



[ADF-Nalu subject to arms embargo, asset freeze for sexually abusing women and children, attacking UN peacekeepers. A United Nations Security Council committee blacklisted Ugandan group, the Allied Democratic Forces, on Monday for recruitment and use of child soldiers, killing, maiming and sexually abusing women and children, and attacks on U.N. peacekeepers.]

BURUNDI :

**Burundi : Le taux de déforestation atteint 9%**

Xinhua/Mardi 1 juillet 2014

BUJUMBURA (Xinhua) - Le taux de déforestation atteint maintenant 9% au Burundi, selon un communiqué du cabinet du ministre burundais de l'Environnement Jean-Claude Nduwayo, reçu lundi.

"En dehors des ravages causées par les feux de brousse brûlant chaque année des superficies importantes de bois, l'autre cause majeure de la déforestation au Burundi est la pression démographique exercée sur les ressources forestières suite à la recherche du bois de chauffe et de nouvelles terres cultivables", a fait remarquer le ministre Nduwayo dans le communiqué, appelant ses compatriotes à se mobiliser contre les feux de brousse, particulièrement en cette période de saison sèche au Burundi.

Les feux de brousse répétitifs, le défrichement à des fins agricoles, le surpâturage et la surexploitation de la ressource forestière, a-t-il ajouté, sont d'autres facteurs qui participent à la destruction des boisements au Burundi.

Au vu de cette situation, a-t-il révélé, le gouvernement burundais a adopté une nouvelle stratégie de gestion durable du patrimoine forestier à travers la promotion des groupements de gestion forestière

sous une coordination conjointe de l' administration communale et du département des forêts.

Il a rappelé que dans la seconde moitié des années 1970, le gouvernement burundais d'alors s'est investi dans un vaste programme de reboisement avec l'appui des bailleurs de fonds et donateurs.

C'est ainsi que le taux de couverture forestière est passé de 3% en 1978 à 7% en 1993. Ces efforts ont été contraints par la crise politico-ethnique qui a éclaté de 1993 et a occasionné la destruction d'environ 30.000 hectares de boisements.

Aujourd'hui, le Burundi dispose des forêts qui couvrent environ 172.000 hectares représentant 7% du territoire national, dont 103. 000 hectares occupées par les forêts naturelles et 69.000 hectares de forêts artificielles.

### **Burundi : 3.000 prisonniers bénéficient de l'amnistie présidentielle**

Mardi 1 juillet 2014 /Xinhua

BUJUMBURA (Xinhua) - A la veille de la célébration du 52ème anniversaire de l'indépendance du Burundi, qui sera célébré le 1er juillet, le président burundais Pierre Nkurunziza a annoncé lundi que 3.000 prisonniers vont bénéficier de l'amnistie présidentielle.

"Nous profitons de l'occasion pour annoncer aux personnes détenues que nous avons pris la décision de libérer 3.000 d'entre elles. Mais cette décision ne concerne pas les récalcitrants", a-t- il annoncé dans un discours à la nation.

Cette mesure concerne presque un tiers de la population carcérale, estimée à plus de 8.000 personnes, selon le porte- parole de la Cour Suprême, Agnès Bangiricenge.

Le président Nkurunziza a aussi profité de cette occasion pour souhaiter que les élections de 2015 soient les meilleures dans l'histoire du Burundi.

Il a mis en garde toute personne qui tentera de saboter le bon déroulement de ces élections en spécifiant qu'elle sera traitée comme ennemie de la paix, des Burundais, de la démocratie et de l' indépendance.

Il a sollicité l'appui de la communauté internationale en matière de moyens financiers et techniques, et a renouvelé sa demande de voir les observateurs déployés au Burundi pour suivre la préparation et le déroulement des élections.

RWANDA :

### **Rwanda Is Building Foundation for Peace, Prosperity - Obama**

30 June 2014/allafrica.com

By continually investing in its people, Rwanda is building a strong foundation for peace and prosperity in the years to come, US President Barack Obama has said.

"Over the last 20 years, Rwanda has emerged as a regional leader, borne by a deep commitment to strengthen economic growth for all Rwandans.

"It has improved health institutions across the country. And it provides wider access to healthcare and universal primary school education to all Rwandan children," Obama is quoted as saying in a statement released yesterday.

In the press statement, Obama sent "best wishes to Rwandans on the 52nd anniversary of your independence on July 1".

Rwanda gained Independence from Belgian colonialists on July 1, 1962 but the country continued on the path of sectarian politics and violence which would culminate in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

Over one million Rwandans were butchered in a space of 100 days before the killings were brought to an end by the then Rwanda Patriotic Army rebels led by current Rwandan President Paul Kagame.

