



[Le chef de la mission de l'ONU en République démocratique du Congo (RDC), Martin Kobler, et la représentante spéciale des Nations unies sur la violence sexuelle dans les conflits armés, Zainab Bangura, ont exhorté les autorités de Brazzaville à cesser immédiatement d'expulser des ressortissants du Congo Kinshasa. Ces expulsions provoquent, selon l'ONU, une « grave crise humanitaire ».]

BURUNDI :

Burundi : seulement 17,5% des enfants atteints du sida ont accès au traitement du VIH pédiatrique
Par : LIANG Chen/French.china.org.cn/le 27-05-2014

Un rapport officiel sorti fin 2013 indique qu'environ 17,5% des enfants burundais du sida ont accès au traitement du VIH pédiatrique, a révélé lundi Dr Damien Nimpagariste, directeur technique au Secrétariat Exécutif Permanent du Conseil National de Lutte contre le SIDA (SEP/CNLS).

"Ce chiffre est assez bas s'il doit être comparé à celui des adultes qui dépasse 60%", a commenté Dr Nimpagariste, en répondant aux questions de Xinhua en marge d'un forum organisé par l'ONG africaine "Paediatric Aids Traitement for Africa" (PATA) en collaboration avec des partenaires burundais et rwandais sur la problématique de l'accès au traitement du sida pédiatrique.

Il a relevé qu'en 2013, sur l'ensemble des Burundais dépistés pour le VIH, seulement 4% des enfants de moins de 15 ans ont été dépistés. Ceci veut dire, a-t-il fait remarquer, que l'offre des

services auprès des enfants en matière de lutte contre le sida pédiatrique reste en deçà de ceux rendus en faveur des adultes.

Evoquant le faible accès à la prise en charge du sida pédiatrique au Burundi, Dr Nimpagariste a indiqué qu'en dehors du très peu de dépistage pour les enfants de moins de 15 ans, il y a une question d'éthique faisant que le dépistage ne peut pas être volontaire avant l'âge adulte. Donc, a-t-il expliqué, le dépistage des enfants doit être d'abord un engagement des parents en précisant que les enfants dépendent beaucoup du bon vouloir de leurs parents et de leurs tuteurs.

Pour remédier à cette situation, Dr Nimpagariste a plaidé pour l'organisation d'une large campagne d'adhésion des parents et des tuteurs au programme de dépistage en soulignant que cette bonne pratique est la porte d'entrée du traitement.

De son côté, le médecin-directeur du "Centre Médical Espoir de Kayogoro" (CMEK) et représentant légal de l'ONG burundaise "Initiative pour la Promotion de la Santé Rurale et le Développement" (IPROSARUDE), Dr Félix Harerimana, a affirmé que l'accès au traitement du sida pédiatrique se pose avec acuité en milieu rural par rapport aux milieux urbains.

L'accès géographique est une difficulté majeure pour les parents des milieux ruraux, obligés de parcourir beaucoup de kilomètres pour s'approvisionner en médicaments pour leurs enfants atteints du sida, a dit Dr Harerimana.

L'autre problématique est d'ordre nutritionnel parce que beaucoup de centres de prise en charge pédiatrique en matière de VIH sont dépourvus de moyens en appui nutritionnel, a-t-il fait remarquer. La grande implication négative de cette situation, a-t-il commenté, est l'inobservance thérapeutique.

Dr Harerimana a souligné cependant qu'au sein de l'Association nationale burundaise de soutien aux séropositifs et aux sidéens (ANSS) dont le siège est établi dans la capitale burundaise, la prise en charge des enfants atteints du sida est correcte grâce au bon suivi médical accompagné d'un appui nutritionnel.

RWANDA :

Rwanda plans to put deadly gas to good use

mai 27 2014/AFP

BENEATH the calm waters of Lake Kivu lie vast but deadly reserves of methane and carbon dioxide, which Rwanda is tapping both to save lives and provide a lucrative power source.

Plans are in place to pump out enough gas for power that would nearly double Rwanda's electricity capacity, and cut the chance of what experts warn could be a potentially "catastrophic" natural disaster.

The glittering waters of the inland sea, which straddles the border of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, contain a dangerous and potent mix of the dissolved gases that if disturbed would create a rare "limnic eruption" or "lake overturn", expert Matthew Yalire says.

Levels of carbon dioxide (CO²) and methane are large and dangerous enough to risk a sudden

release that could cause a disastrous explosion, after which waves of CO² would suffocate people and livestock around, says Mr Yalire, a researcher at the Goma Volcano Observatory, on the lake's Congo shore.

"Right now the lake is stable, but for how long?" asks Mr Yalire, who believes that extracting potentially explosive methane is one way to help "stabilise" the lake.

Near the town of Rubavu, a pilot project of the Rwandan government is already producing about 2MW of electricity from the methane in the lake. But a new plant is being built on Lake Kivu's eastern shore, where the US-based power company ContourGlobal plans to boost production.

"Our team is focused on extracting methane from the lake to generate electricity that will expand household access to power, lower costs and reduce environmental hazards," ContourGlobal says.

