



[Australia came under fire on Tuesday from health experts and rights advocates after it issued a blanket ban on visas from West African nations affected by the Ebola outbreak, making it the first rich nation to shut its doors to the region. Australia has not recorded a case of Ebola despite a number of scares, and conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott has so far resisted repeated requests to send medical personnel to help battle the outbreak on the ground.]

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

More nationalities now have to pay for tourist visa to Rwanda

By Prof. Wolfgang H. Thome, Ph.D., eTN Africa Correspondent/Oct 28, 2014

A regular source from Kigali has sent out an urgent alert that various changes to the immigration regulations in Rwanda will come into effect on November 1 of this year. Notably, German citizens will now have to pay a US\$30 visa fee from which they were previously exempt, in order to obtain a visitor pass not exceeding 30 days.

Equally affected are nationals of Australia, Israel, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America while citizens of Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines, and from Mauritius remain exempt from having to pay a visa fee for stays up to 90 days under a tourist visa. Citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo remain also exempt from paying visa fees under bilateral CEPGL arrangements, in spite of the fact that Congo DR has more recently attempted to make Rwandans entering their country pay.

Visitors from member states of the African Union will continue to get visa on arrival, but those not

exempt from visa fees will have to pay at the immigration desk on entry at Kigali International Airport, or on land borders.

Visa applications can be processed online through Rwanda's diplomatic missions abroad or else on arrival in Kigali in person.

Also available for tourists is the common East African tourist visa at a cost of US\$100 which covers Rwanda, Uganda, and Kenya and is valid for up to 90 days for foreign tourists. The same form of visa will be valid for up to 180 days for expatriates living in either of the three countries with multiple re-entries, also costing US\$100.

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

College cancels Uganda trip over anti-gay law

October 27, 2014/by Michael K. Lavers/washingtonblade.com

A Massachusetts college has suspended its annual trip to Uganda in part because of the country's Anti-Homosexuality Act.

Students and faculty from Lasell College in Newton, Mass., have since 2013 traveled to Bumwalukani, a rural village in southeastern Uganda, to work with students who are studying for their high school entrance exams. The institution partners with Arlington Academy of Hope, a school in Arlington, Va., that John and Joyce Wanda opened a decade ago after emigrating to the U.S. from Uganda.

Michael Alexander, president of Lasell College, told the Washington Blade during a telephone interview last week the controversy surrounding Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Act became "apparent on our campus" in April.

Alexander said some suggested the college cancel the trip, but it took place in May as scheduled.

"All the students still wanted to go after discussing the issue," he told the Blade. "We decided for last May to let it go with the understanding that this fall we would review it, we would get a report of that trip, we would review the situation."

Those convicted of repeated same-sex sexual acts under the Anti-Homosexuality Act that President Yoweri Museveni signed in February face life in prison. The statute also prohibits "aiding and abetting homosexuality."

Lasell College earlier this fall hosted a town meeting and a panel discussion on the Anti-Homosexuality Act. A Ugandan gay activist also spoke on the suburban Boston campus.

"We had an open discussion," said Alexander. "There's strong arguments on both sides and we went through that."

Alexander told the Blade a bisexual woman who traveled to Uganda in May said she did not experience any problems while in the country. The college nevertheless decided to cancel next year's trip because "members of our community who are gay said they would feel diminished or devalued if the institution sponsored a trip to a place that was so openly anti-gay where people are being persecuted."

"That was difficult to refute," said Alexander.

Alexander added concerns over the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and terrorist groups operating in countries that border Uganda also factored into the decision to cancel the 2015 trip. College would reconsider decision if 'conditions on the ground change'

Uganda's Constitutional Court in August struck down the Anti-Homosexuality Act, arguing it passed in the country's Parliament late last year without the necessary quorum.

Ugandan lawmakers have said they plan to reintroduce the measure.

The Obama administration earlier this year cut or redirected aid to Uganda and announced a travel ban against Ugandan officials responsible for human rights abuses. The World Bank shortly after Museveni signed the Anti-Homosexuality Act announced it had temporarily postponed a \$90 million to the Ugandan government.

Museveni earlier this month criticized Western governments over their "hostility" towards his country and calls to cut foreign aid. He nevertheless acknowledged the Anti-Homosexuality Act may adversely impact the Ugandan economy.

Alexander told the Blade the college "would be willing to consider going" to Uganda again if "conditions on the ground change."

"There is a possibility if conditions change there," he said. "We'd be willing to reconsider."