July 1 remains a public holiday but the day is observed jointly with the country's liberation anniversary, which comes just three days later - on July 4.

Activities in the lead up to the 20th liberation anniversary kicked off weeks ago with the launch of the 'Army Week' campaign under which the men and women in uniform are closely working with local communities to construct 500 health posts across the country.

The RDF has also dispatched doctors to different parts of the country for a new phase of free healthcare services that target the vulnerable, including ailing Genocide survivors.

"Rwanda and its neighbours are turning adversity into prosperity, and I commend all Rwandans for their commitment to a brighter future," the US leader added in the statement.

"I congratulate Rwandans for the significant strides and wish you a joyous Independence Day celebration."

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

**Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Act receives attention at World Pride 2014**

June 30, 2014/fsrn.org

Toronto, Canada hosted an international conference on LGBTI affairs known as World Pride. This year, attention was given to formulating an international response to homophobic laws that have taken effect recently in Uganda. Kristin Schwartz has more from Toronto.

Toronto's Pride Parade was a festive wrap-up to World 2014, an international festival of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, queer, questioning, two-spirit and intersex communities, and their allies. World Pride involved an estimated two million participants in ten days of cultural and

educational events, parties, marches, a mass wedding, and the parade held on Sunday June 29th.

The World Pride festival also featured a human rights conference attracting delegates from around the globe. One focus of the conference was strategizing an international response to homophobic legislation in Uganda, where the government of Yoweri Museveni passed the Anti-Homosexuality Act in December 2013. The law, which took effect in March, criminalizes the so-called “promotion of homosexuality” and punishes homosexual sex with penalties that can include life imprisonment.

Atona Stanley is Executive Director and Senior Legal Advisor of the Rights Defenders and Promotion Organization in Kampala, Uganda, which provides legal assistance to gender minorities and refugees. He explained that with the passing of the law, “there’s been lots of arrests, a witch hunt, arbitrary arrests and detention, with the aim of instilling fear in the lives of gay activists, LGBT persons and human rights defenders.”

While most of those detained have been released, two men are facing charges under the new law. Moreover, Ugandan and international human rights organizations have documented evictions, denial of health care, and a sharp increase in violence against people suspected of being LGBTI. Newspapers and one media outlet have published names and addresses of 100s of people assumed to be LGBTI, and inciting violence against them.

Among those outed in this way was Richard Lusimbo, of Sexual Minorities of Uganda, who spoke on a plenary session at the World Pride Human Rights Conference: “You wake up in the morning and you’re on the front page of a tabloid with a very misleading headline like ‘How I became homo’. So literally the society around you is trained to think in a certain direction, drives them to hate you more, drives them to actually act.”

Uganda is a close ally of the United States in Africa, both militarily and economically. Last week, the United States announced that in response to discriminatory laws it will refuse visas to some Ugandan officials and withhold foreign aid to some programs.

“I’m a member of the legal committee of the Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Laws,” said Atona Stanley. “Time and again we have reiterated that yes, the travel bans, the sanctions, are good but not good enough. Leave the aid, but maybe channel it through civil society organizations, NGOs, that will directly reach the people who are the beneficiaries.”

Stanley and his organization hope to contribute to a constitutional challenge to the Anti-Homosexuality Act, and other discriminatory legislation. Meanwhile, the activist group, Sexual Minorities of Uganda – or SMUG, has taken its fight to the United States, the base for evangelical Christian organizations which been involved in missionary activity in Uganda since at least 2002.

With the assistance of the Center for Constitutional Rights, SMUG has filed a lawsuit against Scott Lively of Abiding Truth Ministries. The suit argues that the outspokenly anti-gay minister’s effort to deny equal rights to LGBTI people constitute persecutions under the Alien Torts Act. Lively’s requests to dismiss the case have thus far been unsuccessful.

**UN blacklists Ugandan group for using child soldiers**

June 30, 2014 /Reuters

ADF-Nalu subject to arms embargo, asset freeze for sexually abusing women and children, attacking UN peacekeepers

A United Nations Security Council committee blacklisted Ugandan group, the Allied Democratic Forces, on Monday for recruitment and use of child soldiers, killing, maiming and sexually abusing women and children, and attacks on U.N. peacekeepers.

Council diplomats said the group, which has been sheltering in volatile eastern Democratic Republic of Congo since the mid-'90s, would now be subjected to an arms embargo, asset freeze and travel ban under the United Nations sanctions regime imposed on Congo.

