



[At least 20 people were killed in inter-clan violence in northern Kenya on Sunday, the police said, further destabilising one of Kenya's most volatile regions. The clashes between the Degodia and Gare communities started in mid-May and has led to more than 40 deaths in Wajir county that borders Somalia, local media reported.]

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

Rwanda: Exclusive - How DRC Planned and Executed Recent Attack On Rwanda
20 June 2014/allafrica.com

Last week on Wednesday, five Congolese soldiers were killed after skirmishes erupted on the Rwanda-DR Congo border- several kilometers from Rubavu District in Rwanda and Eastern DRC's capital of Goma. But as News of Rwanda reports, the story of what happened hours before the sporadic shelling, has never been told until now.

At 5:15am (3:15GMT) on June 11, Rwandan soldiers based in Rusura cell, Busasamana sector in Rubavu District, began moving back to their positions after spending the night on Kanyesheja 2 hill.

The soldiers have been doing that as a matter of routine to protect the border from any infiltrators. The harbours two hills; Kanyesheja 1 and 2 which are about 500m apart.

Behind Kanyesheja 1 hill is DR Congo while Kanyesheja 2 hill is located on the Rwandan side. On the DRC side, during the previous days, there had been a constant buildup of troops numbering in the dozens with heavy weapons, according to villagers on Rwanda side.

How the attack unfolded:

On the fateful day, as routine when the night was ending, Rwandan soldiers begun pulling back to the posts deep inside Busasamama sector. In a matter of minutes, firing erupted from the DRC direction. The retreating soldiers realized that an enemy was behind them and had crossed more than 300m into Rwanda, reveals an account provided to the regional monitoring team.

"Rwandan soldiers knew the area so they were able to reorganize within minutes despite the sporadic firing from the enemy," said the Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) area commander in a narration to the Extended Joint Mechanism of Verification (EJVM)-a team which came to the scene later the same day.

Despite its arrival at the scene, however, the team had to leave prematurely as more firing broke out from the DRC side.

The morning attacks were followed by a second attempt by two FARDC platoons to deploy into Rwanda that resulted in further exchange of fire leaving four FARDC soldiers dead. When the attack from what the Rwandan commanders call "enemy" had been contained, RDF soldiers launched a massive sweep of the area. During the cordon and search exercise, they struck by 5 heavily armed soldiers in DRC army uniforms. Among those killed, was a soldier with DRC military identity named Hategekimana Baysiro (see photo of ID).

FDLR and the cows:

Later in the day, villagers who had been hiding all morning in the surrounding bushes emerged and identified the soldier Hategekimana. It happens to be that several days before, cows had been stolen and taken across to DRC side. On 9th June, the villagers had crossed to DRC side and paid Rwf150,000 (about \$220) to Congolese soldiers to release their cows.

It has been discovered that these Congolese soldiers spoke Kinyarwanda language, used in Rwanda. Among these soldiers was Hategekimana Baysiro.

"It was a shock seeing his body among those we had paid money to bring back our cows," said elderly Cleophas Kimonyo, a resident of the area.

The verification team was informed that Hategekimana is of Rwandan origin from Karongi District in Rwanda, more than 200km from the spot where he and four others were killed. The Rwandan government says Hategekimana was part of a large combined force of Congolese army and Rwandan FDLR rebels.

The FDLR rebels have been aided by Congolese army to move closer to Rwandan border. They are currently based at Kibumba, about 10km from Busasamana sector, according to intelligence sources. The sources adds that local residents have been seeing Kinyarwanda-speaking people roaming across from the DRC side of border.

Rwanda warns:

In the past three months, Rwanda says the DRC has unilaterally closed its border with Rwanda, imposed visa fees despite regional and bilateral agreements and failed to honor their commitment to neutralise the FDLR militia operating in the DRC for the last twenty years.

These attacks come less than a year after a series of bombs were shelled on Rwandan territory by FARDC. This includes an attack in August 2013, where a bomb launched from DRC territory landed in a marketplace in Bugangari, killing Vestine Mukagasana before leaving her two-month old son seriously injured.

Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs and government spokesperson, Louise Mushikiwabo warned the DRC government against any further hostilities. In a BBC interview on the same day, Minister Mushikiwabo said that she had spoken to her DRC counterpart- Raymond Tshibanda, telling him that they should stop their army from repeatedly attacking Rwandan territory.

"These actions by the DRC are jeopardising the region's extensive efforts to ensure peace, stability and development for all our citizens," said the Minister. "We urge the leadership of the DRC to embrace the logic of peace and end all attacks on the Rwandan territory. Rwanda stands ready to protect its citizens." The Minister added.

DRC refuses, then accepts killed soldiers:

The next day, following the DRC infiltration, more firing was reported about 5km further north from Busasamana sector. The Congolese soldiers were firing into Rwanda from their positions. However, no casualties were recorded.

On the same day of 12th June, the regional Verification team (EJVM) which also includes DRC member, returned to the scene, this time amid increased presence by the Rwanda military.