Its \$200m "KivuWatt" project aims to lessen the natural threat of an explosion, while turning the gas into a source of energy and profit.

On the lake's Rwandan shoreline and at the foot of green hills dotted with banana plantations, hundreds of construction workers are building a platform due to be installed on the lake by the end of the year.

Rather than being a drill platform, it will instead suck up the methane trapped in the depths.

"There is no drilling, gas is pumped from the lower layers of the lake that are saturated with methane," KivuWatt project chief Yann Beutler says.

"From the moment when the water rises to the surface, it releases gases that are collected."

The methane and CO² are separated, with the methane sent to a plant on the shore and the CO² redissolved and returned to the depths of the lake. "The structure of the lake, and the flora and fauna, are not changed," Mr Beutler says.

The project's first phase is planned to generate over 25MW energy, with production to be multiplied four times in the second phase to 100MW, almost doubling Rwanda's national production capacity of about 115MW.

The scheme is largely financed by private capital, though some 45% of the funding takes the shape of loans from global development institutions. ContourGlobal has signed a 25-year concession with the Rwandan government and an agreement with the country's national power producer and distributor.

The electrification of Rwanda is a top objective of the government, which aims to more than triple access to electricity from 18% of the population today to 70% by 2017.

The methane will also help Rwanda fulfil the further goal of diversifying energy sources.

Today, almost half of its energy comes from fossil fuels, with the annual bill for imported fuel topping \$40m.

Lake Kivu is not unique: two other lakes in Cameroon — Monoun and Nyos — have similar high concentrations of the gases. In 1984, a limnic eruption killed 37 people around Lake Monoun, then in 1986 a similar disaster at Lake Nyos claimed more than 1,700 lives. These tragedies have been

seen as dire warnings for people near Lake Kivu.

"It is essential to extract the gas from the lake," Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology researcher Martin Schmid says.

"If we let the gases accumulate for a long time, we should expect a catastrophic eruption of gas."

Stretching over 2,370km² and plunging to some 485m deep, the lake holds about 60-billion cubic metres of dissolved methane gas, and some 300-billion cubic metres of CO².

With about 2-million people living close to the lake shore in both Rwanda and Congo, any eruption could be disastrous.

Rwanda: KivuWatt to Add 25MW to National Grid By Sept As Production Target

By Ivan Ngoboka/allafrica.com/27 May 2014

At least 25 megawatts will in September this year be added to the national electricity grid from methane gas extraction, the Minister of State in charge of Energy and Water said yesterday.

The minister made the remarks during a tour of the plant by the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Donald Kaberuka.

The Bank is one of the financiers of the project.

"Eighty per cent of the work under phase one is done, and at least by September, production should be starting," Minister Emma Françoise Isumbingabo said.

KivuWatt, a project that started in 2009, is managed by Contour Global, which signed a 25-year power purchase agreement with Rwanda.

The project was initially marred by irregularities, with multiple deadlines for power production set and missed.

"This project was originally supposed to end in January 2012, but it was not possible," Isumbingabo said, citing financial, technical and environmental challenges as the causes for the delays.

The news that production is just a few months away will help build confidence that the national target of powering 70 per cent of households in the country by 2017 is achievable.

The AfDB has so far invested \$180 million and after touring the production facility, the Bank's president said the success of the project was important for both Rwanda and Africa.

"It was important to come and see for myself, and I am satisfied," Kaberuka said, adding that successful power generation from the KivuWatt project was a crucial step in solving the energy deficit faced by the country and continent.

The AfDB president pledged continued support to similar projects.

KivuWatt's second phase that targets to generate an additional 75 mega watts will begin shortly after phase one.

The initial phase involved powering three engines and, according to Minister Isumbingabo, nine more engines will be deployed in the second phase.

"Our aim is to have the kind of energy that will expand household access to power, lower costs yet present a low environmental risk," Isumbingabo said.

Jarmo Gummerus, the KivuWatt country manager, said besides addressing energy shortfalls, the project has created jobs and would continue doing so in the subsequent phase.

"We are employing over 500 workers, and this number is expected to go up when production starts," Gummerus said.

RDC CONGO :

RDC: l'ONU exhorte Brazzaville à cesser les expulsions des Congolais
par RFI /26-05-2014

Le chef de la mission de l'ONU en République démocratique du Congo (RDC), Martin Kobler, et la représentante spéciale des Nations unies sur la violence sexuelle dans les conflits armés, Zainab Bangura, ont exhorté les autorités de Brazzaville à cesser immédiatement d'expulser des ressortissants du Congo Kinshasa. Ces expulsions provoquent, selon l'ONU, une « grave crise humanitaire ».

Depuis le 4 avril dernier, « plus de 130 000 citoyens de RDC ont été expulsés du Congo voisin », selon la Mission de l'ONU en RDC (Monusco) et les autorités de Kinshasa.

Il aura fallu attendre sept semaines pour que la communauté internationale hausse le ton. De leur côté, les autorités de Kinshasa ont été très timorées soulevant toute une série de questions. Cependant, le silence le plus assourdissant est celui de Brazzaville qui, depuis le début de cette crise, se refuse à reconnaître les milliers d'expulsions.