The group's leader, Jamil Mukulu, has been subjected to targeted U.N. sanctions since 2011. Uganda's military said in April that Mukulu had fled Congo to another state after a U.N.-backed offensive destroyed several ADF camps.

The ADF — also known as the ADF-National Army for the Liberation of Uganda — was created to fight the Ugandan government, but was forced across the border into Congo. U.N. officials estimate it to have between 1,200 and 1,400 fighters.

The International Crisis Group, a Brussels-based think tank, has described the ADF as "one of the oldest but least known armed groups ... and the only one in the area to be considered an Islamist terrorist organization."

A task force set up by the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo late last year to find out more about the ADF — and how it could be tackled — said the group's financing and access to weapons, ammunition and supplies needed to be cut off.

The ADF gets most of its money from the timber industry and gold, which is smuggled into Uganda and sold, U.N. experts say.

The U.N. task force said the ADF recruited children through mosques in eastern Congo and reportedly Uganda and Tanzania with false promises of jobs, English lessons and other inducements, while another source of recruitment is kidnappings.

Congolese officials hold the ADF responsible for the killing of at least 21 people, including women and a baby, in villages near Beni in North Kivu province in December. The Ugandan government says the ADF is allied to elements of Somalia's al Shabaab, an al Qaeda-linked group.

SOUTH AFRICA :

**Pistorius ne souffrait pas de trouble mental lors du meurtre, selon l'expertise**

Edité par Floriane DUMAZERT avec AFP/le 30 juin 2014

Après un mois d'interruption pour réaliser des examens psychiatriques, le procès pour juger Oscar Pistorius, accusé du meurtre de sa petite amie, reprend ce lundi. Les psychiatres et psychologues ont présenté leur rapport et concluent que "M. Pistorius ne souffrait pas d'un trouble mental" lors du meurtre.

Après un mois d'examens psychiatriques, Oscar Pistorius, revient ce lundi au tribunal de Pretoria. Le procès du champion paralympique, accusé du meurtre de sa petite amie, avait été interrompu le 20 mai, lorsque la juge sud-africaine Thokozile Masipa avait désigné trois psychiatres et un psychologue pour évaluer la santé mentale du jeune homme et vérifier si au moment du crime il

souffrait d'un trouble qui aurait pu le rendre pénalement non responsable de son acte. Afin d'assurer un procès équitable, le sportif avait pu se faire examiner dans un hôpital psychiatrique de Pretoria et obtenir un diagnostic indépendant après que la défense a suggéré que Pistorius souffrait d'un trouble anxieux généralisé remontant à l'enfance et susceptible d'avoir contribué à son geste fatal.

L'expertise visant à évaluer sa santé mentale et son degré de responsabilité pénale au moment des faits en 2013 a été présentée ce lundi au tribunal. Elle assure qu'Oscar Pistorius ne souffrait d'aucun trouble mental lors du meurtre. "M. Pistorius ne souffrait pas d'un trouble mental ou d'une infirmité qui l'aurait rendu pénalement irresponsable de l'acte dont il est accusé", ont conclu les quatre experts sollicités pour examiner l'athlète, selon leur rapport lu à la barre le procureur Gerrie Nel. "M. Pistorius était en mesure d'apprécier que ce qu'il faisait était mal", a-t-il ajouté, soulignant que les trois psychiatres et le quatrième clinicien sollicité, un psychologue, avaient abouti aux mêmes conclusions, quoique reportées dans deux rapports séparés.

### Oscar Pistorius ruled sane, as South Africa again transfixed by murder trial (+video)

By Aislinn Laing/csmonitor.com/June 30, 2014

Evaluation found Pistorius 'capable of appreciating the wrongfulness of his act' when he shot his girlfriend. Trial resumes after 30-day hiatus and defense may rest as soon as Friday.

Pretoria, South Africa — Oscar Pistorius today embarked on the final stretch of his quest for absolution in the fatal shooting of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on Valentine's Day a year ago – and South Africans have returned to constant speculation as to what the judge's verdict will finally be.

One of South Africa's biggest-ever celebrity murder trials resumed Monday at Pretoria's High Court after a 30-day respite designed to allow a psychiatric evaluation of Mr. Pistorius, one of South Africa's most celebrated athletes, at a nearby hospital.

Pistorius's evaluation came after lawyers for the sprinter – known as "Blade Runner" – was suffering from "generalized anxiety disorder" when he shot four times at Ms. Steenkamp through a locked toilet door at his home in Pretoria, telling police when they arrived that he thought he was shooting an intruder.