However, the biggest issue they had to deal with was how the bodies would be handed over to DRC. Members of the Verification team proposed that Rwanda hands the dead to their counterparts across. Rwandan army officers turned down the idea saying foreigners are only handed back to their countries through the established border posts.

Later, the Rwanda Red Cross was mobilized and moved the bodies from Busasamana sector, to Rubavu town. The bodies arrived at the Rubavu-Goma main border at around 8pm. There, the Congolese did not appear for about 40minutes. Eventually, about 5 cars emerged.

A Rwanda Red Cross official said at the scene that the bodies had been handed to officials from DRC intelligence agency (ANR). The officials refused to come to Rwandan side of border, instead demanding the bodies to be transported to the area between the two borders - often referred to as 'No man's land'.

The five bodies were quickly moved from a Daihatsu pickup, into a Land Cruiser 70. Within minutes, the Congolese disappeared into the darkness, ending two days of accusations and counter accusations.

The DRC government spokesman, Lambert Mende and several other politicians had claimed that only 1 DRC soldier had been killed, and 3 Rwandans. However, DRC has never presented any bodies of the alleged fallen Rwandan soldiers.

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

Uganda creates child abduction alert system

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA/The Associated Press/Sunday, June 22, 2014

BUIKWE, Uganda — When a child goes missing in this central Ugandan district, villagers beat drums into a pulsing rhythm that sends rescuers scampering through bushes. Others, riding motorcycles, try to block exit routes.

In response to the kidnappings and ritual killings of children here, the traumatized community has created a rudimentary but effective abduction alert system that has saved at least two children so far this year.

Although the problem of children being killed as human sacrifices is reported in several parts of Uganda, Buikwe has gained notoriety recently as the country's witchcraft capital. One in three households here keeps a shrine — a thatched hut in which so-called witchdoctors can be consulted — a frightening statistic that explains the prevalence of superstitious practices that threaten the lives of many children and even adults.

Some traditional healers use body parts to make potions for success in business and love, or to cure people of ailments.

The widespread fear of murder is why civic groups believe this fishing community on the shores of Lake Victoria can be mobilized for change. Eight children have been abducted and ritualistically killed in Buikwe this year, their mutilated bodies dumped in bushes and sugarcane plantations, according to local officials.

Across Uganda at least 729 children were abducted in 2013, according to a Ugandan police report that also cited a 39 percent increase in crimes against children over the previous year.

The village alert system is the best model to stop the abduction of children without actively stigmatizing traditional healers, some of whom are not involved in the killings, said Obed Byamugisha, of the aid group World Vision, who is working with local officials to stop the killings. The alert system makes child sacrifice “a concern of all the citizens,” said Byamugisha. The group has distributed many drums and megaphones that are now mounted atop poles in shopping centers across Buikwe, and more are planned.

A tearful mother, Juliet Nabirye, described to The Associated Press how one January evening a former boyfriend stole her four-year-old son and told her to “forget about the child because you will never see him again.” The man, an itinerant with no known home, had a history of criminal behavior and authorities believed the boy was in serious danger. So they drummed alerts and mounted a public campaign to find the child until the man released the boy to strangers who then handed him over to the police.

In another case, a boy was rescued just as his abductors had started to behead him. He has since had surgery to repair injured nerves around his neck, according to Byamugisha.

Some families have not been so lucky.

The decomposing remains of a six-year-old girl were found scattered in a cassava plantation earlier this month. The rescue team had arrived several days late, local leaders said, in part because the girl's family did not immediately report her as missing. One recent afternoon, village chairman Samuel Bbosa pointed to the spot where the girl's remains were discovered and said he regretted that she had not been found alive. Instead, he recalled, frustrated members of the search team turned violent, turning on a man some suspected of the killing, demolishing his home and trying to burn him alive, even though there was no evidence linking him to the crime.

"This shows that the community needs to stay alert," Bbosa said of mob justice. "Maybe this would not have happened if we had taken action quickly."

The village alert system, if embraced by most residents and is widely seen to work, may eliminate the urge among some to carry out vigilante violence, said Byamugisha, the World Vision official.

Residents have formed "village alert committees," groups of men and women who meet certain days to discuss their response to child abductions and other crimes. Working closely with civic groups and the police, they meet residents to lecture them on safety matters. Children are encouraged to walk to and from school in groups, said Charles Okuta, a committee member who described ritual murder as a demand-driven phenomenon fuelled by "primitive beliefs" about wealth creation. Even fathers, he said, have been suspected of involvement in the disappearance of their own children.

Children hiking through bushes on their way to and from school are at serious risk in rural areas. Boys are more vulnerable to attacks because, unlike most girls, their ears are not pierced. For the most severe ailments or problems, witchdoctors are said to demand the body parts of children without skin blemishes, scars or piercings, according to civic leaders and residents. Yet even girls wearing earrings have been taken and killed in recent times, rendering a previously protective measure unreliable, Byamugisha said.

"It has opened their eyes," he said of the alert system. "They now realize that (child sacrifice) is a problem to us all."