SOUTH AFRICA :

Oscar may face stiffer jail term

28 October /m.iol.co.za

Pretoria -

While still trying to come to terms with his first week in jail, Paralympian Oscar Pistorius now faces the possibility of a stiffer jail sentence.

Exactly a week after he was sentenced to a five-year jail term, of which he will have to serve a minimum of 10 months behind bars, the State has indicated it is not happy with the outcome of the trial.

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) announced on Monday that it intended to appeal against both the conviction of culpable homicide following the death of Reeva Steenkamp last year, as well as the sentence.

NPA spokesman Nathi Mncube said the prosecution team, advocates Gerrie Nel and Andrea Johnson, had been studying the judgment.

“They have been hard at work researching and also consulting with legal experts with the view of establishing whether or not there are sufficient grounds to appeal...” Mncube said.

The decision to appeal was taken on Monday and is based on a question in law – that the judge erred in concluding that Pistorius was guilty of culpable homicide and not murder.

“The merits and the demerits of the NPA’s argument in this regard will become evident when we file papers for leave to appeal.

“The prosecutors are now preparing the necessary papers to enable them to file within the next few days,” Mncube said.

Pistorius’s legal team could not be reached for comment, but it is expected that they will oppose the application for leave to appeal.

The Pistorius family did not have much to say about the State’s announcement.

“I have just spoken to Uncle Arnold (Pistorius) and his response is that the family take note of the announcement to appeal. He feels that the law should take its course,” family spokeswoman Anneliese Burgess said.

During pre-sentencing proceedings, Nel made it clear that he would not be happy with anything less than a hefty jail sentence.

He suggested 10 years in jail, arguing that a sentence that was shockingly inappropriate would send out the wrong message. “Society is looking at the court and asking ‘what will happen if I do that’,” he told Judge Thokozile Masipa.

The judge sentenced Pistorius in terms of an article in the Criminal Procedure Law which can see the athlete serving 10 months in jail, while having the rest of his sentence commuted to correctional supervision – mainly house arrest.

Johann Engelbrecht SC, one of the country’s top criminal advocates, is doubtful if the prosecution’s appeal would be successful.

“According to me, the judge did not err – both regarding conviction and sentence.”

Engelbrecht said the judge correctly arrived at her verdict by analysing all the evidence.

In his opinion she also meted out a fair sentence. “He is not a danger to society and should thus not serve a long jail sentence.”

Engelbrecht is of the opinion that the appeal, if granted by Judge Masipa, will be heard by the Supreme Court of Appeal in Bloemfontein, as it involves matters in law.

City lawyer Ferdinand Hartzenberg is also sceptical over whether the State will succeed on appeal.

“You have to look at the facts in this case. The facts led the judge to a culpable homicide

conviction.

“I don’t think she erred in law in coming to this conclusion. There was a lot of character assassination in this case, which had nothing to do with the facts.”

He feels Pistorius received a just sentence. “There are many people convicted of culpable homicide, who do not spend a day in jail. Taking into account that Pistorius is a first offender, I don’t think his sentence is shockingly inappropriate.”

Lawyer Konrad Rontgen feels the State has a 50/50 chance of succeeding. “It is all about the interpretation of the evidence,” he said.

Whether the matter goes to Bloemfontein or before a full bench (three judges) in the local division, the matter will be decided on the record of the trial proceedings and on legal arguments. No witnesses will be called to give evidence and Pistorius will not be called back to the stand. He will probably not even attend the appeal, Rontgen said.

If the State’s appeal is successful, the appeal court can decide to dish out a harsher sentence.

But the first hurdle is to apply for leave to appeal, which Judge Masipa can refuse. The next step will be to petition the appeal court directly.

Pretoria News

Senzo Meyiwa shooting: South African president leads tributes to goalkeeper

David Smith in Johannesburg/The Guardian/Monday 27 October 2014

Jacob Zuma describes nation’s shock and says no stone must be left unturned in hunt for killers of national football captain

South Africa’s president, Jacob Zuma, has led tributes to the captain of the country’s national football team, Senzo Meyiwa, who was murdered by robbers at his girlfriend’s home.

The goalkeeper, 27, was shot in the chest at the home of girlfriend Kelly Khumalo – a singer and celebrity – in a township near Johannesburg. Police offered a reward of 250,000 rand (£14,000) for information about the three suspects.

“We mourn the death of this young footballer and team leader whose life has been taken away at the prime of his career,” Zuma said on Monday. “The law enforcement authorities must leave no stone unturned in finding his killers and bring them to justice. Words cannot express the nation’s shock at this loss.”