Yet a panel of doctors from Weskoppies Psychiatric Hospital where Pistorius has spent much of the last month, said the famous Olympic sprinter was sane when he opened fire on the toilet door – a serious blow to defense hopes that his sentence might be reduced.

If convicted of premeditated murder, Pistorius, a double amputee whose exploits running on carbon fiber struts had inspired the nation, could face 25 years to life in prison.

In May the defense began to imply that Pistorius, who openly wept in court through much of the trial, as mentally impaired on the night of the shooting.

Merryll Vorster, a forensic psychiatrist from Wits University in Johannesburg, said the amputation of Pistorius' legs as an infant, along with his family's heightened fear of crime, his parents' divorce, his mother's death when he was 14 and other genetic factors combined to bring about a disorder in the athlete.

Dr. Vorster said these factors, coupled with Pistorius' physical disability as a double-amputee, partly explained his extreme reaction in shooting at the lavatory door.

Yet doctors in their report found Pistorius, "was capable of appreciating the wrongfulness of his act and acting in accordance with his appreciating of the wrongfulness of his act," as prosecutor Gerrie Nel read to the judge today.

Had Pistorius been found incapable of thinking clearly when shooting at Steenkamp, the judge could reduce his sentence, should she find him guilty of murder or of culpable homicide, a lesser offense.

The defense today focused on proving the athlete's original story, that he shot at the toilet door thinking an intruder was behind it on the fateful Valentine's Day of 2013.

His lawyers worked to discredit testimony and assertions brought by the prosecutors – mainly on neighbors that said they heard a woman screaming before they heard shots coming out of the Pistorius townhouse (testimony that would suggest Pistorius knew who he was shooting) and arguing that the sprinter could not have moved through the bedroom and pounded on the toilet door on his stumps without losing balance (as the prosecutor alleges).

Yesterday, the court heard from Gerald Versfeld, the orthopedic surgeon who amputated the athlete's legs as a baby about the intense vulnerability he would have felt in confronting what he believed to be an intruder while walking on his stumps.

Dr. Versfeld said Pistorius would struggle to balance, particularly if he had something in his hands in the dark, and would often fall over without his prostheses on.

His evidence backed up the defense claim that Pistorius ran to put on his prostheses when he realized he'd shot Steenkamp before breaking down the door with a cricket bat. The prosecution said he acted while still on his stumps.

But in cross-examination Mr. Nel the prosecutor turned it around, asking how the athlete could manage to fire four shots and then run across the tiled bathroom floor to check his girlfriend's whereabouts, all before he stopped to put on his legs.

The trial was originally billed to last three weeks but run more than three months; yet there's been little abatement in the fascination among South Africans for its every twist and turn.

Sources close to the defense team have promised a "powerful" last witness although the witness identity remains under wraps for now.

Should Judge Thokozile Masipa decide to convict Pistorius of premeditated murder, he faces 25 years in prison. Should she chose a verdict of culpable homicide rather than murder, he could escape any obligatory prison time.

Should, as his family still believe possible, Judge Masipa acquit him based on his disability and his intense paranoia about crime, he could walk out of court to resume his athletic career.

### **South African Economy Exposed as Biggest Union Starts Strike**

By Paul Burkhardt and Kamlesh Bhuckory/bloomberg.com/ Jul 1, 2014

South Africa's biggest labor union started an indefinite strike over pay at steelmaking and engineering companies today, threatening an economy still reeling from a five-month platinum-mining walkout.

About 220,000 members of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa are seeking wage increases above 10 percent from companies including Bell Equipment Ltd. (BEL), Evraz Highveld Steel and Vanadium Ltd. (EHS) and Aveng Ltd. (AEG)'s steel unit. Employers are offering as much as 8 percent in the first 12 months of a three-year deal. Talks that began three months ago deadlocked on June 25. South Africa's consumer-price index rose 6.6 percent in May.

"The strike is indefinite," Numsa President Andrew Chirwa said on Johannesburg-based Talk Radio 702 today. "The only way to end the strike is to have a reasonable offer on the table. It's a fallacy in this country that anybody will live with any wage increase that's related to CPI."

About 10,500 companies may be affected by the strike, accounting for about 4 percent of gross domestic product, Gina Schoeman, an economist at Citigroup Inc. in Johannesburg, said yesterday. The stoppage may last at least a month, and if it does, third-quarter GDP may contract, she said. A strike by more than 70,000 platinum mineworkers caused the economy to shrink in the first three months of the year.