Tour operators buoyant as peak season starts

Sunday, 22 June 2014/ By Patrick Kagenda/independent.co.ug

Impact of international travel ban to Kenya on arrivals to Uganda being watched

Uganda's tourism sector is keenly looking out for spill-over effects of security advisories against non-essential travel to regional flagship destination Kenya. Amos Wekesa, the Chairman of the Uganda Tour Operators Association, says Uganda has been benefiting from a stable Kenya because of Kenya's strategic marketing of its tourism sector which marketing Uganda has not developed yet. It is not clear how Uganda will cope as Kenya's tourism sector is shaken by terror attacks.

"Whatever happens in Kenya affects Uganda," says Amos Wekesa, the Chairman of the Uganda Tour Operators Association, "in the eyes of the tourists; Africa is one big country like the U.S."

Wekesa says Uganda has been an add-on destination to Kenya where tourists would visit Kenya for five-six days and spend another two-five days of their booking in Uganda. “Tour operators have been selling holistic itinerary safaris from Kenya through Uganda to Rwanda,” says Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) spokesperson, Jossy Muhangi, “We have been sharing visitations with Kenya because tourists want to see certain things in each country.”

Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda have a single tourist visa facility to promote the East African region as a single destination. Uganda is visited mainly for the rare Mountain Gorilla, birding watching, and the game parks of Murchison, Mburo, Kidepo, Kibale, Queen Elizabeth, and Bwindi.

Muhangi told The Independent in an interview that there was apprehension over tourists cancelling bookings.

He says, with the international ban on their nationals to travel to Kenya, the single tourist Visa may not work to optimum as expected.

“The ban will most likely have an effect on our eco-tourism,” he says, “However, we are working with regional entities and encouraging local tourism to mitigate the unforeseen factors.”

So far there has been no noticeable development.

“Our peak period begins June to September and I can say we are doing very well because the tourists are coming in,” says Stephen Assimwe, the executive director of the Uganda Tourism Board.

He says based on discussion with tour operators, the number of arrivals so far is beyond what they expected. Amos Wekesa hinted at the same level of optimism.

“Kenyan investors in the tourism sector have started coming to Uganda looking for opportunity in the Ugandan hospitality industry because they believe Uganda is safer,” says Wekesa.

Agnes Akiror Egonyu, the minister of State for Tourism, Wildlife & Heritage, says it is still too early to tell what impact the ban on international travellers to Kenya will have on Uganda`s tourism sector.

“We will wait and see,” she said in an interview.

She added, however, that Uganda takes the threats by Al-Shaabab seriously and has tightened security and was urging citizens to be vigilant.

“We re-assure the tourists that Uganda is very safe and they are all welcome,” she said.

International travel congress

The uncertainty in the tourism sector comes at a time when the Uganda tourism community is priming itself to host the 39th Congress of the Africa Travel Association (ATA). The international travel and tourism conference is takes place from Sept.11 to Nov.16 at the Speke Resort Munyonyo in Kampala. About 500 international delegates are expected to attend.

The ATA is the leading global trade association promoting travel and tourism to Africa and strengthening intra-Africa partnerships.

Its congress to Uganda at a time when East Africa's biggest tourism destination, Kenya, is reeling under a spate of terror attacks blamed on al shabaab militants from neighbouring Somalia.

The worst recent attack was on September 21, 2013 when the terrorist seized the Westgate Shopping Centre in Nairobi and killed 67 people in a week-long ordeal. Since then smaller and sporadic attacks have been made. In the latest incident on May 17, 10 people were killed in twin-blasts in a Nairobi market. Many more were injured. At the time, the UK and U.S. government and other western powers had just issued advisories to their nationals to evacuate Kenya.

Kenya's reputation as the land of 'hakuna matata' – Swahili for no problems – suffered another setback on June 5 when Carey Eaton, the Australian-born internet entrepreneur and founder of One Africa Media, the largest online classifieds company in Africa, was murdered in an armed robbery attack in Nairobi.

Uganda, which together with Kenya has deployed troops to Somalia under the African Union flag, is also a target. On July 11, 2010, suspected al-shabaab terrorists struck two spots in Kampala killing about 100 people.

Since the attacks, the Uganda tourism sector which had been experiencing robust growth appears to have stagnated.

According to information at the Association of Uganda Tour Operators, in 2012 about 1.2 million tourists visited Uganda compared to 1.1 million the previous year. The figures represented a huge leap from 2010 when only 946,000 visited the country. A decade ago, in 2009, only 193,000 tourists visited country. About 1.2 million tourists visited in 2013, according to the UN World Tourism Organisation figures.

Kenya, meanwhile, has seen a decline in international arrivals since the attacks intensified.

Tourism is increasing becoming a major contributor to the Ugandan economy. It brought US\$834 million into the economy in 2012 compared to US\$805 million in 2011. Tourism's total contribution to GDP which incorporates indirect and induced imports stood at US\$1.7 billion in 2011 which was equivalent to 9% of total Ugandan GDP. The corresponding figures for Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya are: 8.4%, 13.3% and 13.7% respectively.

