



[RDC Le canon tonne depuis deux jours à la frontière rwando-congolaise, au nord de Goma (Nord-Kivu). Les incidents ont démarré, mercredi, dans la région de Kanyesheza, avec la mort d'un soldat congolais. Un affrontement a alors opposé les armées congolaise et rwandaise, d'abord à l'arme automatique, puis à l'arme lourde.]

BURUNDI :

Burundi : progrès importants dans la mise en oeuvre des recommandations du Forum de Busan (INTERVIEW)

Par : Laura/French.china.org.cn/le 13-06-2014

Le Burundi marque des progrès importants dans la mise en oeuvre des recommandations du "Forum de haut niveau de Busan" (Corée du Sud) organisé en 2011, a affirmé jeudi dans une interview accordée à Xinhua M. Emile Nimpaye, expert en base de données et suivi-évaluation au secrétariat permanent du Comité National de la Coordination des Aides (CNCA).

"Busan avait beaucoup recommandé que les gouvernements bénéficiaires des aides améliorent l'appropriation de leurs politiques et stratégies de développement. Ça c'est vraiment un fait on y est arrivé au Burundi", a souligné M. Nimpaye qui s'exprimait en marge d'une réunion organisée par l'ONG britannique Development Initiatives-Africa Hub, sur les progrès accomplis par le Burundi par rapport au partenariat mondial conclu à Busan en 2011.

Pour M. Nimpaye, trois ans après Busan, le Burundi a enregistré des avancées d'abord au niveau de l'appropriation du processus dans la mesure où le deuxième Cadre Stratégique de Croissance et de Lutte contre la Pauvreté (CSLP II) a été élaboré.

Par ailleurs, a-t-il poursuivi, à travers tous les ministères, on a assisté à l'élaboration des politiques

stratégiques de développement en conformité avec les principaux axes du CSLP II.

Pour être aussi en phase avec les recommandations de Busan, a fait remarquer M. Nimpaye, les partenaires au développement ont adapté leurs stratégies d'interventions au Burundi.

En considérant les paramètres de transparence et de responsabilité mutuelle, a-t-il noté, le Burundi a confectionné une base de données sur l'aide au développement relativement performant au regard des orientations tracées par le forum de Busan.

"Cette base nous permet de mener des analyses approfondies, en ce qui concerne notamment la répartition de l'aide au développement par province et même par secteur, ce qui facilite une bonne gestion des ressources financières reçues en évitant des zones orphelines", a-t-il commenté.

Alors que les conclusions de l'étude menée par l'ONG " Development Initiatives-Africa Hub" avait évoqué une faible capacité d'absorption de l'aide par le Burundi, l'expert Cimpaye a tenu à relativiser cette situation.

Pour lui, cet indicateur faisant des points débattus à Busan en 2011, est à analyser sous toutes facettes, en tournant certes le regard vers le gouvernement burundais, mais vers les partenaires au développement.

"Du côté du gouvernement, je pense que pour un pays post- conflit comme le Burundi, c'est normal qu'on est de faibles capacités institutionnelles ; même si, depuis 2005, le pays a commencé à se stabiliser avec amélioration relative des capacités", a dit M. Nimpaye en reconnaissant que des problèmes persistent du côté des partenaires techniques et financiers (PTF).

"Certaines procédures des PTF font que les décaissements des ressources financières prennent souvent une période relativement très longue par rapport au plan prévisionnel des dépenses. Cela fait que les décaissements se font à un rythme très lent. D'autres PTF promettent de l'argent, mais arrivés à la phase de décaissement, on assiste à des problèmes de libération des fonds même quand le pays a rempli les conditions exigées", a-t-il affirmé.

L'expert a déploré que par rapport au suivi de Busan, "on ne bouge pas encore assez au Burundi sur l'utilisation des systèmes nationaux de gestion des finances publiques et de passation des marchés publics par les PTF".

Même si ces systèmes nationaux doivent être fiables pour pouvoir capter la sympathie des PTF, a-t-il fait remarquer, depuis 2010, le Burundi a quand même marqué des progrès importants pour avoir déjà commencé à mettre en oeuvre la première stratégie de gestion des finances publiques.

Toutefois, il a salué les actions entreprises par certains partenaires au développement du Burundi comme le Fonds International pour le Développement Agricole (FIDA), la Belgique et d'autres qui interviennent dans la gestion du Fonds Commun pour l'Education (FCE), pour avoir déjà adhéré à l'utilisation des systèmes nationaux de gestion des marchés publics.

En définitive, pour M. Nimpaye, trois ans après la clôture du forum de haut niveau de Busan, il y a lieu de relever qu'aujourd'hui à la faveur de la stabilisation du Burundi, les ressources financières reçues sont injectées dans les secteurs productifs via notamment l'axe du CSLP II portant sur la transformation de l'économie et la création d'emplois.

Un tel acquis est une innovation importante, a-t-il dit avant de faire remarquer qu'au cours des années de crise, les fonds obtenus des partenaires se limitaient à financer des activités à caractère

humanitaire. F

RWANDA :

Congo: Troops Exchange Fire With Rwandan Soldiers

By REUTERS/JUNE 12, 2014

The Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda sent more troops to their shared border on Thursday after gunfire briefly broke out for a second day. Congolese and Rwandan officials each accused the other's armies of mounting cross-border raids on Wednesday that prompted heavy fire between the forces. Gunfire was also reported on Thursday. Congo blamed Rwandan forces for provoking Wednesday's clashes by killing a Congolese soldier. Rwanda said its army killed five Congolese soldiers after they crossed the border and attacked Rwandan units. Rwandan troops backed Congolese rebels during two wars in Congo since 1996 before officially withdrawing in 2003. Since then, Congo and United Nations experts have accused Rwanda of backing Congolese rebels. Rwanda denies the charges.

RDC CONGO :

Échanges de tirs entre les armées congolaise et rwandaise

vendredi 13 juin 2014/Source: lavenir/ Phi. Le.