Numsa has organized marches in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth and East London today in what the union says will be its biggest strike.  
Preserving Jobs

The union represents more than 330,000 workers, with at least half of those employed in the metals and engineering industries. Numsa lowered its wage demand to 12 percent last week from 15 percent. The union and employers are only 211.60 rand per person a month apart, Numsa Deputy General Secretary Karl Cloete said on Talk Radio 702 today.

The Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of Southern Africa, which represents employers, served a lockout notice to labor unions last week, preventing striking laborers from entering the workplace while the wage dispute remains unresolved. The group's wage offer takes into account the need to preserve jobs and grow the industry, it said in an e-mail yesterday.

The strike will probably last two to three weeks, Gerhard Papenfus, chief executive officer of the National Employers' Association of South Africa, said on Talk Radio 702 today.

"Numsa is a responsible union," he said. "They're experienced. There might even be a surprise for a shorter strike."

Some motor manufacturers may be forced to stop production from the end of next week if part suppliers continue to be affected by the stoppage, Business Day reported today.

Africa's second-largest economy contracted 0.6 percent in the three months through March as the mineworkers strike shut shafts owned by Anglo American Platinum Ltd. (AMS), Lonmin Plc (LMI) and Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd. (IMP) Mining accounts for 5 percent of GDP and manufacturing about 15 percent.

**Woolworths South Africa gives ultimatum to Solomon Lew on DJs, Country Road offers**  
Jane Harper/Herald Sun/July 01, 2014

WOOLWORTHS South Africa has laid its cards on the table after warning billionaire rag trader Solomon Lew that it would not be raising its offer for either Country Road or David Jones.



Woolworths yesterday said its \$4-a-share bid for David Jones and \$17-a-share offer for Country Road were its “best and final” propositions.

The suitor said it wanted to provide some certainty regarding the takeover bids which came to a head after it emerged Mr Lew was holding a potential blocking stake in David Jones.

“There has been considerable uncertainty around the David Jones transaction over the last few weeks,” Woolworths chief executive Ian Moir said.

“I think everyone needs a clear and timely resolution of this situation.”

High-level advisers for Mr Lew and Woolworths met over the weekend, but the retail magnate has given no indication whether he will accept Woolworths’ offers.

Those negotiations follows a 17-year stand-off between Mr Lew and Woolworths South Africa — which is not affiliated with its Australian namesake.

Woolworths, which owns 88 per cent of fashion retailer Country Road, has unsuccessfully attempted to buy Mr Lew’s 11.8 per cent stake several times since 1997.

The long-running conflict last month threatened to derail Woolworths’ \$2.2 billion takeover bid for David Jones, when Mr Lew announced he had amassed a 10 per cent stake in the department store group.

Woolworths appeared to take the risk seriously after it lobbed its \$17-a-share offer last Tuesday.

The offer was a 21 per cent premium on the previous day’s closing price of \$14 and more than nine times the \$1.65 Mr Lew paid per share for his stake in 1997.

David Jones shareholders are due to meet on July 14 to vote on the proposal, which has been backed by the department store’s board.

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

ANGOLA :

**Lulo Project Could Become Angola's Biggest Diamond Mine Ever**

Robert Spence/miningglobal.com/01072014

ASX-listed Lucapa Diamond Company has announced a two-year plan to construct an Angolan mine that many expect will replace the country’s largest diamond mine, Catoca.

The Lulo deposit, which is 700 kilometers east of Luanda, has potential to knock Catoca out of the top spot for volume of carats extracted. Stones from the deposit are fetching \$6,533 a carat compared to the Catoca deposit, which only bring in \$100 per carat.

“Beyond doubt from what has washed off the kimberlites into the ancient river channels suggests that the prize once farmed and delivered is going to be substantial,” Lucapa managing director Miles Kennedy was quoted as saying.

“This is a long, scientific game and we’re not trying to over-promote it at this stage, but the early finds are definitely there.”

The Lucapa Diamond Company, which is based in Western Australia, is seeking a license to mine at the Lulo site above ground by the year’s end. The site may hold 500,000 carats, according to company documents.

“The potential is there” to be bigger than Catoca, Kennedy said. “There’s no other prospect in the world which has been delivering diamonds of this caliber and value. None. Not one.”

Angola, the fourth-biggest diamond producer by value, has cut taxes and reduced state ownership requirements as it works to renew an industry decimated by global financial problems.

Lucapa Diamond Company owns a controlling interest in the 3,000 –square-kilometer concession with a 40 percent stake, while Angola’s state-owned diamond company holds 33 percent and Rosas e Petales SA holds the remaining 27 percent.