The shooting on Sunday night came after a tumultuous week that saw former South African sporting hero Oscar Pistorius jailed for culpable homicide and athlete Mbulaeni Mulaudzi, a former world 800-metre champion, killed in a car crash.

It also highlighted a resurgence in violent crime in South Africa, which had appeared to be beating the problem when it successfully hosted the football World Cup in 2010. Official figures for April 2013 to March 2014 show the murder rate increased by 5%, attempted murder went up by 4.6%, aggravated robbery was up by 12.7%, and common robbery increased 0.6%. More than 17,000 people were murdered, an average of 47 per day.

Police said two men entered Khumalo's house in the Vosloorus township at about 8pm local time. There were seven people inside. Meyiwa was shot in the upper body after moving towards the door, where another person was struggling with one of the attackers. Meyiwa was taken to hospital but died on arrival.

A third assailant waited outside the house and all three fled on foot immediately after the shooting. They stole one mobile phone, which did not belong to Meyiwa.

The goalkeeper's friend Tumelo Waka Madlala, who was at the house during the robbery, said Meyiwa was shot while trying to stop the intruders. "As they were running away we tried to stop them and that is when they shot him at point blank range," Madlala told the Associated Press.

National football team coach Ephraim Mashaba wiped away tears at a press conference in Johannesburg as he spoke about Meyiwa. "Most of the time, these things come when you least expect," he said. "We're going to miss Senzo a lot ... never mind his saving goals.

"Don't think such a good man as Senzo can go and vanish. His spirit will live. He would always be the leader."

Irvin Khoza, chairman of Orlando Pirates, Meyiwa's popular league club based in Soweto in Johannesburg, said the team were devastated by the killing. "We had a session in the morning with the players at which we were soul-searching. A lot of sobbing and crying. It was uncontrollable."

Police have opened a multidisciplinary team investigation into the murder, and have no evidence that Meyiwa was the target of a contract killing.

General Riah Phiyega, the national police commissioner, described it as a tragic case and a "very unpalatable situation". She said two suspects were believed to be in their late 20s and one in his early 30s. One is reported to be "tall, slender, dark skinned with dreadlocks" while another is "short, dark and well-built".

She appealed to the community to assist with information that would lead to their arrest. "We believe that someone, somewhere, somehow, knows about this crime," Phiyega said.

Aware of worldwide media scrutiny, Phiyega said: "This type of loss does not augur well for our brand and image out there, so it is important for us to ensure that, when we have those type of spoilers in our society, we as police go out there and bring about their arrest and incarceration.

"We wish to assure the nation that we as police will not leave any stone unturned as we investigate this matter. We are giving it our all."

Sam Meyiwa, the player's father, told reporters he wanted the culprits arrested as soon as possible. "They [the police] must make sure they get these people who killed my son," he was quoted as saying by the South African Press Association. "I want them in jail. I want them in custody. I want to talk to them and ask them why they killed my son. It's like they killed myself."

Speaking at his house in Durban, he said he was still trying to comprehend that his son was dead. "I don't know if I'm coming or going. My heart is broken. I'm just finished."

Last week Jackson Mthembu, a high-profile MP for the governing African National Congress, was shot while withdrawing money from a cash machine. He is recovering in hospital.

Phiyega denied that the security gains made at the time of the World Cup had been squandered. “I don’t believe there [are] many losses or things to be lamented. We’ve become better as a country in our policing. We’ve improved significantly in many things.”

Police cordoned off the street leading to Khumalo’s house on Monday morning as a forensic team conducted its investigation.

Pictures of Khumalo returning home, carrying the couple’s 10-month-old daughter, Thingo, appeared in South African media. Reports said Meyiwa was married when he met Khumalo and their relationship had been on and off over the past two years.

Fikile Mbalula, minister of sport and recreation, urged anyone with relevant information to come forward. “We humbly encourage all individuals who have any information on the whereabouts of these thugs to cooperate fully with the police on the urgent apprehension of these shameless individuals,” he said.

“We urge the police to leave no stone unturned in apprehending the thugs as a matter of urgency. Our society will never be at peace until the suspects have been arrested and been brought under the wrath of the country’s legal system.”

Meyiwa captained South Africa in their last four matches in the African Nations Cup qualifiers without conceding a goal, and played on Saturday when the Pirates advanced to the semi-finals of the South African league cup.