RDC Le canon tonne depuis deux jours à la frontière rwando-congolaise, au nord de Goma (Nord-Kivu). Les incidents ont démarré, mercredi, dans la région de Kanyesheza, avec la mort d'un soldat congolais.

Un affrontement a alors opposé les armées congolaise et rwandaise, d'abord à l'arme automatique, puis à l'arme lourde. Et ce jeudi, le combat a repris dès l'aube: «il y a eu des détonations de mitrailleuses, de roquettes et d'armes lourdes», a déclaré un habitant de Kanyaruchinya, localité située entre Goma et Kanyesheza, à nos confrères de «Jeune Afrique». Le gouvernement congolais et des sources locales ont accusé le Rwanda d'avoir déclenché les hostilités. Kigali a répliqué en accusant l'armée congolaise d'avoir franchi la frontière à deux reprises en ouvrant le feu.

UGANDA :

Sam Kutesa, Supporter of Uganda's Anti-Gay Law, Elected President of U.N General Assembly

By J. Bryan Lowder/slate.com/13062014

In a controversial move on Wednesday, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously elected Uganda's foreign minister Sam Kutesa as the president for its 69th session, which will begin in September. According to the Associated Press, the position is "largely ceremonial but prestigious" and "rotates annually by region"; Kutesa garnered the uncontested nomination of his region's African Union Executive Council after Cameroonian Foreign Minister Pierre Moukoko was

withdrawn as a candidate. Critics of the choice, including many LGBTQ and human rights activists, are concerned that honoring Kutesa and, by extension, Uganda in such a way will send the wrong message with regard to the country's recently imposed anti-gay legislation.

The AP has more background on Kutesa's sketchy political history:

A wealthy businessman and longtime member of parliament, Kutesa is widely seen by critics to have benefited from his close ties with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, an increasingly authoritarian leader who has held power for nearly three decades. Kutesa's daughter is married to Museveni's son.

Kutesa, 65, was ousted as a junior investment minister by Ugandan lawmakers over charges he abused his office. Since 1999, he has been implicated in at least two more scandals including bribery allegations involving foreign companies seeking oil contracts in Uganda.

Kutesa has so far denied charges of corruption. As for gay rights, he is on the record as saying that "we shall not accept promotion and exhibition, because we think that is wrong for our young people and it offends our culture." In response to the growing backlash against his promotion, Kutesa has claimed that he is not "homophobic," but his history on the issue leaves little room for misinterpretation. Carol J. Williams of the L.A. Times writes:

Kutesa also defended Museveni's introduction of an anti-gay law last year that imposes life sentences to those convicted of "aggravated homosexuality," a charge applied to same-sex couples openly living together. Those who promote gay rights or help homosexuals evade detection can also face up to seven years in prison under the law.

Opponents of the decision in the U.S. have started a petition calling on the Obama administration to revoke Kutesa's visa, which would make him unable to attend any meetings in New York. While there are surely myriad diplomatic angles to such a decision, it does not seem an inappropriate action to take against the representative of a country who has made terrorizing LGBTQ citizens official state policy.

HRC to Secretary Kerry: In Meeting Today, Hold Uganda Accountable

June 12, 2014/ by Jason Rahlan, Global Engagement Press Secretary/hrc.org

Today HRC urged Secretary of State John Kerry to directly raise the United States' vehement opposition to Uganda's recent enactment of state-sponsored homophobia and transphobia in his meeting this afternoon with Ugandan Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa.

In addition, following recent news that an Administration-ordered interagency review of the U.S. relationship with Uganda has produced recommendations for actions, HRC renewed its call to President Obama to begin taking immediate new steps to hold the Ugandan government accountable for the law.

"Today's meeting is a unique opportunity for Secretary Kerry to demonstrate to Uganda and the world that when a government chooses to trample on the rights of its LGBT citizens, there will be consequences," said Ty Cobb, HRC's Director of Global Engagement. "How the United States responds to Uganda will set an important precedent for how other nations considering similar measures should expect to be treated. The United States should send a clear message that it does not tolerate such human rights abuses, and enacting such laws will considerably harm a country's relationship with the U.S."

Following Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni signing the Anti-Homosexuality Act into law in February, the Administration initiated an interagency review of the United States' relationship and engagement with Uganda. Last week, HRC President Chad Griffin sent a letter to President Obama urging the Administration to begin issuing immediate, concrete results that will demonstrate the United States' commitment to protecting human rights in Uganda.

"The world is waiting for action, and on behalf of the Human Rights Campaign's 1.5 million members and supporters nationwide, I ask that you direct your Administration to begin taking immediate steps to hold the Ugandan government accountable," said Griffin in the letter, the full text of which is available [here](#).

Recent reports from Ugandan advocates have outlined deeply disturbing increases in harassment, property loss, arrests, and violence against LGBT Ugandans since the nation's parliament passed the legislation and sent it to Museveni's desk for his approval.

In December 2011, President Obama issued a presidential memorandum in which he directed "all agencies engaged abroad to ensure that U.S. diplomacy and foreign assistance promote and protect the human rights of LGBT persons." In addition, the memorandum outlines that our nation's "deep commitment to advancing the human rights of all people is strengthened when we as the United States bring our tools to bear to vigorously advance this goal." The Administration's response to the enactment of the Anti-Homosexuality Act in Uganda will set an important precedent for how the U.S. plans to implement the policy outlined in the President's memorandum.

Uganda's Sex Slaves 'Betrayed By Amnesty' - Rights Group

By Emma Batha/allafrica.com/11 June 2014

An amnesty given to rebels who took part in a brutal guerrilla war in northern Uganda is a betrayal of their victims and has derailed attempts to bring other fighters to justice, a rights campaigner said on Wednesday.

"The issue of amnesty in Uganda is stifling the ability of the domestic war crimes court to prosecute," Brigid Inger, executive director of the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, told a global summit in London on tackling sexual violence in conflict.