Le chef de la Monusco, Martin Kobler, s'est dit « choqué » par les conditions dans lesquelles ces gens sont renvoyés en RDC, après avoir rendu visite, le vendredi 23 mai, aux 3 000 Congolais expulsés de Brazzaville qui sont toujours dans un camp de transit de Maluku, en périphérie de Kinshasa.

De son côté, l'Union européenne (UE) avait condamné, ce week-end, les violences qui ont accompagné les milliers d'expulsions de Congolais. Par la voix de son ambassadeur, l'UE avait mis en garde Brazzaville.

« Si les violations des droits de l'homme se confirment, elles seront réprimées », avait-il averti.

Reste que les Nations unies sont les premiers à exiger clairement la fin de ces expulsions -130 000, selon l'Onu, depuis début avril – ce qui représente un afflux massif très difficile à gérer pour les autorités de Kinshasa.

Martin Kobler a rencontré, ce lundi 26 mai, au Palais du peuple, à Kinshasa, une délégation de la plateforme des femmes sur la question. Dans un communiqué commun avec la représentante spéciale de l'ONU sur les violences sexuelles, Zainab Bangura, il demande la fin de ces expulsions

et des enquêtes sur les témoignages de viols et de noyades rapportés par des dizaines d'expulsés.

RDC/Congo-Brazzaville : La frontière de la honte

mardi 27 mai 2014 / par LE PAYS, Burkina Faso

Le Congo Brazzaville et la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) ; voilà deux pays de l'Afrique centrale liés par l'histoire et la géographie qui, malheureusement, continuent de souffrir des affres de la colonisation, plus de 50 ans après leur indépendance. D'abord par l'histoire, parce qu'à Brazza comme à Kinshasa, on y trouve le même peuple : les Pygmées et les Bantous, avec pour langue véhiculaire le Lingala. Inutile donc de dire que la langue étant un instrument de cohésion et d'unité, ceux qui la partagent ont généralement la même culture.

Pour rallier aujourd'hui les deux rives du Zaïre, il faut avoir un visa

Ensuite, par la géographie parce chevauchant l'Equateur, le Congo Brazza et la RDC sont en grande partie recouverts de forêt dense. Le secteur agricole y est surtout vivrier avec le manioc comme base de l'alimentation. Et, cerise sur le gâteau, c'est que les deux pays ne sont séparés que par le fleuve Zaïre, d'où l'appellation Congo Zaïre pour désigner la RDC d'aujourd'hui. En un mot comme en mille, la RDC et le Congo Brazza, n'eussent été les effets de la colonisation, étaient considérés comme un même pays pour ne pas dire un même empire. Hélas ! On est encore loin de ce sentiment d'appartenance nationale que devaient cultiver les Congolais, qu'ils viennent de Brazza ou de Kinshasa. Car, pour rallier aujourd'hui les deux rives du Zaïre, c'est-à-dire pour aller de Kinshasa à Brazzaville, il faut avoir une autorisation de séjour que l'on appelle couramment un visa. Sans ce précieux sésame, impossible pour un Kinois (habitant de Kinshasa) de s'établir à Brazza ou à Pointe-Noire. La preuve est là, encore palpable. Près de 3 000 ressortissants du Congo Kinshasa ont été expulsés de Brazzaville et sont encore bloqués dans le camp de Maluku en attendant d'être rapatriés chez eux, dans le Bas-Congo. Et comme pour ne rien arranger, le gouvernement du président Sassou N'Guessou annonce que suivront d'autres expulsions dans les jours à venir. Que se passe-t-il donc pour que des peuples de pays frères en viennent à se rejeter ainsi ? L'intégration sous-régionale, tant prônée par l'Union africaine, devrait d'abord commencer en famille avant de s'étendre aux voisins.

Que n'a-t-on pas dit sur l'Europe qui n'a de cesse de ramener manu militari des Africains dans leurs pays respectifs ?

N'était-ce pas déjà assez pour ne pas dire aberrant d'avoir institué un laissez-passer pour quiconque des deux pays voudrait aller d'une rive à l'autre ? En fait, ce qui se passe aujourd'hui entre les deux Congo rappelle la haine xénophobe dont ont été victimes les Burkinabè en Côte d'Ivoire au temps où le boulanger Laurent Gbagbo soufflait le chaud et le froid. On se rappelle qu'excédé outre mesure, le président sénégalais d'alors, Abdoulaye Wade, connu pour n'avoir pas sa langue dans sa poche, avait provoqué un tollé en dénonçant publiquement le traitement inhumain que des Africains vivent sur des sols africains. Que n'a-t-on pas dit sur l'Europe qui, dans sa politique de lutte contre l'immigration clandestine, n'a de cesse de ramener manu militari des Africains, par vols entiers, dans leurs pays respectifs ? A vrai dire, on a l'impression que le président Sassou, conscient de l'image que son peuple a du « Zaïrois », a décidé d'agir ainsi dans le but de s'attirer la sympathie de l'opinion nationale. Et comme s'il n'attendait que ça, le président Joseph Kabila a ameuté toute la nation autour de ces expulsions. Des points d'eau, des dispensaires, des distributions de riz, de sardines et de pain, tout a été mis en place pour accueillir les rapatriés. Et comme, généralement, les peuples se montrent solidaires de leurs dirigeants dans de pareilles situations, il y a fort à parier que Kabila en tirera des dividendes politiques. Tout comme Sassou N'Guessou. Du reste, l'un et l'autre ont l'intention de tripatouiller leur charte fondamentale pour se maintenir au pouvoir.