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

Tanzania: All Set for Historic Dar, Beijing Business Forum
22 June 2014/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

THE Vice-President of the People Republic of China, Mr Li Yuanchao, expects to open a historic Tanzania- China business forum in Dar es Salaam on Monday.

The Chinese leader, who was due in the country on Saturday , is on a six -day official visit.

Announcing the forum in Dar es Salaam on Friday, the Public Relations Manager of Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), Ms Pendo Gondwe, said the forum will involve business community and investment stakeholders from both countries.

"The forum seeks to strengthen bilateral relations between our two countries," she said. According to Ms Gondwe, the forum is organised by TIC in collaboration with the China-Africa Business Council (CABC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

She said that Tanzania expects to showcase her huge investment opportunities in areas of infrastructure, agriculture, gas and oil exploration, mining and business, among others.

The forum will be attended by representatives of over 100 Chinese and 120 Tanzanian companies. She noted that TIC has so far registered 522 investment projects from China with a value of USD 2.4 billion which expects to create 77,335 employment opportunities for Tanzanians.

Ms Gondwe said that it is expected the forum will help cement business and investment relations which exists between the two countries. On his part, the Acting Managing Director, Stanbic Bank Tanzania, Mr Paul Omara said the bank was pleased to be associated with the business forum.

The bank is the platinum sponsor for the meeting. He said that Stanbic Bank Tanzania which is a member of the Standard Bank Group of South Africa is committed to supporting major conglomerates in projects within the global market and facilitate projects which contribute to economic development in regional trade market.

In 2008, Standard Bank Group partnered with Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) in a business deal that saw ICBC acquire 20 per cent stake in Standard Bank Group.

Statoil: High-impact gas discovery offshore Tanzania

June 21, 2014/ogfj.com

Statoil

Statoil has reported another high-impact gas discovery offshore Tanzania. The discovery in the Piri prospect is Statoil and co-venturer ExxonMobil's sixth discovery and the fifth high-impact discovery in Block 2 offshore Tanzania.

The discovery of an additional two to three trillion cubic feet (tcf) of natural gas in place in the Piri-1 well brings the total of in-place volumes up to approximately 20 tcf in Block 2.

"Since 2012, we have had a 100% success rate in Tanzania, and the area has become a core exploration area in a very short period of time," said Nick Maden, senior vice president for Statoil's exploration activities in the Western Hemisphere. "We quickly went from drilling one well to a multi-well program, and, with Piri-1, we are continuing the success."

The new gas discovery was made in the same Lower Cretaceous sandstones as the gas discovery in the Zafarani-1 well drilled in 2012.

The Piri-1 discovery is the venture's sixth discovery in Block 2. It was preceded by the high-impact gas discoveries Zafarani-1, Lavani-1, Tangawizi-1, and Mronge-1, as well as a discovery in Lavani-2.

Piri-1 was drilled by the drillship Discoverer Americas. The well location is two kilometers southwest of the Lavani-1 well at 2,360-meter water depth. The Discoverer Americas has now moved to a new location and is currently drilling the Binzari prospect in Block 2.

“Additional prospectivity has been mapped and will be tested throughout 2014 and 2015,” Maden said. “We expect to drill several additional exploration and appraisal wells, and hope that the results from these wells will continue to add gas volumes for a future large-scale gas infrastructure development.”

Statoil operates the license on Block 2 on behalf of Tanzania Petroleum Development Corp. (TPDC) and has a 65% working interest. ExxonMobil Exploration and Production Tanzania Ltd. holds the remaining 35%. Statoil has been in Tanzania since 2007, when it was awarded the operatorship for Block 2.

Tanzania: Kikwete Opts to Teach After Retirement

21 June 2014/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

PRESIDENT Jakaya Kikwete has stated that he intends to lecture at the National Defence College (NDC) in Dar es Salaam soon after retiring next year.

According to a statement issued by the Presidential Communication Directorate, the President said this on Friday when giving a lecture pertaining to the security of the nation to students of the college located at Kunduchi area in the city.

"I feel very happy going back to my roots as I give this lecture. This event reminds me of my days at the Monduli Military Academy in Arusha region. It is my expectation that I will return to my roots once I complete my current job," President Kikwete told second intake students hailing from Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda.

The President who gave a two-hour lecture was first briefed about the progress of the college and later responded to questions from students with regard to the nation's security.

The NDC officially opened its doors in September 2012 and was inaugurated by President Kikwete after he toured it for the first time, after concerted efforts were made by his leadership to have that unique facility in the country.

The first group to join the college completed studies in July 23 last year, and the college is currently enrolling second intake. The college is registered with the National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) and has masters courses for Strategic Studies.

MEANWHILE President Kikwete has said that he has no worry over the intense debate during the Constituent Assembly (CA) sessions, citing that it was an important process if a good constitution is to be obtained.

He said that the new constitution will not be obtained from political rallies outside the CA but rather from within, and therefore the ongoing debate shall be surrounded by objective deliberations and wisdom.

"I don't have the slightest worry because nowhere in our minds did we think that this would be an easy task. When we received views of the people that they wanted a new constitution, we formed a commission which produced a report and it is now being debated," he explained.