Thousands of former fighters have been pardoned under Uganda's Amnesty Act, which was designed to bring an end to the war which raged for two decades.

The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), led by warlord Joseph Kony, committed widespread atrocities against civilians including horrendous sexual violence. Thousands of children were abducted and used as soldiers and sex slaves.

Inger said it was very hard for survivors because those responsible for serious crimes were not required to provide any confession, or information about crimes they had witnessed or were involved in. They were also not required to provide an apology to victims prior to receiving a full and unconditional pardon.

"This is making the job of the prosecutor at the (domestic) war crimes court impossible and has already stifled at least one case and others are also being held up because of the issue at the amnesty act," she added.

The example of Uganda shows the problems caused when unconditional pardons are introduced during peace efforts, Inger said.

She told an earlier summit session that while the amnesty was appropriate for fighters who had been abducted and forced to join the LRA, "there's a sense of disappointment and bitterness" in northern Uganda because of the way the amnesty has stymied justice.

"In many respects it's a betrayal of victims ... and from our perspective it's bad law," she said.

SOUTH AFRICA :

S. Africa union agrees to deal to end strike: leader
13062014/AFP

Johannesburg (AFP) - South Africa's radical AMCU union on Friday said that it had agreed in principle to a deal to end the country's longest-ever mining strike, a day after platinum producers announced the agreement.

"In principle we have agreed to the offer," Joseph Mathunjwa, the leader of the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union, told the SAPA news agency.

"There are still issues that we need to consult with the employer," the agency quoted him as saying.

His comments came a day after South Africa's three main platinum producers -- Anglo American Platinum, Impala Platinum and Lonmin -- said that they had struck a deal in principle that union leaders would now take to members for final approval.

The strike at South Africa's platinum mines began in January, when tens of thousands of workers downed tools demanding higher wages, and has crippled the sector.

The work stoppage helped push the country's economy into contraction in the first quarter of this year, its first contraction since the global economic crisis five years ago, raising the spectre of recession.

South Africa holds around 80 percent of the world's known platinum reserves, and platinum group metals raked in 9.0 percent of export earnings last year.

The Fitch ratings agency on Friday revised South Africa's outlook to negative from stable, partly because of the effect that the strike has had on the economy.

South Africa cannibal: Gugulethu man 'ate love rival's heart'
12 June 2014/bbc.com

South African police have arrested a man they found using a knife and fork to eat the heart of his ex-girlfriend's new lover.

The victim, aged 62, had been stabbed in his chest and neck and had a bite mark on his face, the police told the BBC.

The suspect, a Zimbabwean national, was found in the Gugulethu township near Cape Town.

He is due to be formally charged in court later on Thursday or Friday.

Western Cape Deputy Police Commissioner Sharon Jephta said police officers and witnesses had been offered counselling to cope with the trauma.

"It was very gruesome," she said.

"It's definitely a love triangle," she said.

Fitch Cuts Outlook on South Africa

By Patrick McGroarty/online.wsj.com/June 13, 2014

Labor Strife Is Dragging on Economy

JOHANNESBURG—Fitch Ratings cut its outlook on South Africa's debt to negative on Friday, reflecting the government's failure to resolve chronic labor strikes and rev up anemic growth.

Fitch kept its rating of South Africa's foreign-currency debt at triple-B, and of the government's rand-denominated debt at triple-B-plus, both a couple notches above investment grade.

Many economists expected Fitch to lower its outlook. They also expect Standard & Poor's Ratings Services to cut South Africa's rating one notch later Friday, reflecting a first-quarter growth contraction in South Africa for the first time since 2009.

South African officials have said the economy won't slip into a recession and point to plans to curtail the budget deficit in coming years. But Fitch said the government hasn't shown that it is serious about reversing tumbling growth rates or a wave of disruptive strikes.

"The African National Congress government faces a challenging task to raise the country's growth rate and improve social conditions, which has been made more difficult by the weaker growth performance and deteriorating trends in governance and corruption," the rating company said.

A five-month strike by 70,000 platinum miners has become the longest in South Africa's history, costing companies \$2 billion in revenue and weighing on exports and tax receipts. Some 200,000 members of a metalworkers union are threatening to strike next month if their demands for higher salaries aren't met.

The unrest is pushing South Africa far behind its peers on the continent. Fitch said it expects South Africa's economy to grow 1.7% this year. Sub-Saharan Africa, meanwhile, is expected to grow 5.4% this year, the International Monetary Fund says.

South Africa's Reserve Bank Gov. Gill Marcus has acknowledged that many of the country's economic wounds are self-inflicted. She said Tuesday that wide trade and budget deficits will be difficult to curtail while strikes persist.

"The domestic economy is facing enormous headwinds, many of which are of our own making," Ms. Marcus said.

Largely as a result, business confidence in May hit a 14-year low. The country's purchasing-managers index touched a five year-low last month. Unemployment among people under 35 years old stands at 36% and rising, South Africa's statistics agency says.

Despite efforts by opposition parties to capitalize on the bleak outlook, South Africa's ruling ANC coasted to a commanding victory in elections last month.

President Jacob Zuma has pledged to pursue "radical socioeconomic transformation" in his second five-year term, but even his allies acknowledge that transformation won't happen without quelling the strikes that are hampering economic growth.

"All the other interventions will not be taken seriously if the state cannot deal with a strike that is not only putting pressure on the employers but starving workers to death," ANC Secretary-General Gwede Mantashe said on Sunday.

A spokesman for South Africa's finance ministry didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on the downgrades.

All three major rating companies last downgraded South Africa's debt in the six months after police shot and killed 34 striking platinum miners northwest of Johannesburg in August 2012, at the outset of what has been a continuous wave of labor strife.

South Africa mining union leader says wage deal imminent

Fri Jun 13, 2014/Reuters

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - The leader of South Africa's AMCU union said on Friday a wage deal with the world's top three platinum producers was imminent, in a sign the longest mining strike in the country's history may soon be over.