AU/AFRICA :

**Un an après la chute de Morsi :Le Caire théâtre d'un attentat meurtrier**  
30/06/2014/aufaitmaroc.com

Deux officiers égyptiens ont été tués lundi dans des explosions près du palais présidentiel du Caire où des jihadistes avaient annoncé avoir posé des bombes, ceci un an jour pour jour après les manifestations monstres contre le président Mohamed Morsi destitué ensuite par l'armée.

Le Caire est en effervescence pour le premier anniversaire des manifestations qui ont conduit à la destitution du président égyptien Mohamed Morsi. Les attentats se sont multipliés depuis une semaine dans la capitale égyptienne où des jihadistes avaient annoncé avoir posé des bombes.

L'une d'elles a tué deux officiers ce lundi, près du palais présidentiel selon le ministère égyptien de l'Intérieur qui a précisé que les forces de police ratissaient les alentours afin de découvrir et désamorcer d'autres éventuels engins explosifs.

Alors que depuis quelques jours des séries d'explosions ont visé le métro de la mégalopole à l'heure de pointe et une centrale de télécommunications en construction, des violences sont à craindre jeudi 3 juillet, qui marque l'anniversaire de la destitution de Mohamed Morsi, dont les partisans qui ont appelé à manifester ce jour-là, veulent dénoncer le 'coup d'Etat militaire' du 3 juillet 2013.

En représailles à la répression qui a fait en un an plus de 1.400 morts, la moitié dans la dispersion de

sit-in pro-Morsi au Caire en août, et abouti à l'arrestation de 16.000 personnes, des groupes jihadistes ont mené des attentats, la plupart dans la péninsule du Sinaï, qui ont tué plus de 500 policiers et soldats selon le gouvernement.

C'est l'un de ces groupes, Ajnad Masr, qui a revendiqué ces derniers mois plusieurs attentats au Caire, et qui a prévenu avoir placé des bombes près du palais présidentiel, dans le nord-est du Caire. Dans un communiqué daté du 27 juin, le mouvement a assuré que les engins avaient été posés il y a près de deux semaines mais qu'il avait refusé de les faire exploser jusqu'alors pour éviter de tuer des civils.

### Third YahSat satellite to expand broadband services in Africa

July 1, 2014/ Author: Ben Uzor Jr/businessdayonline.com

YahSat, UAE-based satellite operator, says it intends to launch its third satellite extending commercial Ka-band coverage to an additional 17 countries and 600 million users, whilst expanding on Yahsat's current coverage area across the Middle East, Africa and South West and Central Asia.

Scheduled for launch in 2016, Al Yah 3 strengthens Yahsat's position as the world's eighth largest operator in terms of revenue and as a leader in innovative satellite solutions.

Through the delivery of affordable broadband via satellite, YahClick supports social and economic development across the African continent, connecting previously unserved or underserved communities to the global digital world. Al Yah 3 will use advanced technology with a unique design that optimizes cost, capacity, coverage and flexibility to deliver affordable broadband to homes and business across Africa.

The service will make internet available to users directly via a small satellite dish or indirectly via internet service providers.

It will be available in 17 nations across north and sub-Saharan Africa, adding to YahClick's current presence in Angola, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and South Sudan.

Masood Mahmood, chief executive officer, Yahsat, said: "Al Yah 3 marks another milestone for Yahsat, expanding our footprint to new markets, enhancing existing markets and reinforcing our vision to be the global partner of choice for reliable, innovative and affordable satellite solutions.

The success of both Y1A and Y1B in providing government, NGO, consumer and corporate services has given us the drive to explore new growth avenues. "We are confident in our ability to serve the world's unconnected and under-connected and Al Yah 3 expands our reach in to new African markets, as well as providing a footprint across Brazil, our first entry into South America."

"Our goal is to provide affordable and reliable broadband services via satellite to give people at home or at work, in urban and rural environments, the necessary platform to access and share information, ultimately enhancing lives and stimulating social and economic benefits," explained Masood. "The opportunity for Yahsat to evolve in other markets is significant, with a potential customer base of several hundred thousand users on Al Yah 3, Africa and Brazil are attractive opportunities for our growing operation, and we look forward to entering the market there in the near future."

Yahsat will soon be announcing its partners for the manufacture and launch of Al Yah 3, and will continue to explore options for the provision of its ground and network system.

The company will also continue discussions to finalize its distribution partnerships across Africa and Brazil which will be tailored by market to maximize value and deliver the best customer experience.