During the question and answer session, an officer from the Kenya army asked president Kikwete on whether he had sleepless nights about the CA debates and if they could disrupt the nation's security.

"What is taking place is very important...I know there have been times when the debate was very heated, this is something good," he responded.

KENYA :

Mobile money agents in Kenya quitting business, says poll

BY MACHARIA KAMAU/standardmedia.co.ke/Monday, June 23rd 2014

NAIROBI, KENYA: Mobile money agents are a dissatisfied lot and given a choice, many would quit the business. High operational costs, exclusivity demanded by mobile operators, numerous network down-times and insecurity are among the challenges they face, and as a result, close to half of operators polled do not see themselves staying in the agency business long term. The challenges, cited in a new survey, have played part in reducing their monthly profitability, to an extent that while the business in Kenya can be said to be mature, they are making less than their counterparts in Tanzania and Uganda. The study released last week showed that more than half of the agents in Kenya plan to quit. The survey by MicroSave and The Helix Institute of Digital Finance also revealed a high turnover among agents, with many leaving and others joining the industry, such that more than a third of the agents are less than a year old in the business. This, according to the survey, is a pointer of dissatisfaction among the huge army of agents that played a critical role in building the mobile money business in Kenyan and making the country a global reference point. "Only 58 per cent of agents said they thought they would be an agent in one year's time, which is significantly lower than Uganda and Tanzania and shows dissatisfaction," said the Agency Network Accelerator Survey: Kenya Country Report 2013. Kenyan agents also report low revenues and profitability compared to their counterparts in Uganda and Tanzania, with the report noting that Kenyan agents have found it difficult to thrive on revenues from mobile agency business alone. Many of the agents interviewed said the terms issued by mobile operators, some of them requiring agents not to offer services to other operators, have seen them get low returns. "Compared to Uganda (\$US136) and Tanzania (\$US126), Kenyan agents make the least amount of revenue (\$117) per month. In Kenya, 17 per cent of agents are not profitable, which is higher than the 13.5 per cent in Uganda and the five per cent in Tanzania. High price levels in Kenya mean it is hard to have a business solely dedicated to agency, business" said the report. "Tanzanian agents earn revenue from multiple providers due to high levels of non-exclusivity. The threat of losing their till was enough to keep most of Safaricom's agents exclusive." According to the report, over 90 per cent of agents in Kenya are exclusive to Safaricom, with just about four per cent being non-exclusive. Agents surveyed said unreliable service is also a major challenge, saying they experienced downtimes close to nine times per month.

At least 20 killed in tribal clashes in Kenya - police

June 23/REUTERS

NAIROBI - At least 20 people were killed in inter-clan violence in northern Kenya on Sunday, the police said, further destabilising one of Kenya's most volatile regions.

The clashes between the Degodia and Gare communities started in mid-May and has led to more than 40 deaths in Wajir county that borders Somalia, local media reported.

The fighting was the latest in a series of tit-for-tat killings that are ostensibly part of a longstanding grazing land and water dispute between the two tribes.

"I can confirm that 20 people have been killed in the fighting between militia from the Degodia and Gare. Nine people were also injured " Masoud Mwinyi, a police spokesman, told Reuters.

Wajir area is widely seen one of the least stable parts of Kenya, with bandits roaming vast tracts of arid land and Somali al Shabaab Islamist militants staging cross border raids.

Mwinyi said the police had launched an investigation to establish whether the latest Degodia and Gare clashes were politically motivated. Wajir county has few roads in rural areas and many of the details about the clashes were unclear.

Last year more than 100 people were killed in Kenya's Tana River area when two rival communities fought each other for weeks over land and water resources. The police said the clashes were incited by local politicians.

An influx of weapons across Kenya's borders, in particular from Somalia, has intensified the ferocity of attacks between rival communities in recent years. REUTERS

Kenya Offers More Support to Bolster Somalia

By Jibril Adan/Kenya Presidency (Nairobi)/22 June 2014

Nairobi — Kenya will undertake more measures to strengthen institutional structures of the government of Somalia, President Uhuru Kenyatta has said today.

President Kenyatta said Kenya has stood with the people of Somalia for the more than two decades they faced wars and will continue doing so.

The first of the new measures will be to help the transitional government of Somalia establish proper financial management systems, the lack of which has been an impediment for international donor support for the transitional government.

The President spoke when he met the Prime Minister of Somalia Mr Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed at State House, Nairobi.

President Kenyatta revealed that as recently as Friday, he had discussed Somalia issues with European Union leaders who were in Nairobi for a meeting, but the EU ministers pointed out that the lack of financial management structures was an obstacle for aiding the country.

"Beginning today, our National Treasury will start supporting your government in setting up financial systems and this will help you meet all financial control standards," he said.

President Kenyatta said his Government would provide financial expertise and trainings to help the TFG of Somalia to establish institution that satisfy international standards.

The President also said that the opening of a Kenyan Embassy in Somalia will be fast-tracked so that it can strengthen the link between the two Governments. Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs

and International Trade, Ambassador Amina Mohamed, is coordinating the establishment of the Embassy.