Workers and shop-stewards from the Association of mineworkers and construction union (AMCU) begged leader Joseph Mathunjwa on Thursday to end a five month stalemate and sign the latest offer from platinum companies, which amounts to an increase of around 20 percent, or 1,000 rand (\$93) per month.

Mathunjwa told Johannesburg radio he hoped to meet with leaders of Lonmin, Anglo American Platinum and Impala Platinum late on Friday or over the weekend to relay the response of his members to the offer.

"At least there is light at the end of the tunnel, which is not the light of a goods train," he told Talk Radio 702.

The major outstanding sticking point was whether the wage deal should stretch over three or five years, he added.

"We are in quite a sensitive stage of trying to resolve this and reach an agreement. We won't do things haphazardly," he said.

South Africa is home to 80 percent of the world's known platinum reserves and the strike has halted production at mines that usually account for 40 percent of global output of the precious metal.

The strike by the 70,000 AMCU members began in January and dragged Africa's most advanced

economy into contraction in the first quarter as mining output fell at the steepest rate in half a century, and pulled manufacturing down with it. (\$1 = 10.6945 South African Rand)

TANZANIA :

Tanzania: Railways, Roads Get Hefty Funding Priority

By Henry Lyimo/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/12 June 2014

Dodoma — THE government will set aside 6.44tr/-, an equivalent of 32.8 per cent of the 2014/15 budget for development to finance major railway and road infrastructure projects and expand the agriculture and energy sectors to spur growth.

Presenting the State of the Economy Report in Parliament today, a Minister for State in the President's Office (Social Relations and Coordination), Mr Stephen Wasira said a total of 4.4tr/-, which is equivalent to 68.7 per cent of the development budget, will come from domestic sources.

To fill up the gap, the government expects a total of 2.02tr/- from outside sources being grants and loans. The amount is 33.7 per cent of the development budget, he said.

The minister said that from the funds to be obtained from domestic sources, a total of 1.289tr/- will be set aside for projects under the Big Results Now initiative where the energy sector will take 18 per cent being the largest share.

It will be followed by the construction sector which will take 13 per cent of the funds, education (9 per cent), water (9 per cent) and transportation (7 per cent).

Mr Wasira said the government had focused on rural electrification projects, completion of construction of the 512-kilometre gas pipeline from Mtwara to Dar es Salaam which is set to scale up the amount of gas transported to Dar es Salaam plants for electricity generation and supply for the country.

He said the government was also focused on Kinyerezi power generating stations that will generate 150 and 240 megawatts. Other projects prioritized by the government in the 2014/15 include Mchuchuma coal project set to generate 600 megawatts of electricity, Ngaka coal project which is projected to generate 400 megawatts of electricity, and Kiwira set to generate 200 megawatts of power.

The minister said the government would continue to improve access to water supplies in rural areas and complete projects that began in the 2013/14 financial year.

He said the government would complete laying of water pipelines from Ruvu station to Dar es Salaam which is about 20.77 kilometres and would begin construction of water infrastructure for Upper Ruvu water project.

On the railway infrastructure projects, the government would also upgrade the 37 kilometres Igalula-Tabora railway by laying concrete railway sleepers of 80 pounds per yard, he said. Eight locomotives would be rehabilitated at the Tanzania Railway Limited (TRL) workshop at Morogoro, he said, adding eleven new locomotives and 204 new cargo wagons would be bought.

The government would be looking for strategic investors for construction and improvement of Dar es Salaam-Isaka-Kigali railway, he said. He added that the government would complete survey for Tanga-Arusha- Musoma railway and complete detailed survey for Mtwara-Mbambabay and Liganga- Mchuchuma.

Mr Wasira said on road infrastructure projects, areas that have been prioritized include roads linking Tanzania and her neighbours so as to open up economic opportunities as well as roads that will ease traffic. View the discussion thread.

KENYA :

Raila Odinga warns Jubilee on dialogue

By KEVINE OMOLLO and RUSHDIE OUDIA /standardmedia.co.ke/Friday, June 13th 2014

Kisumu, Kenya: Coalition for Reforms and Democracy (CORD) leader Raila Odinga has warned the Government that time was running out on their demand to convene a national dialogue. Mr Odinga said the July 7 ultimatum issued by CORD for Government to convene the talks or “let the people decide” still stands. The people, spearheaded by “Saba Saba Committees”, have been proposed by Odinga to lead a grand protest on July 7 if the Government fails to heed to the calls for dialogue. Mobilise Kenyans According to the former Prime Minister, the committees to be organised by the people in all villages across the country will mobilise Kenyans to speak against poor leadership which has plunged the country into problems. “On July 7, all Kenyans will not go to work but will march in protest to demand for their rights,” said the ODM leader. See also: What Rotich didn’t tell you about his Budget Odinga, who toured Kisumu ahead of a series of rallies across the country, said the public had shown the urge to live in peace and coexistence hence dialogue must be held. “Kenyans want peace and our friends too pray for a prosperous Kenya hence we must come together and talk. It is not optional at all,” said Odinga. The ODM leader, who was received by masses in Kisumu, said the rallies organised by the coalition across the country will continue as they are meant to seek the people’s opinions over the national dialogue. Consultative meetings He said the rallies are consultative meetings between the public and leaders across all divides on the issues facing the country and how to have them resolved amicably. “When I came to the country from the United States, Kenyans spoke with one voice that they are facing a lot of problems hence they needed a way forward. The way forward I gave was dialogue and everybody accepted it,” Odinga told a crowd in Kondele. He, however, took issue with a section of Jubilee leaders whom he said are sabotaging the proposed dialogue by politicising it. The former premier said the planned rallies would continue as planned, starting from Migori today and climax on July 7 at the historical Kamukunji Grounds in Nairobi. The scheduled 13 rallies across the country by CORD are meant to pile pressure on the Government to convene the national dialogue conference. On Sunday, CORD leaders will be in Mombasa for a rally at the historic Tononoka grounds.