Darren Keet, the national team’s second goalkeeper, tweeted: “When does it STOP South Africa? When do we STOP just ‘moving on’? Take control of our country for all our people.”

Dean Furman, another of Meyiwa’s team-mates, tweeted: “Beyond devastated at the loss of our captain & friend Senzo Meyiwa. Thoughts & prayers are with his family & friends at this terrible time.”

Solly Malatsi, shadow sports minister for the opposition Democratic Alliance, said: “As a captain of Bafana Bafana, he was a national symbol to every single South African. Losing him will be sorely felt by all ... no effort must be spared to track down his murderers and prosecute them.”

South African Union Breaks From A.N.C. as Alliance Frays Further

By ALAN COWELL/[nytimes.com/OCT. 27, 2014](https://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/27/south-africa-politics.html)

LONDON — A simmering dispute within South Africa’s political establishment moved closer to a showdown on Monday when the country’s biggest labor union announced that it would break with the governing African Nation Congress and form a new socialist political party.

The move by the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa, known as Numsa, dealt a significant blow to the coalition of labor and political forces that has dominated the country since the formal end of apartheid in 1994. It threatened to speed the realignment of political forces in South Africa and strengthen the government’s adversaries on the left.

But, as the country’s leaders and factions maneuvered on Monday, the full impact of Numsa’s step remained unclear.

“We decided to break with the alliance, and we resolved to form a united front and explore the

possibility for socialism in South Africa," Numsa said in a statement, quoted in news reports, that gave no further details.

South African politics has been dominated for two decades by a three-way alliance among the African National Congress, the South African Communist Party and the Congress of South African Trade Unions, of which Numsa is a member. The alliance, which grew from shared opposition to apartheid, has begun to fray.

Though Numsa withheld support from the A.N.C. in the general election in May, the party, led by President Jacob G. Zuma, won comfortably with 62 percent of the vote. Even so, it faces challenges, including charges of corruption and mismanagement that have fed popular disillusionment and provoked widespread complaints that the party has strayed from the masses it says it represents.

The election also saw a strong showing by the much smaller Economic Freedom Fighters, a party led by Julius Malema, a left-wing firebrand who once led the A.N.C.'s youth wing.

Numsa has a claimed membership of some 340,000 workers in important economic sectors like the auto industry. It has shifted to the left in recent years, after disputes with the A.N.C. over labor and economic policy.

In a statement explaining its position, Numsa said it would not voluntarily leave the labor federation, which remains allied with the ruling party.

Last week, the federation postponed a vote on whether to expel the metalworkers' union from membership.

TANZANIA :

Tanzania opposition parties team up for president

28 October 2014 Tuesday/World Bulletin/News Desk

UKAWA member parties signed a memorandum of understanding to field and support one candidate in the presidency in the 2015 election.

Members of Tanzania's main opposition bloc on Monday signed an agreement to field one candidate for president in next year's general election.

"We are very serious on this. UKAWA coalition is aiming for interest of our nation," co-chair of the UKAWA opposition coalition Freeman Mbowe told Anadolu Agency.

"Tanzania is more important than our political parties' interest," he said.

UKAWA member parties signed a memorandum of understanding to field and support one candidate in the presidency in the 2015 election.

"Opposition parties we have learned from our mistakes in previous general elections where our candidates lost to the ruling party CCM's candidates because our votes were divided," he said.

The memo, signed by the chairperson of four opposition parties, aims at defeating the ruling CCM party, which ruled Tanzania since independence in 1961, in the 2015 polls.

The signatories of the documents are Chama Cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (Chadema), the Civic United (CUF), NCCR-Mageuzi and National League for Democracy (NLD).

CUF Chairman Ibrahim Lipumba described the agreement as an "important move" to removing the ruling party from power.

"We are now teaming up to conduct a national campaign against the proposed constitution because it does not answer common people's interests," Lipumba said.

UKAWA was officially formed in April 2014 to oppose the proposed constitution, which will be put to referendum in March.

CUF Secretary General Seif Sharif Ahmad, who is also the Zanzibar first Vice President, called for a "no vote" on the proposed constitution.

"Our own audit revealed that there was a dirty game; they (the ruling party's government) did not get the two-third votes fairly from Zanzibar. We are now waiting for them in the referendum and I urge to vote no," he said.

Another UKAWA Co-Chair, James Mbatia of NCCR-Mageuzi, called on other opposition political parties to join hands with UKAWA to remove CCM from power.

Chadema Secretary General Wilrod Slaa said the coalition have agreed on seven main points, including harmonization of manifesto, one candidacy in all positions in the next election, campaigning against the proposed constitution and coordination during the coming local election in December.