On the issue of security, President Kenyatta and the Somalia Prime Minister reached an agreement to have the intelligence service of the two countries work closely to effectively monitor and eliminate the threat posed by the Al Shabaab terror network.

The President said the intelligence sharing system will help in identifying those who mastermind and perpetrate terror activities.

"We need the intelligence to eliminate the enemies of humanity who have continued to cause suffering in our two countries and whose agenda is to make a whole community look guilty," he said.

President Kenyatta assured the Somalia Prime Minister that recent operations targeting illegal foreigners were never meant to single out Somalis but to bolster the security of the country.

The Somalia Prime Minister thanked Kenya for its support -both military and political- to his country over the years.

"We are very grateful and we know what the Kenyan troops in our country are doing for us" he said.

Abdiweli said the TFG of Somalia knows that President Kenyatta was an honest and dependable friend.

"We have been told that whenever you meet your counterparts from all over the world you never finish your meetings before putting the agenda of Somalia on the table" he said.

Abdiweli said Somalia was now getting back on its feet and they were now working on the federal blocks.

He said the biggest challenge they faced was the threat posed by terrorists and thanked Kenya for playing a significant role in reducing the strength of Al Shabaab by dislodging them from Southern Somalia.

Abdiweli said they were ready to share intelligence with Kenya so that the two countries can fight terrorism from a common front.

The Prime Minister is set to visit the Dadaab refugee camp together with Internal Security Cabinet Secretary Joseph ole Lenku.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Ebola Outbreak 'Tip of the Iceberg,' Experts Say

By Maggie Fox/nbcnews.com/June 22nd 2014

An "out of control" outbreak of Ebola in West Africa that's being called the deadliest ever is far from over and it's likely to get worse before it gets better, experts predict.

And health workers who have been fighting the outbreak, which spans three countries and has killed more than 300 people, say they are certain many cases are going unreported as they see gruesome infections, dangerous myths and people fleeing the virus, potentially spreading it further.

"This is the tip of the iceberg," said Robert Garry, a microbiology professor at the Tulane University School of Medicine who's been leading relief and investigation efforts in Sierra Leone for the Viral Hemorrhagic Fever Consortium.

Dr. Mwayabo Kazadi, from the health unit for Catholic Relief Services, agreed that many cases could go uncounted and undiagnosed in the region, where Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia come together.

"When you don't have a proper health system in place, it is pretty difficult," Kazadi said.

Garry says team members arrived in at least one village to find it deserted, and the body of an Ebola victim left unattended in a house. It's not hard to imagine what happened, but it makes it impossible to track down people who might have been infected and get them to hospitals for what care can be provided, and to prevent them from infecting others.

A Doctors Without Borders official said Friday that the outbreak was out of control.

And the numbers make it clear this is the biggest outbreak yet of Ebola since the virus was first identified in 1976. The virus, which causes a particularly nasty form of hemorrhagic fever, has killed 337 people out of 528 infected.

"This is the biggest outbreak we have ever actually seen of Ebola," Kazadi said. "It's the biggest both in numbers and in terms of geography," Garry agreed.

The biggest outbreak affected 425 people in Uganda in 2000, killing 224 of them.

Ebola is spread in bodily fluids, and the worst stages of the disease make that frighteningly easy. "People are throwing up. They have diarrhea," Garry said. Patients can develop tiny blood hemorrhages on their skin and in their eyes.

At least a dozen women were infected by a healer, probably as they washed and kissed her body when she died of Ebola and they were preparing her for her funeral. The case illustrates just why this outbreak is so difficult to fight.

The healer, who used snakes as part of her practice, made some frightening and dire predictions from her death bed. "She said she was going to release the snakes and said anybody who saw the snakes would die the way she did," Garry said.

This frightened some of the people in her village, and they attacked some volunteers from Garry's team, throwing rocks at their vehicle.

Garry's back in the U.S. for a few days trying to scrape up funding to buy protective gear for health care workers. The WHO and other groups are also providing such gear, but it's getting spread thin.

If workers start re-using gloves, gowns or goggles, they could end up spreading the virus. There's no cure and no vaccine, and the outbreak is killing 60 percent of its victims.

Volunteers are trying to get the word out about how the virus is spread, but it's tricky getting the message right.

"People have been resisting the idea that it was just not some type of curse or spirit. Or that it's people trying to keep them from eating bush meat," Garry said.

One suspicion was that people initially got Ebola by eating bush meat — apes, monkeys, bats, and rodents slaughtered for food. That's how experts now believe the AIDS virus first started circulating among people and it's possible Ebola originated there, too.

But now it's spread mostly person-to-person, Garry said. "The only thing that people hear is 'Don't eat bushmeat.' It just gets people riled up. It's not a useful message."

The porous borders in the area make things difficult, also. People, many of them in the same ethnic groups, pass freely from one country to another.

Genetic testing makes it clear this particular Ebola outbreak is being caused by a local strain that arose in West Africa. Ebola had only been seen in central Africa before, but the discovery suggests that the virus had been circulating undetected before. Hemorrhagic fevers are common in Africa — Garry's team was originally in Sierra Leone to study and fight another virus, one that causes Lassa fever.