Kenyan Muslims cry out after assassination of moderate imam (+video)

By Fredrick Nzwili, Correspondent/csmonitor.com/ June 12, 2014

The shooting of an Islamic leader who preached tolerance adds to a string of unsolved murders of clerics and imams in Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa.

Nairobi, Kenya — The killing by unknown assailants of a leading moderate Islamic imam in the port city of Mombasa this week is igniting calls for action and heightened security, and stirring

bitter emotions in the Kenyan Muslim community, which has felt besieged in recent months as a result of a virtual "war on terror" in the country.

Sheikh Mohammed Idris, the chairman of a prominent Kenyan Muslim council and an advocate for tolerance and jobs and education for young people, was going to his morning prayers on Tuesday when he was shot and killed, according to local police.

Muslims leaders in Kenya called for the imam's killers to be found, and warned about further attacks on moderate Muslim clerics like Mr. Idris, who often spoke against the militant ideology of Al Shabab, the Somalia-based terror group.

Mombasa itself has been the scene of three recent unsolved killings of prominent radical Muslims – and 21 murders of clerics in all.

(In March, one of the murdered Mombasa clerics, Abubaker Shariff Ahmed, known as Makaburi, a well known figure in Kenya, predicted his own death at the hand of police or "government agents.")

The shooting of Mr. Idris is the first killing of a moderate cleric in a popular coastal city that has been a tourist destination, a gathering spot for Somali refugees – and of late the scene of tension between mosques with different views on Islam.

"We strongly condemn the killing of Sheikh Idris. He was not a radical and we want the government to find the killers," says Sheikh Juma Ngao, the chairman of Kenya Muslim National Advisory Council, a Muslim public advocacy group here.

Rev. Wilybard Lagho, a Roman Catholic priest in Mombasa, said that Idris had used his Friday sermons to preach peace and tolerance among people of different communities.

"His death is a big blow for the campaigns toward peaceful co-existence and tolerance," says Rev. Lagho, who had worked with Idris in interfaith dialogue forums. Idris had headed the Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya, a leading council.

Months before the shooting, Idris had said his life was in danger. In the past year he clashed with Muslims youths over control of the traditionally mainstream Sakina Mosque in Mombasa, where he was chairman. The youth wanted a more active if not radical approach to the faith.

Last December, Idris narrowly escaped a violent crowd of some 100 youths who attacked the mosque and put it under their control, meanwhile advocating for the group Al Shabab that had months before attacked Nairobi's posh Westgate Mall, killing more than 60.

Last year Idris spoke against Al-Shabab and radicalism and more recently urged the Kenyan government to arrest Al-Shabab financiers and other radical prayer leaders living on the coastal strip. (On May 16, he said that the CIPK council he headed is opposed to Al Shabab and violent jihad, and said that the ongoing conflict in Somalia was not a holy war.

"If he was a radical, people would have thought he has been assassinated by local or foreign security agencies, but he was not. We want to know the killers," says Mr. Ngao. "If the investigators cannot resolve the cases, then they should invite those [foreign investigators] who can," he added.

Raila Odinga, the leader of Kenya's opposition party coalition, said the death underlined Kenya's

bad state of security.

“These are just signs of what may be befall our country, if no drastic measures are taken. Kenyans must be told the truth,” Mr. Odinga said in Mombasa, where he attended the funeral of the cleric. Odinga has been calling for national dialogue to discuss issues affecting Kenya, including insecurity.

ANGOLA :

CLOV development starts up offshore Angola

06/12/2014/By OGJ editors

HOUSTON, June 12

Total SA and partners have started up the four-field CLOV development in deep water offshore Angola with production capacity of 160,000 b/d of oil (OGJ Online, Jan. 13, 2012).

The group is developing Cravo, Lirio, Orquidea, and Violeta fields with 34 wells and 8 manifolds connected to a floating production, storage, and offloading vessel in 1,100-1,400 ft of water 140 km off Luanda. Proved and probable reserves exceed 500 million bbl, Total said.

The CLOV vessel, with storage capacity of 1.8 million bbl of oil, is the fourth FPSO on Block 17. Others are on Girassol, Dalia, and Pazflor fields.

Gas produced by the CLOV fields will move by pipeline to the Angola LNG plant.

The development uses a subsea multiphase pump system to accommodate production of oil from Oligocene reservoirs and more viscous oil from Miocene reservoirs.

Total, operator, holds a 40% interest in Block 17. Partners are Statoil ASA with 23.33%, Esso Exploration Angola (Block 17) Ltd. 20%, and BP PLC 16.67%.

AU/AFRICA :

Centrafrique : 22 morts dans des heurts, le PM appelle à une trêve

jeudi 12 juin 2014 / par Fouâd Harit/afrik.com

Les violences qui ont éclaté lundi et mardi derniers dans le village de Liwa, à 10 km de Bambari, à l'est de la Centrafrique ont fait au moins 22 morts.

« Au moins 22 personnes ont été tuées et plus d'une trentaine d'autres blessées dans des affrontements qui ont éclaté lundi et mardi derniers dans le village Liwa, à 10 km de Bambari » (est), a affirmé jeudi à l'AFP une source au sein de la gendarmerie locale. Ces violences opposaient « des ex-séléka appuyés par des peulhs armés et des anti-balaka », a précisé la même source.

Une trêve pendant le Mondial ?

Le Premier ministre centrafricain, André Nzapayéké, compte sur la Coupe du monde pour canaliser les tensions. Ce dernier a appelé mercredi les Centrafricains à mettre fin aux tensions intercommunautaires dans le pays pendant le Mondial qui commence ce jeudi et le Ramadan qui doit débiter fin juin.

« Demain, jeudi 12 juin aura lieu le premier match de la Coupe du monde. Beaucoup de monde a convenu d'une cessation ou d'une suspension des mouvements sociaux, pour permettre à la population, à la jeunesse surtout, de profiter pleinement de cet événement qui n'a lieu que tous les quatre ans », a déclaré le Premier ministre dans une allocution à la presse à Bangui.