Vietnam hopes to expand co-operation with Tanzania

28/10/2014/english.vietnamnet.vn

Viet Nam has always treasured its broad co-operative relations with Tanzania, President Truong Tan Sang told his Tanzanian counterpart Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete in Ha Noi yesterday.

Sang also said that the Viet Nam visit by President Kikwete and his delegation is a significant landmark that would further elevate the traditional friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries.

"Viet Nam always attaches importance to expanding mutually beneficial co-operation with African countries, including Tanzania, which has always sided with Viet Nam in its past struggles for national independence and unification as well as the current national construction and development process," Sang said.

He lauded the impressive achievements recorded by the Tanzanian people in carrying out economic reforms as well as the positive contributions they have made to peace, stability, co-operation and unity in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Economic Community (AEC).

The Tanzanian President expressed his admiration for Viet Nam's past struggles for independence

and unification and its current renewal and development achievements. He said this was a great inspiration for the people of Tanzania in their own struggle for national liberation and national development.

During their talks, the presidents informed each other about contemporary developments in their countries, assessed the results of co-operation in the recent past and agreed upon measures to further strengthen all-round co-operation.

They expressed satisfaction over positive developments in recent times and agreed to forge closer political ties by promoting exchange visits at all levels, people-to-people diplomacy and setting up twin relationships between major cities to deepen mutual understanding.

The two State leaders also agreed to facilitate effective implementation of agricultural and telecommunications co-operation projects and to direct ministries and sectors to promote co-operation in the areas of investment, trade, agriculture, fishery, education, healthcare, telecommunications and maritime transport services within the South-South co-operation framework.

President Kikwete expressed his nation's willingness to act as a bridge for Viet Nam to enter the African and East African markets. He hoped that Viet Nam can return the favour by facilitating Tanzania's entry into the ASEAN market.

Both sides agreed to organize an early meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee in 2015.

Exchanging views on regional and international issues the two presidents underlined the need for both countries to co-operate closely at regional and international forums towards building a more equal and democratic world for the sake of peace, stability, co-operation and development.

President Sang thanked Tanzania for supporting Viet Nam's election to the UN Human Rights Council for the 2014-2016 term and asked for continued support for its candidacy in other international organizations in the future. He stressed that Viet Nam always stands ready to respond positively to proposals from Tanzania.

The two leaders also stressed the importance of ensuring security, safety and freedom of navigation in the East Sea, resolving disputes by peaceful means in accordance with international law, especially the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea (DOC), and finalizing negotiations on a Code of Conduct in the East Sea (COC).

After the talks, the two leaders witnessed the signing of a maritime transport co-operation agreement.

The Tanzanian President used the occasion to invite President Sang to visit Tanzania, and the latter expressed pleasure in accepting the invitation.

Bilateral relations

Viet Nam appreciated the bilateral relationship with Tanzania, Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong told visiting Tanzanian President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete in Ha Noi yesterday.

At the meeting, the Party leader congratulated Tanzania on its achievements in building the country under the leadership of President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, who is also Chairman of the

Revolutionary Party of Tanzania (CCM).

He proposed the two countries further boost bilateral co-operation.

The General Secretary agreed to enhance connection between the two Parties, contributing to promoting friendship and co-operation between the two peoples.

The Tanzanian President told Trong about his talks with President Truong Tan Sang, saying that he would his utmost to promote friendship between the two Parties and peoples.

VNS/VNN

Tanzania to serve on ITU council from Jan

28th October 2014/SOURCE: THE GUARDIAN

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) member states yesterday elected Tanzania to serve in the ITU council for a four-year term effectively from January 2015 to December 2018.

Tanzania is among thirteen countries that will represent ITU Regional D Africa, after a very competitive election involving 17 countries vying for 13 seats to represent Africa in the UN body which oversees the World Communications.

The elections were held in Busan, South Korea where the ITU 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference is being held. 168 member states voted to elect 48 countries to seat in the ITU council. Tanzania received 110 votes out of 166 casted for the ITU Regional D Africa.

Last week, ITU member states unanimously elected Houlin Zao from China as the new ITU Secretary General, while Malcom Johnson was elected Deputy Secretary General.

The meeting also saw the election of three Directors including François Rancy of France as Director of ITU's Radio Communication Bureau, Chaesub Lee from the Republic of Korea as Director of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and Brahima Sanou of Burkina Faso as the Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau.