"We're probably finding (Ebola) now because we are looking for it," he said.

Bats are another suspected source. Bats carry hundreds of viruses and carry antibodies to Ebola, which suggests they can be infected. Bat meat could be one source, but so could bat spit.

"It's mango season. The bats are eating the mangoes and the people are eating the mangoes," Garry said.

It's not an unusual idea. Researchers tracking Middle East Respiratory Syndrome virus or MERS are also checking the theory that fruit-eating bats may spread that virus in their saliva.

Zuma leads top team to AU gathering

June 23 2014/Sapa

Johannesburg - President Jacob Zuma will lead South Africa's delegation to the 23rd ordinary session of the African Union summit in Equatorial Guinea, the Presidency said on Sunday.

The summit would be held from Wednesday to Friday in Malabo, spokesman Mac Maharaj said in a statement.

"The theme of the summit is '2014 Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, Marking the 10th Anniversary of Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme'."

At the summit, the status of peace and security in Africa, the implementation of Nepad (New Partnership for Africa's Development) projects, and the African Peer Review Mechanism would be

discussed.

The African common position on the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the report of the committee of African heads of state and government on climate change, would also be deliberated upon, among other matters.

“The AU summit will also deliberate on the finalisation of the Agenda 2063 Continental Framework,” Maharaj said.

Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa would be acting president while Zuma was out the country, Maharaj added.

Zuma would be accompanied by International Relations and Co-operation Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, State Security Minister David Mahlobo, Minister in the Presidency Jeff Radebe, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Senzeni Zokwana, Public Services Minister Collins Chabane and Deputy Public Services Minister Ayanda Dlodlo. - Sapa

Egypte: verdict attendu dans le procès Al-Jazeera
le lundi 23 juin 2014/AFP

Un tribunal égyptien doit rendre lundi son verdict dans le procès de journalistes et employés de la chaîne qatarie Al-Jazeera, dont quatre étrangers, accusés de soutenir les Frères musulmans du président destitué Mohamed Morsi.

En visite au Caire à la veille de ce verdict, le secrétaire d'Etat américain John Kerry a appelé l'Egypte à préserver la liberté de la presse, estimant que la transition post-Morsi était à "un moment critique" alors que les 20 accusés dans cette affaire qui a provoqué un tollé international, dont neuf sont en détention et 11 jugés par contumace, risquent de 15 à 25 ans de prison, selon un avocat de la défense.

Seize Egyptiens sont accusés d'appartenance à une "organisation terroriste" -les Frères musulmans- et d'avoir cherché à "nuire à l'image de l'Egypte" et quatre étrangers d'avoir diffusé "de fausses nouvelles" en vue de soutenir la confrérie.

"Tout dans ce procès est une honte (...). Nous sommes traités plus mal que si nous étions des violeurs et des assassins", a lancé lors de la dernière audience début juin le journaliste égypto-canadien Mohamed Fadel Fahmy.

M. Fahmy, chef du bureau d'Al-Jazeera avant que la chaîne ne soit interdite en Egypte, son confrère australien Peter Greste et l'Égyptien Baher Mohamed sont détenus depuis près de 160 jours.

"Nous réclamons que le tribunal leur inflige la peine maximale pour punir les crimes abominables qu'ils ont commis, sans pitié ni compassion", s'est exclamé le procureur, Mohamed Barakat, en requérant contre les 20 accusés.

Les trois autres journalistes étrangers poursuivis - deux Britanniques et une Néerlandaise - ont fui l'Egypte dès les premières arrestations.

"Les accusés n'ont rien fait pour ternir l'image de l'Egypte, c'est ce procès (qui ternit) sa réputation", a argué l'un des avocats de la défense, Yousri al-Sayyid.

"J'attends un acquittement. Les audiences prouvent que mon frère est innocent", a affirmé à l'AFP Mike Greste, dont le frère avait auparavant travaillé pour la BBC et reçu plusieurs prix prestigieux.

Au hasard dans les archives

Ce verdict intervient dans un contexte de répression implacable et sanglante des pro-Morsi et deux semaines après l'élection à la présidence de l'ex-chef de l'armée Abdel Fattah al-Sissi avec 96,9% des suffrages.

Ce maréchal à la retraite dirigeait déjà de facto le pays depuis qu'il a destitué et fait arrêter M. Morsi le 3 juillet 2013 M. Morsi.

Depuis, soldats et policiers ont tué plus de 1.400 manifestants pro-Morsi, arrêté plus de 15.000 personnes, dont des centaines ont été condamnées à mort ou à la prison à perpétuité dans des procès expéditifs.

Alors qu'ils couvraient ces événements, MM. Greste et Fahmy avaient été arrêtés le 29 décembre dans une chambre d'hôtel du Caire transformée en bureau après une descente de police dans les locaux d'Al-Jazeera.

Les journalistes travaillaient sans l'accréditation obligatoire pour tous les médias.