« Enfin le 28 juin prochain, a-t-il souligné, démarrera le ramadan, une période de paix et d'amour, une période pendant laquelle on s'entraide, on vient en aide aux plus faibles. Une période de partage. Une période pendant laquelle le plus grand sacrilège est de faire du mal ou du tort à l'autre. J'ai hâte de retrouver la bouillie sucrée au goût citronné et les petites gâteries des joyeuses soirées ramadanesques », a noté le Premier ministre.

Depuis la prise de pouvoir de la rébellion à dominante musulmane séléka, en mars 2013, renversée en janvier 2014, la Centrafrique vit une crise sans précédent. Les exactions ont fait des milliers de morts parmi les civils et provoqué la fuite de milliers de Centrafricains vers les pays voisins.

Procès Gbagbo à la CPI: quel impact sur la réconciliation?

par RFI /le 13-06-2014

La Chambre préliminaire de la Cour pénale internationale a confirmé ce jeudi quatre charges de « crimes contre l'humanité » à l'encontre de Laurent Gbagbo, qui est donc renvoyé en procès devant une chambre de première instance. Une décision qui intervient dans un contexte toujours tendu entre le gouvernement et le FPI.

22 000 pages de preuves, 108 témoins entendus. Après plus d'un an d'examen, la Cour pénale internationale a donc tranché : l'ancien président ivoirien sera bel et bien jugé pour « crimes contre l'humanité ». La Chambre préliminaire de la Cour pénale internationale a confirmé les charges qui pèsent à l'encontre de Laurent Gbagbo à la majorité de deux juges contre un. L'ex-président ivoirien est poursuivi pour « meurtres », « viols », « actes inhumains » et « persécutions » pendant la crise post électorale de 2010-2011.

Les éléments à charge

Dans le document de notification des charges qui vient d'être examiné par les juges de la chambre préliminaire, la procureure de la CPI, Fatou Bensouda, se dit persuadée que Laurent Gbagbo a conçu et mis en œuvre, avec son entourage immédiat, un plan qui devait lui permettre de se maintenir à la présidence par tous les moyens nécessaires. Ce plan, selon la procureure, aurait évolué jusqu'à inclure, fin 2010, une attaque généralisée et systématique des civils considérés comme pro-Ouattara. Selon Fatou Bensouda, les Forces de défense et de sécurité (FDS) de l'Etat ont été utilisées à cette fin, de même que des jeunes pro-Gbagbo, des miliciens et des mercenaires. Quatre incidents de la période-post-électorale ont été retenus et devraient être examinés pendant le procès.

La défense de Laurent Gbagbo

Pour la défense de l'ancien président, cette version de la procureure est une lecture partielle de la

crise post-électorale. Il n'y avait pas de blocus de l'hôtel du Golf, disent les avocats de Laurent Gbagbo, mais une « sécurisation » du lieu en raison de la présence de forces rebelles pro-Ouattara. La commune d'Abobo, assurent-ils également, était tenue par des rebelles armés et entraînés qui y avaient été infiltrés, et non par des groupes d'autodéfense de jeunes, comme le dit la procureure. Les éléments de preuve disponibles, selon les avocats de Laurent Gbagbo, ne montrent pas qu'il y a eu dans cette période des attaques de Forces de défense et de sécurité contre les civils, mais bien plutôt des attaques de rebelles contre des FDS, puis contre la population civile.

« Nous sommes satisfaits qu'il puisse y avoir un procès pour que la vérité puisse éclater. Le président Gbagbo y tenait – je vous renvoie à ce qu'il disait lors des audiences – il veut un procès, pour l'histoire et pour la Côte d'Ivoire. Pour que tout soit enfin dit. Parce que c'est la condition d'une véritable réconciliation nationale », insiste Me Emmanuel Altit, l'un des avocats de Laurent Gbagbo. Pour lui, la défense est en « position de force juridique » : si les éléments sont suffisants pour ordonner un procès, rien n'indique que la procureure de la CPI est en mesure de remporter ce procès, estime l'avocat.

Un « message » aux politiques, selon le gouvernement

Cette décision de la Chambre préliminaire de la Cour pénale internationale intervient alors qu'en Côte d'Ivoire, un climat de méfiance prévaut entre le pouvoir et l'opposition, malgré les déclarations de disponibilité aux discussions de part et d'autre.

Pour Bruno Koné, porte-parole du gouvernement ivoirien, cette décision de la CPI est un signal fort envoyé aux dirigeants qui violent les lois internationales. C'est « un message à l'endroit du personnel politique. En disant que, désormais, notre pays, la Côte d'Ivoire, est un Etat de droit et il y a des limites qu'il ne faut plus franchir », estime-t-il. « Pour aller à la réconciliation, il faut passer, à un moment donné, par la case justice. Cela va permettre de calmer la douleur des victimes et de tous ceux qui ont perdu quelque chose », ajoute le porte-parole du gouvernement. Pour lui, la décision de la CPI est aussi un « message est envoyé à l'autre partie, à ceux qui soutenaient l'ex-président. (...) Un message positif, en ce sens que, désormais, tout le monde devra faire attention. »

Joël Nguessan, porte-parole du Rassemblement des républicains (RDR), estime que c'est « un grand soulagement par rapport aux milliers de victimes, aux parents de toutes les personnes qui ont été victimes du refus de Laurent Gbagbo, de céder le pouvoir après la victoire du président Alassane Ouattara ». Pour le RDR, « la Cour pénale internationale vient de se mettre dans une posture de lutte définitive contre l'impunité ».