Speaking at the Conference after election results, minister for Communications, Science and Technology, Prof Makame Mbarawa congratulated the Tanzanian delegation for a well planned campaign strategy which spearheaded the win.

He said Tanzania should use the opportunity to participate in the ITU Council to continue the good work the country is doing in ICT by making sure Tanzania is not left out in the ICT development.

Prof John Nkoma, Director General for Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) said Tanzania will use the opportunity to share the milestones the country has achieved, such as the digital migration, regulation and licensing framework which has seen Tanzania among the first countries to migrate to digital migration in Africa.

Tanzania has been active in various ITU initiatives from its resolutions and decisions since joining the organization. Tanzania has adopted pro-ICT policies with supportive legislation to build an ICT-driven nation. Mobile money banking, digital migration and mobile phone penetration are among many Tanzania achievements.

Tanzania presented three issues at the Conference to address in the Plenipotentiary conference including support to development of human and institutional capacity, collaboration in fighting cybercrime and regulatory frameworks for achieving multilateral connectivity and universal access.

ITU's Plenipotentiary is the world's largest meeting of international policy makers from the ICT sector. Known informally as PP-14, this year's conference welcomes participants from some 175 ITU member states, sector members and observer organizations, including over 104 ministers, 35 deputy ministers and 67 ambassadors. It happens every four years to set the strategic direction of ITU and to develop policies and recommendations that address the evolving needs of the Union's members.

Issues on this year's agenda include digital inclusion and broadband rollout, broader international cooperation on ICT development, and new strategies to encourage membership and strengthen multi-stakeholder participation. For the first time, the conference will also try to reach international agreement on establishment of new global ICT development goals and targets under a new framework called 'Connect 2020'.

KENYA :

12 Kenyans from Ebola stricken Liberia to arrive Tuesday night

By JUDIE KABERIA/capitalfm.co.ke/October 28, 2014

NAIROBI, Kenya, Oct 28 – Twelve Kenyans who were stranded in the Ebola hit nation of Liberia are expected to arrive back in the country on Tuesday night.

They are expected at about 11 pm, according to the Foreign Affairs Ministry which has been coordinating their evacuation from West Africa's worst hit nation from the deadly viral disease.

Upon arrival, the Kenyans will undergo thorough screening and will be quarantined before they are allowed to join their families and friends.

Some of those expected on Tuesday evening were working with NGOs in Liberia. More than 5000 people have died of Ebola in West African countries, half of them from Liberia which remains the worst hit nation so far.

Kenya is yet to resume flight to West Africa since the Ebola outbreak, but President Uhuru Kenyatta has assured that they will resume as soon as the situation normalises.

Kenyatta last Friday assured tourists that Kenya is free of Ebola and is capable of controlling the disease in the unfortunate event of a breakout.

The Ebola outbreak which has sent cold chills across the world has remained a big challenge with reported spread of the disease in other countries including the US.

All suspected cases of Ebola in Kenya have tested negative.

Government health officials in the country have assured that Kenya is safe and that necessary measures have been put in place to screen, quarantine and handle suspected cases.

Kenyans are also being educated through advertisements on symptoms of Ebola and how to prevent it.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared the Ebola virus an international public health emergency.

Liberia has shut its borders to curb further spread of the Ebola virus and Nigeria's largest airline, Arik Air, suspended its flights to Liberia and Sierra Leone after flying a Liberian man infected with the virus into Nigeria last week.

Kenya Airways also suspended its flights to Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Since March, there have been 1,201 cases of Ebola and 672 deaths in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, according to WHO.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Échauffourées au Burkina Faso

Par Le Figaro.fr avec AFP/ le 28/10/2014

Des échauffourées ont éclaté mardi matin au Burkina Faso, à quelques heures d'une grande manifestation nationale de l'opposition pour dénoncer une prochaine révision constitutionnelle qui permettrait le maintien au pouvoir du président Compaoré.

La gendarmerie a chargé un groupe de quelques dizaines de jeunes qui avaient dressé durant plusieurs heures des barricades sur la principale route du pays, la nationale 1, qui relie Ouagadougou à Bobo Dioulasso, deuxième ville du pays.

Les forces de l'ordre ont lancé des gaz lacrymogènes sur les protestataires, qui ont riposté par des jets de pierres.

Le régiment de sécurité présidentiel, la force d'élite de l'armée burkinabè, présent sur les lieux, n'est pas intervenu, a constaté un journaliste de l'AFP. La gendarmerie a indiqué n'avoir procédé à aucune interpellation et ne déplorer aucun blessé.