Par Boundi OUOBA — Le pays

Les enfants congolais adoptés par des Belges et bloqués en RDC pendant des mois sont arrivés en Belgique

Belga/Mardi 27 Mai 2014

Six orphelins d'origine congolaise adoptés par des familles belges et retenus depuis six mois à Kinshasa ont quitté lundi soir la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) pour rejoindre la Belgique. Ils sont arrivés ce mardi matin à Bruxelles.

Ces enfants ont embarqué à l'aéroport de Kinshasa-N'Djili à bord d'un avion de la compagnie Brussels Airlines qui devait se poser à Bruxelles-National au petit matin. Ils ont finalement été autorisés à quitter la RDC pour retrouver leur famille en Belgique après de nombreuses démarches diplomatiques.

«Six enfants adoptés par des familles belges en RDC, dont les dossiers étaient bloqués depuis plusieurs mois, se trouvent à présent à bord de l'avion qui les ramène enfin en Belgique», a confirmé le ministre belge des Affaires étrangères, Didier Reynders, dans un communiqué diffusé par son département.

En septembre, le gouvernement congolais a imposé un moratoire d'un an sur les adoptions internationales à la suite de soupçons de fraude et de traite des êtres humains. Les parents belges adoptifs de sept orphelins n'ont ainsi pu ramener chez eux leur enfant et étaient bloqués depuis lors à Kinshasa malgré le fait que les familles disposaient de jugements favorables rendus par des juridictions belges et congolaises.

Procédures rigoureuses

M. Reynders a rappelé «les multiples démarches diplomatiques» entreprises auprès des autorités congolaises, soulignant qu'elles ont «porté leurs fruits». Le ministre ajoute comprendre la volonté de ces autorités de s'assurer que ces adoptions se passent dans les meilleures conditions possibles pour protéger les enfants concernés. Il a souligné que la Belgique suivait dans ce domaine des procédures rigoureuses et strictes et est disposée à assister la RDC dans son étude des garde-fous à mettre en place à l'avenir, si les autorités le souhaitent.

Le chef de la diplomatie a enfin souhaité «que ces retrouvailles puissent se passer dans la plus stricte intimité et le calme», dans un appel adressé à la presse.

UGANDA :

Etihad launches cargo freighter operations to Uganda

Monday, 26 May 2014/By Julius Businge & Agencies/independent.co.ug

Etihad Cargo, the freight business of Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways, has announced the launch of a new weekly flight to the Ugandan city of Entebbe, starting from May 26, 2014.

The direct cargo service will operate every Monday using an Airbus A330-200F freighter, with a

capacity of 64 metric tonnes, Etihad said in a statement.

The service is expected to carry large quantities of electronics and textiles to Entebbe, with the return flight primarily loaded with perishable goods for the Gulf region and Europe.

Kevin Knight, Etihad Airways' chief Strategy and Planning officer, said: "Uganda is an important market for Etihad Cargo, and the new Abu Dhabi-Entebbe freighter service will allow us to capitalise on the strong import and export demand to and from East Africa.

"In addition, whilst we expect to see strong onward trade flows over our Abu Dhabi cargo hub to destinations across the Middle East, subcontinent and Europe, ultimately this service will further strengthen the trade ties between the UAE and Uganda."

Etihad Cargo, which offers services to 103 destinations internationally, recently announced that it carried 127,821 tonnes of freight and mail in the first quarter of this year, up 26 per cent from the previous year. Revenues during the period reached \$243 million.

The cargo operator currently has a fleet of nine freighters, consisting of three Airbus A330-200F, three Boeing B777F, and three Boeing 747F. It will take delivery of one new freighter, an Airbus A330-200F, next month.

Etihad joins the market [Uganda] with over 20 passenger and cargo Airlines plying in and out of Entebbe airport.

SOUTH AFRICA :

Zuma's Cabinet Falls Short as South Africa Strike Hurts Economy

By Mike Cohen and Amogelang Mbatha /bloomberg.com/May 27, 2014

South African President Jacob Zuma appointed a cabinet that economists and political analysts said fell short in inspiring confidence in an economy battered by labor unrest and slowing economic growth.

Zuma, 72, replaced Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan, 65, after a single term with his deputy, Nhlanhla Nene. He also appointed new energy and mining ministers with no experience in those industries in an expanded cabinet that took office yesterday.

Zuma began his final term with the ruling African National Congress having won elections by the lowest margin since it came to power two decades ago and the economy struggling amid a four-month strike by platinum miners. The rand snapped three days of gains yesterday, falling 0.6 percent to 10.3608 against the dollar as of 5:25 p.m. in Johannesburg, the worst performer of 25 emerging-market currencies tracked by Bloomberg.