Pour le FPI, une décision qui n'aidra pas à la réconciliation

Au contraire, cette décision de la CPI « ne contribue guère à la réconciliation » juge Laurent Akoun, secrétaire général et porte-parole du FPI, interrogé par RFI. « Ce jeudi est pour nous un jour triste », dit-il, même si, « comme l'a dit le président Laurent Gbagbo, le 5 décembre 2011 », il juge que « les deux points essentiels, c'est vérité et justice. Et, peut-être, avec un procès, on comprendra mieux. »

Le Front populaire ivoirien (FPI), parti fondé par Laurent Gbagbo, formule plusieurs critiques à l'encontre du pouvoir, portant notamment sur la restriction des libertés dont ses militants font l'objet. Le dernier épisode en date concerne l'interdiction d'une veillée de prières pour exiger la libération de Laurent Gbagbo, qui était prévue ce jeudi soir sur une place de Yopougon par la jeunesse du parti. Pour empêcher ce rassemblement, le pouvoir a bouclé le quartier en déployant un impressionnant dispositif de forces de l'ordre, ont rapporté des témoins. Il y a une semaine, le FPI a été l'objet d'une autre interdiction. Le déplacement que le président du FPI, Pascal Affi N'Guessan,

devait effectuer à Odienné, dans le nord-ouest du pays pour rendre visite à l'épouse de l'ex-chef d'Etat ivoirien, Simone Gbagbo, elle-même réclamée par la Cour pénale internationale. Après avoir reçu un accord verbal, Pascal Affi N'Guessan n'a finalement pas pu s'y rendre.

Concernant le dialogue politique repris récemment entre le FPI et le gouvernement, après une suspension de deux mois, chacune des deux parties demande à l'autre de faire des gestes de bonne volonté afin d'amorcer un véritable processus de réconciliation.

Africa and West pledge more support in war against Boko Haram

Fri Jun 13, 2014 /By Belinda Goldsmith/Reuters

LONDON (Reuters) - Nigeria will get more military and tactical support to help combat the Islamist militant group Boko Haram and find 200 kidnapped schoolgirls, African and Western officials pledged at a meeting in London on Thursday.

Although Boko Haram has been fighting for five years, carrying out bombings and attacks on civilians and the security forces, the kidnapping in April of more than 200 girls has focused world attention on them and prompted demands for action.

Ministers from Nigeria and neighbouring Chad, Benin, Niger and Cameroon agreed on Thursday to form a regional intelligence unit to fight Boko Haram, aided by Britain, France and the United States, British Foreign Secretary William Hague said.

They also agreed to run multi-national patrols along the porous borders to stop the group, which is seen as a regional threat. The international community will enhance training for Nigeria's military and provide more schooling for Nigerian children.

"Defeating Boko Haram will be a long and difficult task, but the atrocities against innocent and vulnerable communities are too important to ignore," Hague told reporters on the sidelines of a London summit on ending sexual violence in conflict.

"All of the countries gathered here today have shown that we are certainly not going to ignore them and our resolve to defeat them has been further increased."

The meeting on Thursday followed a similar gathering of West African leaders in Paris in May to try to improve cooperation in the fight against Boko Haram, which is seen as a kind of regional al-Qaeda based in Africa's most populous country.

Boko Haram has killed more than 3,000 people in a five-year campaign to establish an Islamic state in mostly Muslim northeast Nigeria. The outrage over the kidnapping of the schoolgirls has prompted greater international involvement.

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, criticised at home for his government's slow response to the disappearance of the girls from a secondary school, had accepted U.S., British and French intelligence help in the hunt for the youngsters.

But even before the girls were abducted, the rising violence, coupled with a bout of inter-communal killing in Nigeria's fragile middle belt, led many Nigerians to question the long-term viability of Nigeria as a state. [ID:nL6N0NF3F4]

Hague said he would not give running commentary on the search for the schoolgirls, to which

Britain sent a surveillance aircraft, but indicated little progress.

"It is clearly formidable terrain and formidable circumstances in which to locate them," he said.

Hague said further meetings would be held to ensure greater cooperation in a bid to combat Boko Haram.

"The defeat of Boko Haram and equipping of regional countries to bring about that defeat will take time," he said.

AU is learning from security failures

13 Jun 2014/Dawn Nagar, Dan Kuwali/mg.co.za

The effectiveness of Africa's major geopolitical organisations continues to be called into question, write Dawn Nagar and Dan Kuwali.

Since the creation of the United Nations in 1945, Africa has played a key role in shaping efforts by the body to maintain international peace and security, particularly after the UN Security Council's credibility as an impartial actor was damaged by its intervention in the Congo from 1960 to 1964.

After the end of the Cold War by 1990, and following the fatal UN passivity over the preventable genocide of 800 000 people in Rwanda in 1994, Africans led efforts to stop such mass atrocities in future. The idea of an international "responsibility to protect" was incorporated into the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU) in 2000, and into the continent's new peace and security architecture.

After its establishment in 2002, the AU set up a 15-member Peace and Security Council to authorise peacekeeping missions; an AU commission to co-ordinate operations; a "panel of the wise" to advise and mediate; a continental early warning system to gather information on potential conflicts; an African Standby Force to be made operational by 2015; and a peace fund to support peacekeeping activities.

The AU's deployments to Burundi, Sudan, and Somalia showed its commitment to peacekeeping. But all three missions also revealed institutional, logistical and financial deficiencies, which were again exposed by the crises in Mali and the Central African Republic from 2012. The Peace and Security Council is charged to work closely with African human rights and governance mechanisms to fulfil its mandate, but the security architecture lacks effective preventive mechanisms for managing simmering conflicts.

The continental architecture also depends greatly on the efforts of Africa's subregional bodies, in particular the material contributions of regional powers such as Nigeria and South Africa to the subregional peacekeeping brigades that form the core of the African Standby Force (the establishment of the force was postponed until 2015). The prevalence of HIV and Aids among African militaries (between 20% and 60%) poses a further potential challenge.