Ben Uzor Jr

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

**Insight - How Boko Haram is beating U.S. efforts to choke its financing**

By Phil Stewart and Lesley Wroughton/in.reuters.com/Tue Jul 1, 2014

WASHINGTON

(Reuters) - When Washington imposed sanctions in June 2012 on Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau, he dismissed it as an empty gesture.

Two years later, Shekau's scepticism appears well founded: his Islamic militant group is now the biggest security threat to Africa's top oil producer, is richer than ever, more violent and its abductions of women and children continue with impunity.

As the United States, Nigeria and others struggle to track and choke off its funding, Reuters interviews with more than a dozen current and former U.S. officials who closely follow Boko Haram provide the most complete picture to date of how the group finances its activities.

Central to the militant group's approach includes using hard-to-track human couriers to move cash, relying on local funding sources and engaging in only limited financial relationships with other extremists groups. It also has reaped millions from high-profile kidnappings.

"Our suspicions are that they are surviving on very lucrative criminal activities that involve kidnappings," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield said in an interview.

Until now, U.S. officials have declined to discuss Boko Haram's financing in such detail.

The United States has stepped up cooperation with Nigeria to gather intelligence on Boko Haram, whose militants are killing civilians almost daily in its northeastern Nigerian stronghold. But the lack of international financial ties to the group limit the measures the United States can use to undermine it, such as financial sanctions.

The U.S. Treasury normally relies on a range of measures to track financial transactions of terrorist groups, but Boko Haram appears to operate largely outside the banking system.

To fund its murderous network, Boko Haram uses primarily a system of couriers to move cash

around inside Nigeria and across the porous borders from neighbouring African states, according to the officials interviewed by Reuters.

In designating Boko Haram as a terrorist organization last year, the Obama administration characterized the group as a violent extremist organization with links to al Qaeda.

The Treasury Department said in a statement to Reuters that the United States has seen evidence that Boko Haram has received financial support from Al Qaeda in the Islamic Magreb (AQIM), an offshoot of the jihadist group founded by Osama bin Laden.

But that support is limited. Officials with deep knowledge of Boko Haram's finances say that any links with al Qaeda or its affiliates are inconsequential to Boko Haram's overall funding.

"Any financial support AQIM might still be providing Boko Haram would pale in comparison to the resources it gets from criminal activities," said one U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Assessments differ, but one U.S. estimate of financial transfers from AQIM was in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars. That compares with the millions of dollars that Boko Haram is estimated to make through its kidnap and ransom operations.

#### LUCRATIVE KIDNAPPING RACKET

Ransoms appear to be the main source of funding for Boko Haram's five-year-old Islamist insurgency in Nigeria, whose 170 million people are split roughly evenly between Christians and Muslims, said the U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In February last year, armed men on motorcycles snatched Frenchman Tanguy Moulin-Fournier, his wife and four children, and his brother while they were on holiday near the Waza national park in Cameroon, close to the Nigerian border.

Boko Haram was paid an equivalent of about \$3.15 million by French and Cameroonian negotiators before the hostages were released, according to a confidential Nigerian government report later obtained by Reuters.

Figures vary on how much Boko Haram earns from kidnappings. Some U.S. officials estimate the group is paid as much as \$1 million for the release of each abducted wealthy Nigerian.

It is widely assumed in Nigeria that Boko Haram receives support from religious sympathizers inside the country, including some wealthy professionals and northern Nigerians who dislike the government, although little evidence has been made public to support that assertion.

Current and former U.S. and Nigerian officials say Boko Haram's operations do not require significant amounts of money, which means even successful operations tracking and intercepting their funds are unlikely to disrupt their campaign.

Boko Haram had developed "a very diversified and resilient model of supporting itself," said Peter Pham, a Nigeria scholar at the Atlantic Council think-tank in Washington.

"It can essentially 'live off the land' with very modest additional resources required," he told a congressional hearing on June 11.

## LOW-COST WEAPONS

"We're not talking about a group that is buying sophisticated weapons of the sort that some of the jihadist groups in Syria and other places are using. We're talking AK-47s, a few rocket-propelled grenades, and bomb-making materials. It is a very low-cost operation," Pham told Reuters.

That includes paying local youth just pennies a day to track and report on Nigerian troop movements.

Much of Boko Haram's military hardware is not bought, it is stolen from the Nigerian army.

In February, dozens of its fighters descended on a remote military outpost in the Gwoza hills in northeastern Borno state, looting 200 mortar bombs, 50 rocket-propelled grenades and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

Such raids have left the group well armed. In dozens of attacks in the past year Nigerian soldiers were swept aside by militants driving trucks, motor bikes and sometimes even stolen armoured vehicles, firing rocket-propelled grenades.