L'opposition a appelé à manifester mardi contre ce qu'elle appelle un "coup d'Etat constitutionnel" à venir du président Blaise Compaoré.

L'Assemblée nationale examinera jeudi un projet de loi gouvernemental très controversé, visant à réviser l'article 37 de la Loi fondamentale pour faire passer de deux à trois le nombre maximum de quinquennats présidentiels.

Un changement qui permettrait à M. Compaoré, au pouvoir depuis 27 ans et qui devait achever en 2015 son dernier mandat, de se présenter à nouveau à l'élection présidentielle.

Blaise Compaoré, arrivé au pouvoir en 1987 par un putsch, terminera l'an prochain son deuxième quinquennat (2005-2015) après avoir effectué deux septennats (1992-2005).

L'opposition craint que ce changement constitutionnel, qui ne devrait pas être rétroactif, conduise le chef de l'Etat, déjà élu quatre fois avec des scores à la soviétique, à accomplir non pas un mais trois

mandats supplémentaires, lui garantissant quinze années de plus au pouvoir et 43 ans de règne au total.

Avec le ralliement samedi de la troisième force politique à l'Assemblée, la majorité pourrait en outre disposer du nombre de députés nécessaire - trois quarts de l'hémicycle, soit 96 parlementaires sur 127 - pour entériner directement la loi, sans passer par un référendum comme annoncé initialement.

"Pouvoir à vie "

Après des manifestations relativement pacifiques la semaine dernière à Ouagadougou, des groupes de "50 à 300" individus "agressent" depuis dimanche des députés de la majorité devant leurs domiciles, les accusant d'être "corrompus", "traîtres à la nation" ou encore "ignares" et "exigeant" d'eux qu'ils ne votent pas la révision constitutionnelle, s'est alarmé lundi soir Assimi Kouanda, le chef de file de la majorité parlementaire.

Pire, ces manifestants menacent les parlementaires d'"incendier leurs domiciles avec femmes et enfants si jamais ils (n'obtempèrent) pas à leurs injonctions", a-t-il rapporté, demandant au chef de l'Etat, par ailleurs ministre de la Défense, que "toutes les mesures" soient prises pour préserver "la sécurité" des députés.

La radicalisation des esprits est en marche, portée par des propos de plus en plus va-t-en guerre des politiciens des deux camps.

"Si une seule case d'un militant de la majorité est enflammée, normalement dans vos communes, dans vos secteurs, on ne devrait plus trouver une case de responsables de l'opposition debout", lançait samedi M. Kouanda devant des cadres provinciaux du parti au pouvoir.

Opposition et société civile, qui appelaient à la "désobéissance civile", lancent désormais des "ultimatums" et des "mises en garde" au pouvoir, appelant à la "démission" du chef de l'Etat, accusé de velléités de "pouvoir à vie".

Signe que le gouvernement prend au sérieux ces menaces, écoles et universités ont été fermées toute la semaine par crainte de débordements.

UN/AFRICA :

Top United Nations Ebola official urges nations to send medical teams to Africa

By Leigh Sales/abc.net.au/2014-10-28

The United Nations' top official charged with stopping the spread of Ebola says foreign medical teams are urgently needed to help contain the virus within Africa.

Anthony Banbury, the head of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, told 7.30 he believed authorities were "on the right track" but that more help was required.

"What we need the most are foreign medical teams, trained personnel who can not only work in Ebola treatment units but also manage them in a very strict way to ensure good infection control," he said.

The Australian Government has so far declined to send military or health workers to Africa because it says it cannot meet its duty of care to people who may become infected.

But Prime Minister Tony Abbott has not ruled the possibility out entirely.

Mr Banbury said exposure to Ebola was a concern for all aid workers but that the ability to provide

treatment in the field would soon be drastically improved with a new US-run medical facility in Liberia and a UK-led one in Sierra Leone.

"Once that's up and running, health care workers or aid responders, international or national, can be confident that they will be getting very high quality medical care if they fall ill," he said.

Mr Banbury took a veiled swipe at moves in some parts of the US to impose mandatory quarantine on health workers who have returned from working in Africa, even if they show no symptoms of Ebola.

"When foreign workers come and put their lives on the line to save the people in this region but also to protect the people back home... when they return home, [they] should be treated as heroes and not subjected to stigmatisation or unfair treatment."

Mr Banbury has recently completed a visit to the three affected nations - Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone - to assess the situation.