The UN Charter provides for co-operation between the security council and Africa's regional organisations to maintain international peace and security. The 22 000-strong AU Mission in Somalia is a promising peacekeeping framework, established by a regional organisation in tandem with the UN. Yet other regional initiatives have lacked the capacity to be effective: the missions of the ceasefire monitoring group of the Economic Community of West African States in Sierra Leone and Liberia were taken over by the UN in 2000 and 2003 respectively, as were the AU missions in

Burundi and Darfur in 2004 and 2007.

The AU must capacitate its office at the UN in New York sufficiently, so that it is able to engage the UN effectively on African peace and security issues. Africa's leaders should also seek greater diplomatic status for the relationship between its Peace and Security Council and the UN Security Council, to enhance the AU's peacekeeping role.

Since 2007, the United States has sought to use its global fight against terrorism to pursue its interests in Africa, militarising the continent through its Africa Command. The US, France and Britain – as three of the five veto-wielding permanent members of the security council – have often marginalised Africa in decision-making on the council. Last year, this triumvirate blocked action on 15 of the 18 African cases on the security council's agenda. Africa has provided the context for innovative UN approaches to maintaining peace and security, but the systematic application of these new rules and mechanisms beyond the continent remains partial.

The UN security council has at times shunned the PSC, instead seeking co-operation with Africa's subregional organisations, which it deems to be more in tune with the interests of its most powerful members. Unless the security council is reformed to share power more equitably between the rich North and the global South, its responses to conflicts on the continent will remain inadequate and its legitimacy questionable.

African peacekeeping missions must be properly resourced, trained and equipped – or peace agreements cannot be enforced. Also, the AU should apply the principle of “variable geometry” to the African Standby Force, so that subregional forces close to brigade-readiness can be deployed first and then share their experience with others.

Dr Dan Kuwali is a former senior researcher of the Centre for Conflict Resolution. Dawn Nagar is a researcher at the CCR.

UN/AFRICA :

Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's West Africa Commission on Drugs Calls for Drug Decriminalization

12 Jun 2014/enewspf.com

Commission Calls Drug War a Failure and for Treating Drug Use as Health Issue

NEW YORK—(ENEWSPF)—June 12, 2014. The drug policy reform movement received a global push on Thursday with the release of the West Africa Commission on Drugs statement calling for decriminalization of low-level non-violent drug offenses and broader drug policy reform. Initiated by former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, the Commission is chaired by former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasango and includes other former heads of state as well as a distinguished group of West Africans from the worlds of politics, civil society, health, security and the judiciary.

The report, *Not Just in Transit: Drugs, the State and Society in West Africa*, concludes that drug use must be regarded primarily as a public health issue; highlights the need for treatment rather than punishment for drug use; states that the consumption and possession of drugs for personal use should not be criminalised; and that West Africa must not become a new front line in the failed “war

on drugs”.

At the report’s release in Dakar, Senegal, Chair of the Commission Obasanjo said, “We call on West African governments to reform drug laws and policies and decriminalize low-level and non-violent drug offences.” Kofi Annan echoed: “Most governments’ reaction to simply criminalise drug use without thinking about prevention or access to treatment has not just led to overcrowded jails, but also worsened health and social problems”.

In recent years, debate and political will for drug policy reform has gained unprecedented global momentum. In 2011, Kofi Annan, Richard Branson, George Shultz and Paul Volcker joined former presidents Fernando Henrique Cardoso (Brazil), César Gaviria (Colombia) and Ernesto Zedillo (Mexico) and other distinguished members of the Global Commission on Drug Policy in saying the time had come to “break the taboo” on exploring alternatives to the failed war on drugs – and to “encourage experimentation by governments with models of legal regulation of drugs,” especially marijuana.

More recently, current presidents Juan Manuel Santos in Colombia, Otto Perez Molina in Guatemala, and José Mujica in Uruguay have joined these calls for reform. In May, the Organization of American States produced a report, commissioned by heads of state of the region, which included marijuana legalization as a likely policy alternative.

Statement from Ethan Nadelmann, Executive Director of the Drug Policy Alliance:

“First Europe, then the Americas, now Africa,” said Ethan Nadelmann, executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance. “Drug policy reform is truly becoming a global movement, with Kofi Annan and Olusegun Obasango providing the sort of bold leadership that we’ve also seen in Latin America. Maybe, just maybe, West Africa will be spared the fate of other parts of the world where prohibition-related crime, violence and corruption spiraled out of control.”

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

Datsun Go unveiled in South Africa

by Rakesh Datton/indiancarsbikes.in/ June 12, 2014

Nissan has unveiled its Datsun Go low cost hatchback in South Africa. The Go hatchback that will be exported to South Africa will be exported from India. Nissan builds the Go hatchback at its manufacturing facility in Chennai. The car has not been exported so far and is only sold in the Indian market.

In South Africa also the Go hatchback will be sold as a low cost car. The Go will be priced under Rand 100,000 in South Africa or Rs. 5.5 lakhs, which is nearly double of what it is priced (Rand 56,400) in India as the car sold here starts at Rs. 3.12 lakhs. The higher price is due to import duties.

The Go that sells in South Africa is also expected to get more equipment but will be sold only in one variant. Cars that are sold in both India and South Africa usually feature more equipment in the latter. The South Africa spec Datsun Go will use the same 1.2 liter petrol engine that it is powered with in India.

The engine produces 67 Bhp of peak power and 104 Nm of peak torque. The gearbox will be a five speed manual unit. Nissan has appointed 30 dealerships in South Africa to retail the Datsun Go. These showrooms have been branded Datsun and the number of dealerships will be doubled in the coming years.

Nissan presently has no plans to build the Datsun Go in South Africa and India will be the country from where the car will be sourced. Future Datsuns may be built in South Africa if the labour situation in that part of the world improves.

Though Nissan has introduced the Datsun range of low cost cars only in India, Russia and Indonesia, the automaker has plans to sell Datsun cars in more developing countries. South Africa is the first step and in the years to come, expect the Datsun brand to be sold in more developing countries around the world.

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 13 Juin 2014... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 13/06/2014