls, and the country accepted a U.S. offer of help earlier this week. This comes amid worldwide protests by demonstrators venting their anger over the mass abduction. The case also has spurred a Twitter campaign around the hashtag ; first lady Michelle Obama Wednesday.

If the girls are located, Ham says he thinks U.S. agencies such as the FBI could help the Nigerian government with "hostage rescue, negotiations and care of hostages, once [they're] released. So there are a lot of capabilities the U.S. government broadly can bring to assist the Nigerians."

But first, of course, the girls and their captors must be found. Ham says he doesn't think anyone will be able to talk Boko Haram's leader, Abubakar Shekau, into returning the girls. But Ham says that if it's true that the girls have been dispersed, Nigeria and its allies might have a better chance.

"That means that some girls are probably held by younger, less experienced, and perhaps less ideologically committed individuals," Ham says. "And some of those might be affected by good hostage negotiation."

Besides the U.S., countries such as Britain and France have offered to help. Ham says the rescue effort must also include Nigeria's neighbors, such as Niger, Chad and Cameroon.

As , some observers are skeptical that the international effort can make a difference. They note that more than three weeks have passed since the abductions. And they say Boko Haram is entrenched in northern Nigeria's Borno state, where it has repeatedly attacked schools and villages in recent years. was reported this week.

"It's like a needle-in-the-haystack type of search we are talking about here," says Richard Downie of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "A small group of personnel that the U.S. is providing, that may help, but it's unlikely to be a game changer."

As for the possible repercussions that could come from the U.S. more directly opposing a militant

group that targets Western entities, Ham acknowledges that the operation could "cause Boko Haram to focus more on U.S. interests."

But he adds, "In a larger sense, I think if we can help Nigeria find these girls — and I think we can — then personally I'm glad to see us make that effort."

Update at 6:00 p.m. ET

NPR's Tom Bowman reports that the U.S. military team sent to Nigeria will advise the Abuja government on intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and logistics, according to Pentagon officials and defense analysts.

"In layman's terms, they will show how the U.S. can help provide pictures of suspected sites through drones or satellites, intercept communications of the Boko Haram kidnappers and advise on possible rescue scenarios," Tom says.

"The Nigerian military [needs] helicopter support, though one official said a U.S. ally, possibly the French could help," he says. "Still, FBI hostage negotiators are also heading to Nigeria in case there's a decision to work to resolve the kidnappings peacefully without a military operation."

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

China to extend over \$12 bln in aid to Africa

Fri May 9, 2014 /Reuters

BEIJING

(Reuters) - Chinese Premier Li Keqiang unveiled extra aid for Africa totalling at least \$12 billion on Monday, and offered to share advance technology with the continent to help with development of high-speed rail, state media reported.

Li pledged the additional funding in a speech at the Organisation of African Union headquarters in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

China will increase credit lines to Africa by \$10 billion and will boost the China-Africa Development Fund by \$2 billion, bringing it to a total of \$5 billion, Li said, according to the official Xinhua news agency. He provided no details of the timeframe.

Li "depicted a dream that all African capitals are connected with high-speed rail, so as to boost pan-African communication and development," the report said. As China has advanced technologies in this area, Li said China was ready to work with Africa "to make this dream come true".

China will also offer \$10 million in aid for wildlife protection, Li added, for a part of the world where the Chinese appetite ivory and rhino horns have driven some species to the brink of extinction.

It is Li's first visit to Africa since he became premier last year, and follows on from a trip to the continent by President Xi Jinping in March 2013, when he renewed an offer of \$20 billion in loans to Africa between 2013 and 2015.

Li said that the new \$10 billion credit line would be on top of the existing \$20 billion already offered, the China News Service reported.

Chinese officials said last week that Li's trip, which also takes in oil-rich Nigeria and Angola, would not simply be for energy deals and Beijing will be seeking to help boost African living standards.

Li said he hoped that some of the loans being offered would be used to support small and medium-sized companies in Africa, adding that economic development on the continent offered huge opportunities for both China and Africa.

"History and reality make clear to all: China's development gives opportunity to Africa; Africa develops, and China also benefits," he said.

Trips by Chinese leaders to Africa are often marked by big natural resource deals, triggering criticism from some quarters that China is only interested in the continent's mineral and energy wealth.

China has a relationship with Africa which pre-dates its current resource-hungry economic boom. In previous decades, China's Communist leaders supported national liberation movements and newly independent states across the continent.

Africans broadly see China as a healthy counterbalance to Western influence but, as ties mature, there are growing calls from policymakers and economists for more balanced trade relations.

This version of the story corrects the figure for wildlife aid in the fifth paragraph. Earlier state media reports put the figure at \$100 million, but transcript of speech puts figure at \$10 million.

(Reporting by Ben Blanchard; Editing by Simon Cameron-Moore)

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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