"The cabinet appointments suggest that political logic prevailed over economic reform priorities and a good governance agenda," Anne Fruhauf, southern Africa analyst at New York-based risk adviser Teneo Intelligence, said in an e-mailed note to clients. "Gordhan's removal may raise concerns over the Treasury's ability to stick to its course of fiscal consolidation and its clampdown on corruption."

Ngoako Ramatlhodi, a former deputy prisons minister, replaced Susan Shabangu as mines minister. Tina Joemat-Pettersson, who was implicated by the nation's corruption ombudsman in alleged irregularities in the awarding of government tenders as agriculture minister, will head up the energy ministry. She has denied wrongdoing.

Jobless Rate

Zuma's administration is focusing economic policy on the 20-year National Development Plan that seeks to cut the jobless rate to 14 percent by 2020 from 25 percent and boost the growth rate to at least 5.4 percent.

Government data today may show the economy contracted for the first time since 2009 by an annualized 0.2 percent in the first quarter, according to the median estimate of 22 economists surveyed by Bloomberg.

Zuma's appointment of Cyril Ramaphosa, 61, as his deputy may help to shore up confidence. Ramaphosa is one of the nation's wealthiest black businessmen and helped draft the National Development Plan.

"A résumé of trade union activism and then successful private sector activities has pinned much market hope that Ramaphosa will repair relations between corporates, government and, especially, trade unions," Gina Schoeman, an economist at Citigroup Inc. in Johannesburg, said in an e-mailed note to clients. "His appointment is an obvious market positive."

Expanded Cabinet

Gordhan was widely expected to retain his post. During his term, he steered the economy through the first recession in 17 years, while fending off pressure from labor unions to increase spending in the face of a widening budget deficit.

"Investors would generally have preferred continuity in the form of Pravin Gordhan staying on as finance minister," Dennis Dykes, chief economist at Nedbank Group Ltd. in Johannesburg, said by phone. Rather than the government expanding its role through a bigger cabinet, "investors would like to see more private sector participation in the economy," he said.

Nene, 55, had been deputy finance minister since 2008. He served on the committee that helped organize the 2010 soccer World Cup in South Africa and was chairman of the Public Investment Corp., which invests civil servants' pension funds. Like Gordhan, he has stressed the need for the government to keep borrowing and inflation in check and bolster investment and economic growth.

TANZANIA :

Tanzania calls for equal share of River Nile

27 May 2014 Tuesday/worldbulletin.net

Tanzania has called for a review of the 2010 Comprehensive Framework Agreement signed by upstream Nile Basin countries and known as the Entebbe agreement, to take into considerations the water needs of Egypt.

"Tanzania feels that the chapter providing equal and fair share of the natural resources of the Nile to

all states ought to be reviewed in favor of Egypt considering that it is a desert country whose lifeline is the Nile," Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Bernard Kamillius Membe said in a written document submitted to the parliament on Monday.

In 2010, the upstream states of Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania signed a Cooperative Framework Agreement to seek more water from the River Nile. Burundi inked the agreement in 2011.

The deal aimed to replace a colonial-era treaty that gives Egypt and Sudan the lion's share of river water.

The Tanzanian government has not yet submitted the agreement to parliament for ratification.

Minister Membe said his country believes there is an obligation to think about the population of Egypt, which he described as a desert country that has no river, underground waters or sufficient rain fall.

"To Egypt the River Nile is life that is why we are asking ourselves if it is right to demand for equal use of waters from the river to all states," he told the parliament.

The top diplomat said his country hopes all the countries of the Nile Basin would have a chance to sit down and look at the 2010 agreement.

"Tanzania is expecting to call for an international meeting for all Nile Basin riparian states to review the agreement by taking into consideration the importance of Nile waters in Egypt's economic and social needs," Membe said.

The meeting, for which the foreign minister gave no specific date, will be attended by foreign ministers as well as minister dealing with water issues.

Responding to a question by MP Amina Mohammed Mwidau, the minister denied that the current political situation in Egypt has had any impact on Tanzania's economy.

He added that his ministry and that of tourism and natural resources had done more to increase business between these Tanzania and Egypt.

During that time, the EgyptAir has increased its trips to Tanzania by adding another route between Dar es Salaam and the Egyptian capital Cairo.

Membe said during the 2012/2013 financial year, EgyptAir brought more than 13,000 tourists to Tanzania tourist attractions.

"This is an indicator that things are going well," he added.

Egyptian Prime Minister Ibrahim Mahlab visited Tanzania in April to attend the anniversary of the unification of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, which yielded the republic of Tanzania 50 years ago.

He held talks with senior Tanzanian officials.

KENYA :

Kenya: Somalis scapegoated in counter-terror crackdown

27 May 2014/amnesty.org

Kenya's Somali community is being scapegoated in a counter-terror operation which has seen thousands subjected to arbitrary arrest, harassment, extortion, ill-treatment, forcible relocation and expulsion, Amnesty International said today.