Boko Haram's inner leadership is security savvy, not only in the way it moves money but also in its communications, relying on face-to-face contact, since messages or calls can be intercepted, the current and former U.S. officials said.

"They're quite sophisticated in terms of shielding all of these activities from legitimate law enforcement officials in Africa and certainly our own intelligence efforts trying to get glimpses and insight into what they do," a former U.S. military official said.

U.S. officials acknowledge that the weapons that have served Washington so well in its financial warfare against other terrorist groups are proving less effective against Boko Haram.

"My sense is that we have applied the tools that we do have but that they are not particularly well tailored to the way that Boko Haram is financing itself," a U.S. defence official said.

(Additional reporting by Tim Cocks in Abuja. Editing by David Storey, Jason Szep and Ross Colvin)

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

**EU officials visit South African citrus growers**

6/30/2014/freshplaza.com

A delegation of European officials visited South Africa last week to see for themselves the measures put in place to meet regulations on CBS. Among the delegates present were EU Ambassador (who is from the Netherlands), the Spanish Ambassador and the Dutch Agricultural Counsellor, EU delegate (Riaan De Lange), Spanish Economic Counsellor (Emilio Calvo) and Italian Commercial Attaché (Gerardo De Maio), they were invited by Department Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), Directorate International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and CGA to visit Rosle' Farm in Groblersdal.

the delegation were exposed to the myriad of requirements, certifications and audits necessary to remain a world class exporter.

After seeing all the documentation and administration required to meet export requirements the group inspected the chemical stores and observed a spray machine in the orchards. While in the orchards the group saw firsthand how fruit is selected for the ethephon testing; in addition to seeing pickers going about their business.

The Packhouse was the highlight for the visitors – with packing in full swing the advanced technology could be observed in action, while the job opportunities presented by an export Packhouse was very evident. The PPECB inspector was on hand to explain his role in phytosanitary and quality assurance. The group also observed the next steps in the testing of fruit from the orchard – dipping of fruit into ethephon and two week storage.

This was an opportunity for the South Africans to show that the citrus industry is totally committed to CBS control – extensive measures, procedures and controls are in place. This should result in a dramatic decrease in number of interceptions in the EU. On the way back to Pretoria Ambassador van de Geer commented that he was impressed by the “samewerking” between government (DAFF, DIRCO and PPECB) and industry (CGA and CRI). He was confident that he could report back that South Africa is serious about meeting EU requirements.

With many orchards requiring ethephon testing in a short period of time there is going to be frustration and unhappiness. DAFF is working tirelessly to get the job done, and PPECB's turn will start soon. According to the CGA all parties will need to work together to keep the fruit moving. "Growers have recognised that this is not only an EU requirement, but also an opportunity to manage their own risk."

The uncertainty regarding date of implementation is a concern – shipping is not a definite science and there is a worry that fruit could arrive in the EU without the necessary certification. With any new measure there will be teething problems; it is hoped that there will be some flexibility on arrival in the EU.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

## Ford plans to export 2015 Figo to South Africa from India

July 01, 2014/ by Roger Dsouza/cartrade.com

Ford exports Figo to a number of countries from India including South Africa and it has been learnt that the auto maker will launch the updated version of Figo in South Africa next year. Concept version of the 2015 Figo hatchback will be unveiled in South Africa on July 17 at Johannesburg.

The current version of Figo available for sale in South Africa is exported from India where it is manufactured at the company's Chennai plant. However, sources reveal that the new Figo could be produced at the company's upcoming plant in Sanand, Gujarat. Along with South Africa Ford also has other sub Saharan African markets on radar.

Ford offers Figo in both petrol and diesel engine options in South Africa; the petrol variants of 2015 Figo are expected to come equipped with a 1.5 litre petrol engine replacing the present 1.4 litre motor. Ford will also replace the current 1.4 litre turbo diesel motor powering Figo with the more robust 1.5 litre diesel powertrain in the upcoming version. It is likely that Ford may offer diesel range of new Figo in South Africa powered with the 1.5 litre engine only.

Besides this, a sedan version of Figo is also on cards which will make its way into the domestic market in 2015. In Brazil Figo sedan will be sold as KA+ sedan which will vary a tad from Indian version. Unlike Brazil, India-spec Figo sedan will be a sub-four-meter sedan and will replace Classic sedan. However, it remains to be seen if Ford will export Figo sedan in other markets including South Africa.

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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