Les accusés ont régulièrement dénoncé un procès "inique" et "politique" et des preuves "totalement fabriquées". Ils sont soutenus dans le monde entier et plusieurs médias ont lancé une campagne proclamant que "le journalisme n'est pas un crime".

Lors des audiences, le parquet a présenté comme des "preuves" des reportages de chaînes sans lien avec Al-Jazeera, des enregistrements inaudibles et même des photos de famille de journalistes, visiblement piochées au hasard dans leurs archives saisies.

L'Egypte considère Al-Jazeera comme le porte-voix du Qatar, auquel elle reproche son soutien aux Frères musulmans alors que Doha dénonce ouvertement la répression contre les pro-Morsi.

Lundi, "le monde entier surveillera l'Egypte pour voir dans quelle estime elle tient la liberté de la presse", a prévenu la chaîne satellitaire.

UN/AFRICA :

Two million children under five die in central, west Africa each year: UN
Jun 23, 2014/PTI

Abidjan: Two million children under five die each year in central and western Africa, accounting for almost a third of all deaths worldwide in that age range, the UN children's agency said on Monday.

Progress in reducing child mortality has not affected the overall number of deaths because of "enormous" population growth, said Manuel Fontaine, UNICEF's director for the region.

"Things are gradually improving. On some measures, the mortality rate for children is falling," he

told AFP.

But because of population growth, "the number of children under five who die every year from preventable causes remains unchanged" at two million, he said.

That accounts for 30 per cent of global deaths in that age group, even though only one in 10 of the world's under-fives are born in the region.

Underscoring UNICEF's concern about the booming population growth in central and western Africa, Fontaine pointed to Nigeria, currently home to 170 million people.

The population of Africa's economic powerhouse is expected to reach up to 450 million by 2050 and close to a billion by the end of the century to become the third most populous nation on the planet.

According to projections, one birth in three will occur in Africa by 2050, and by 2100 it will become one in two, Fontaine said.

It will be impossible, he said, for central and western Africa to take advantage of a "demographic dividend" in the same way as parts of Asia, which have achieved rapid economic growth thanks to huge workforces.

"They continue to have more and more children in a population that is already very young," undermining any potential economic advantage, he said.

Fontaine noted that Ghana and Senegal, two stable democracies, have kept their populations under control compared with troubled countries such as Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, Sierra Leone or the Central African Republic.

He said the answer must lie in improved education on health and family planning, particularly for girls.

US/AFRICA :

Twenty-five young African leaders attend Washington Fellowship on campus

June 22, 2014/By Christina Noriega/dailytexanonline.com

Twenty-five young leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa arrived at the University on Sunday to learn business and leadership skills for creating sustainable projects in their communities.

The Obama administration launched the Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders in 2010 with the goal of empowering the next generation of African youth to foster democracy and peace. Out of 50,000 applicants, the fellowship selected 25 fellows to participate in the University's six-week program offering entrepreneurs leadership training, networking opportunities and business courses.

Teri Albrecht, director of International Student and Scholar Services, said creating a space for African leaders to work together can help these young entrepreneurs face challenges such as corruption in business practices.

“They’re creating their own support network that they would not have had without this program,” Albrecht said. “Since the first week, they’ve been thinking of new ways and new ideas of how they can work with each other and support each other once they go back.”

Creesen Naiker, a fellow and director of the marketing and management company Vision RSM, spearheaded the YoungHeroes program, an initiative to incorporate sports into South African public school systems in 2004. Through the fellowship program at the University, Naiker hopes to develop a new community project, JumpStart, which would help prepare South Africa’s youth while they search for jobs. The unemployment rate in South Africa is at 25 percent, according to a CIA report. Naiker said young leaders in the fellowship program can inspire other young Africans to become agents of change in the communities.

“A lot of solutions to Africa’s problems are residing in Africa, sort of buried, much like the natural resources below the ground, where they’re there but the people don’t feel there’s enough freedom or democracy to activate their ideas,” Naiker said. “What each one of us being here can help do is be a little beacon of hope for how that can be done.”

Ndèye Absa Gningue, a fellow, as well as a designer and director of her clothing company, Aduuna Boul Comprendre, said she aspires to create a renewed interest in traditional African fashion and local textiles. Despite her accomplishments, she said she regularly encounters age and gender discrimination.

“Age is the first barrier,” Gningue said. “People [in Senegal] are generally quite conservative, meaning that they don’t want to give leadership to youth. Coming to gender, it’s difficult because people don’t think you can handle such a position because you’re a woman.”

Gningue said more women in Senegal, including Aminata Touré, who was appointed prime minister in 2013, are reaching higher positions. Despite this progress, she said there is still an absence of role models for youth.

“Today, the challenge I personally have is lack of leadership. In the young community, we cannot wake up and say, ‘This is the leader I want to look like,’” Gningue said. “This is why an opportunity like this is great, because you can get to find other females in the team and find other people who can help you.”

Naiker said youth in South Africa have also become frustrated by the lack of leadership in the private and public sector.

“Young people now want and expect better, but if that’s what you want and expect, then you have to step up and deliver it as well,” Naiker said.

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