In a new Briefing Paper Amnesty International documents a disturbing wave of serious human rights violations suffered by Kenya's Somali community since a security crackdown - known as 'Operation Usalama Watch' - began in early April 2014.

"It appears that 'Operation Usalama Watch' is being used as a pretext for the blanket punishment of the Somali community in Kenya. They have become scapegoats with thousands arrested and ill-treated, forcibly relocated and hundreds unlawfully expelled to a war-torn country," said Michelle Kagari, Deputy Regional Director for Eastern Africa at Amnesty International.

"Whilst Kenya has legitimate national security concerns, the wholesale targeting of an already marginalized and vulnerable community is an appalling breach of national and international law. We call on the Kenyan government to immediately end human rights violations against Somalis, including refugees, ensure their protection, and provide redress where violations have occurred."

The Kenyan authorities began mass round-ups of Somalis following two attacks in March which killed and injured scores of people. A lack of transparency and due process has meant that the exact number of those arrested and those still in detention remains unclear. However, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, Joseph Ole Lenku is quoted as stating that more than 4,000 people were arrested in the first week of the operation alone.

Amnesty International is not aware of a single Somali arrested during this operation who has been charged with terrorism-related offences.

Those detained have in many cases been held for days in unsanitary conditions in overcrowded cells and at a football stadium without food or access to lawyers. In one case Amnesty International was told how a baby died after being left unattended at home for three days whilst her mother was in detention. Access to detainees by organizations such as UNHCR has been extremely limited.

Amnesty International has documented numerous cases of beatings, intimidation, extortion and sexual harassment at the hands of security forces during search operations. The organization has been told about one woman who went into shock and later died in hospital after security forces tried to force their way into her apartment. Amnesty International has also been told about two other cases where young children have died as a result of the security crackdown.

More than 1,000 Somalis have been forcibly relocated to overcrowded, insecure refugee camps in northern Kenya. Those sent to the camps include children separated from their parents and breast-feeding women separated from their infants.

Despite the deteriorating security situation in Somalia, 359 Somalis have been expelled from Kenya, including at least three registered refugees. Many of those expelled had alien cards, or claimed that their refugee or alien documents were confiscated or destroyed following arrest. The expulsion of refugees and asylum seekers to a country such as Somalia, where there is a risk that

their life or freedom would be threatened, beaches the principle of non-refoulement, a cornerstone principle of refugee protection.

“Kenya is violating its own constitution and international law by subjecting the Somali community to unlawful expulsions and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment under the guise of its counter-terror operation, ‘Usalama Watch’,” said Michelle Kagari.

“In Swahili the word ‘usalama’ means ‘security’. This backlash against Kenya’s Somali community is not going to help make Kenya more secure. We call on the Kenyan authorities to comply with their international legal obligations and the requirements of their own constitution, to respect human rights and to restore usalama for Kenya’s Somali community.”

‘Operation Usalama Watch’ began soon after attacks in Mombasa and Eastleigh, a predominantly Somali neighbourhood of Nairobi, in March. On 4 April, security forces locked down Eastleigh and began indiscriminately rounding up thousands of people. The operation initially focused on the Somali community, including refugees and asylum-seekers. Whilst there have been arrests of Kenyan nationals, refugees of other nationalities, undocumented foreigner nationals and NGO workers, the operation has disproportionately focused on the Somalis.

The publication of this briefing coincides with a hearing date for a class-action petition filed by nine members of the Eastleigh Community Association on behalf of over 500 others.

The majority of those expelled have been Somalis. Amnesty International is aware of 28 expulsions of Ethiopians, and six Ugandan asylum-seekers who were arrested and returned to Uganda.

Kenya Eurobond Sale Defies Bombs Driving Up Costs: Africa Credit

By Robert Brand and Eric Ombok/[bloomberg.com/May 26, 2014](http://bloomberg.com/May26,2014)

Kenya is forging ahead with plans for a debut Eurobond sale, betting a spate of bombings and legal delays won’t deter investors attracted by the East African nation’s growth prospects.

Yields on 10-year shilling debt surged to a record and the currency weakened to a 2 1/2-year low since twin explosions killed at least 12 people in the capital, Nairobi, on May 16. Still, the nation’s bonds have outperformed most emerging-market peers this year, returning 7 percent, sixth-most of 31 developing countries tracked by Bloomberg indexes. In sub-Saharan Africa, only Nigeria performed better, with returns of 8.2 percent.

While the World Bank and African Development Bank have said unrest may deter investors, there is demand for high-yielding African debt, according to Investec Asset Management. Kenya is entering global bond markets after record Africa sales in 2013, including a first time sale by Rwanda and offers by Nigeria and Ghana. Yields on African dollar notes have dropped 74 basis points this year compared with a 67 basis-point decline for emerging markets, according to JPMorgan Chase & Co. indexes.

“The Kenyan specifics are not very positive at the moment, so they may have to pay up,” Vivienne Taberer, a money manager at Investec Asset Management, which oversees the equivalent of \$14 billion in fixed-income assets, said by phone from Cape Town yesterday. “We’re seeing inflows into emerging markets generally gaining momentum. If the pricing is attractive we’ll certainly bid.”
Debt Marketing

Kenya, which first considered selling a Eurobond in 1997, may offer \$1.5 billion, Treasury

Secretary Henry Rotich said in September. The government may market the securities this week after settling court-awarded payments related to a dispute that delayed the offering, Rotich said May 21. Kamau Thugge, principal secretary of the Finance Ministry, didn't immediately respond to a text message, while calls to Rotich's mobile phone didn't connect.

Investors may demand 8 percent to 8.5 percent to buy the debt, according to Fred Moturi, head of fixed-income trading at Sterling Capital Ltd. in Nairobi. Zambia, which shares Kenya's B1 rating at Moody's Investors Service, paid 8.5 percent when it sold \$1 billion of Eurobonds last month. The yield has since dropped to 7.72 percent.

"Foreign investors' perception of the security risk will inform the rate, but they will buy," Moturi said by phone on May 22. "Who knows when the security risk will subside? It is better to proceed than to wait."

Bomb Blasts

Nairobi was rocked by two attacks this month in which at least 15 people died, while four were killed in two explosions in the port city of Mombasa. Visitor arrivals fell by almost a fifth last year amid bombings including an assault by the Somali Islamist militant group al-Shabaab on the Westgate mall in Nairobi that killed at least 67 people. Tourism is Kenya's biggest source of foreign exchange after tea exports.

The shilling weakened 0.2 percent to 87.90 per dollar by 6 p.m. in Nairobi, its lowest on a closing basis since December 2011, and extending losses this year to 0.6 percent. Yields on government bonds due January 2024 jumped 76 basis points, or 0.76 percentage point, since May 16 to 12.26 percent, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Kenya's economy is forecast to grow 5.5 percent this year, versus 4.7 percent in 2013, driven partly by shipments of tea and cut flowers and spending on ports and railways. President Uhuru Kenyatta, 52, pledged to boost annual growth to as much as 10 percent in his first term and create one million jobs a year after his election in March last year.

"The situation is still better than what other countries face," Robert Gatubu, a foreign-exchange dealer at Nairobi-based Bank of Africa Ltd., said by phone on May 22. "Let's hope it is going to materialize because that is what Kenya has been waiting for and it will be good for the economy," he said, referring to the bond sale.

ANGOLA :

World Bank offers Angola \$1bn to fund infrastructure, agriculture

Tuesday, 27 May 2014/by Muhammad Iqbal /brecorder.com

LUANDA: The World Bank will offer \$1 billion in financing to help Angola rebuild infrastructure and develop its agriculture, an official at the Washington-based lender said on Monday.

Angola, which is sub-Saharan Africa's second-largest oil producer, has seen its economy grow rapidly since a 27-year civil war ended in 2002. But the country still needs to repair infrastructure and expand other sectors of the economy.

"We can make available \$1 billion, fundamentally to finance infrastructure and agriculture," Gregor

Binkert, the World Bank's country director for Angola and five other African countries, told reporters in Luanda.

"There is much need and the government has quite a coherent programme, so the World Bank will support it financially, through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development," he said.

Binkert did not provide details on the financing. He did say that in coming months, the World Bank would define priorities, financing mechanisms and how to maximise the lender's resources.

The move could also be used to leverage more financing from the private sector, including pension funds and domestic and overseas banks that want to take part in Angola's infrastructure projects, Binkert said.

Oil output represents around 40 percent of Angola's gross domestic product and over 95 percent of export revenues.

Long-serving President Jose Eduardo dos Santos's government is trying to diversify the economy. That includes building up sectors like agriculture and fishing, which formed an estimated 10 percent of GDP last year.

The government is also spending billions of dollars to rebuild infrastructure destroyed by the war, including electricity, transport and communications networks.

The African Development Bank earlier this month approved a \$1 billion loan for Angola to help develop its electricity network.

AU/AFRICA :

Chibok Elder Displeased with Nigeria Presidential Committee

Peter Clotey/voanews.com/May 26, 2014

A prominent member of the Chibok Elders Forum, in Nigeria's Borno State, says the presidential fact-finding committee on the abduction of the schoolgirls by Boko Haram failed to meet the group or visit Chibok as part of its work despite repeated promises to do so.

Malam Shettima Dunoma says the Chibok elders plan to organize a series of rallies in all Chibok communities to pressure President Goodluck Jonathan's government to do more to bring their girls back home.

He says the elders wanted to hear committee's plans to expedite the search for the abducted girls.

"We are at home and any group of people who say they are coming, we are very anxious to hear from them [if] they are bringing our girls back," said Dunoma. "So, any organization who says they are coming to Chibok, we are very anxious to see or to hear what they will tell us or maybe they are bringing our girls back."

Local media report confirmed that members of the presidential fact finding committee have since flown back to the capital, Abuja without visiting Chibok. The report also suggests that the group was unable to visit Chibok due to security concerns in that part of the country.

Dunoma says residents of Chibok feel abandoned by the government in Abuja.

"We are really feeling bad some of us even feel neglected side in the country," said Dunoma. "Because this thing [abduction of school girls] has never happened in any corner of the country, so why should [it] be Chibok girls? Why? Because we are neglected."

Some analysts have said that Kashim Shettima the governor of Borno State should have improved security in the schools contending that it could have prevented the Boko Haram Islamist extremists from abducting the school girls.

But, Dunoma says the governor is not to blame for the abduction of the school girls.

He says the administration in Abuja has the security mandate to protect civilians in the country.

Dunoma says he has yet to see any significant impact the presidential committee is going to make in the effort to bring back the abducted girls to their families.

The abduction of the school girls about five weeks ago has generated wide global condemnation and led to some western countries, including the United States and France, to volunteer security experts to help Nigeria's administration search for the school girls.

Nigeria says missing schoolgirls located

27 May 2014/aljazeera.com

Army says it has located hundreds of schoolgirls abducted by Boko Haram last month but won't use force to free them.

Nigeria's military has located nearly 300 school girls abducted by Boko Haram almost seven weeks ago, the country's chief of defence said.

Air Chief Marshal Alex Badeh, Nigeria's Chief of Defence Staff, said on Monday that any potential armed rescue operation was fraught with danger as the 223 girls still held hostage could be caught in the crossfire.

Boko Haram fighters kidnapped 276 girls from the remote northeastern town of Chibok on April 14, leading to global outrage.

"The good news for the girls is that we know where they are but we cannot tell you," Badeh told reporters in the capital Abuja, as the hostage crisis entered its seventh week.

"We can't go and kill our girls in the name of trying to get them back," he said.

Nigeria's government and military have been sharply criticised for their slow response to the mass abduction and were finally forced to accept foreign help in the rescue effort.

US drones have been surveying northeast Nigeria and neighbouring Chad from the air while British, French and Israeli teams have been on the ground providing specialist assistance.

The military has previously said that the search was centred around the Sambisa forest area of Borno, in northeast Nigeria, where makeshift fighter camps have previously been found as well as

arms and ammunition caches.

On Monday, gunmen killed four Nigerian soldiers in an ambush on a military patrol in central Plateau state, about 180kms southeast of Jos, a local government official said.

It was not immediately clear if Boko Haram had carried out this attack.

Since the girls were captured, according to a Reuters count, at least 470 civilians have died violent deaths in various locations at the hands of Boko Haram, which says it is fighting to establish an Islamic state in religiously mixed Nigeria.

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan has branded the group an "al-Qaeda of West Africa".

The United Nations Security Council last week designated Boko Haram an al-Qaeda-linked organisation, in a move designed to curb any overseas funding and support, as well as restrict its leaders' movements.

But analysts have questioned whether the sanctions would have any effect on the ground, given the group's largely localised campaign of murderous violence to create an Islamic state in northern Nigeria.

2 new Ebola deaths confirmed in West Africa

Associated Press / May 27, 2014

CONAKRY, Guinea — Two new deaths from the Ebola disease were revealed Monday by health authorities in Guinea and Sierra Leone, raising fears that the first outbreak in West Africa is not yet under control. The new fatalities are far from where the outbreak began.

Several other deaths also suspected to be from Ebola have not been confirmed by tests. The death announced Monday in Sierra Leone is the country's first official confirmed case, though it had been on high alert since the disease appeared in Guinea.

Guinea said Monday at least one new death emerged in Telimele, about 170 miles from the region where the outbreak occurred. Guinea also has eight new suspected Ebola deaths.

Medics are observing 86 people because they are suspected to have been exposed to the disease, according to Guinean health officials.

In addition to the recently announced death, two suspected Ebola deaths are from Telimele and six are from Macenta, at the epicenter of the crisis.

Nigeria girl abduction not Islamic, says AU chief

2014-05-26/AFP

Nouakchott - The abduction of more than 200 schoolgirls in Nigeria in April was "contrary to the teachings of Islam", the head of the African Union (AU) said at an event to mark Africa Day on Sunday.

"We strongly condemn the abduction of the young, innocent schoolgirls in Nigeria. We urge their immediate unconditional release," said Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, who is also president of

Mauritania, in a message to Africans sent out over the weekend.

"These actions are contrary to the teachings of Islam, a religion of tolerance and peace," he said, marking the 51st anniversary of the creation of the Organisation of African Unity, the predecessor to the AU.

The Islamist group Boko Haram has claimed responsibility for the mass abduction on 14 April in Chibok, in northeast Nigeria. It has carried out a brutal insurgency in the region since 2009 that has claimed around 2 000 lives this year alone.

"The situation in Mali, in Nigeria, in the Central African Republic, in Somalia, in South Sudan and in Libya challenges us and deserves all of our attention," said Abdel Aziz.

The president also used the speech to call for reform of the UN.

"Africa relies on its partners to help meet the challenges of underdevelopment. Reform of the UN system, in the sense of enhancing the role and weight of Africa, is necessary."

He said "food self-sufficiency, the development of agribusiness and the fight against poverty and malnutrition" were key priorities for the AU.

On the economic front, he celebrated the "strong growth in the continent", which is "immensely rich and young, with enormous potential", and called for the creation of "a strong continental free trade zone of more than a billion consumers".

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

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