He said it was uncertain how quickly the disease was spreading, and the UN was not sure what the situation would be in a month's time.

Labor wants answers on humanitarian intake suspension

The Government has been criticised by the Opposition, the Greens, and the Australian Medical Association over its response to the outbreak.

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison yesterday announced the Government would stop processing visa applications from people travelling to Australia from Ebola-affected countries.

Labor's foreign affairs spokesman, Matt Thistlethwaite, raised concerns that people might decide not to declare whether they had travelled to an affected area.

"We want the Government to release the advice on which this decision has been made," he said.

"We need to be absolutely satisfied that there couldn't be any repercussions or unintended consequences from such a decision."

The Government has committed \$18 million in funds to fight the disease, but has so far stopped short of sending medical teams to West Africa.

US/AFRICA :

U.S. isolates troops, Australia slaps visa ban on Ebola-hit West Africa states

By Phil Stewart and Matt Siegel/Reuters/Tue Oct 28, 2014

WASHINGTON/SYDNEY

(Reuters) - The U.S. military has started isolating soldiers returning from an Ebola response mission in West Africa and Australia became the first rich nation to impose a visa ban on the affected countries amid global anxiety about the spread of the virus.

The latest measures, along with decisions by some U.S. states to impose mandatory quarantines on health workers returning home from treating Ebola victims in West Africa, have been condemned by health authorities and the United Nations as extreme.

The top health official in charge of dealing with Washington's response to Ebola warned against turning doctors and nurses who travel to West Africa to tackle Ebola into "pariahs".

The Ebola outbreak has killed nearly 5,000 people since March, the vast majority in West Africa, but nine Ebola cases in the United States have caused alarm, and states such as New York and New Jersey have ignored federal advice by introducing their own strict controls.

The United Nations on Monday sharply criticized the new restrictions imposed by some U.S. states on health workers returning home from the affected West African states of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

"Returning health workers are exceptional people who are giving of themselves for humanity," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's spokesman, Stephane Dujarric, said. "They should not be subjected to restrictions that are not based on science. Those who develop infections should be supported, not stigmatized."

American soldiers returning from West Africa are also being isolated, even though they showed no symptoms of infection and were not believed to have been exposed to the deadly virus, officials said on Monday.

In a statement, the Army said Chief of Staff General Raymond Odierno ordered the 21-day monitoring period for returning soldiers "to ensure soldiers, family members and their surrounding communities are confident that we are taking all steps necessary to protect their health."

The Army isolated about a dozen soldiers on their return during the weekend to their home base in Vicenza, Italy. That included Major General Darryl Williams, the commander of U.S. Army Africa, who oversaw the military's initial response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

"We are billeted in a separate area (on the base). There's no contact with the general population or with family. No one will be walking around Vicenza," Williams told Reuters in a telephone interview.

The U.S. military has repeatedly stressed that its personnel are not interacting with Ebola patients and are instead building treatment units to help health authorities battle the epidemic. Up to 4,000 U.S. troops may be deployed on the mission.

"From a public health perspective, we would not feel that isolation is appropriate," said Dr. Jeff Duchin, Washington State epidemiologist and chairman of the public health committee of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

The decision goes well beyond previously established military protocols and came just as President Barack Obama's administration sought to discourage precautionary quarantines being imposed by some U.S. states on healthcare workers returning from countries battling Ebola.

QUESTIONS OVER QUARANTINE

U.S. federal health officials on Monday revamped guidelines for doctors and nurses returning from West Africa, stopping well short of controversial mandatory quarantines.

Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), called for isolation of people at the highest risk for Ebola infection but said most medical workers returning from the three countries at the centre of the epidemic would require daily monitoring without isolation.

"At CDC, we base our decisions on science and experience. We base our decisions on what we know and what we learn. And as the science and experience changes, we adopt and adapt our guidelines and recommendations," Frieden said.

The Obama administration's new guidelines are not mandatory, and states will have the right to put in place policies that are more strict. Some state officials, grappling with an unfamiliar public health threat, had called federal restrictions placed on people traveling from Ebola-affected countries insufficient to protect Americans and have imposed tougher measures.

Australia on Monday issued a blanket ban on visas from Ebola-affected countries in West Africa to prevent the disease reaching the country, becoming the first rich nation to shut its doors to the region.

Australia has not recorded a case of Ebola despite a number of scares, and conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott has so far resisted repeated requests to send medical personnel to help battle the outbreak on the ground.

The decision to refuse entry for anyone from Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, while touted by the government as a necessary safety precaution, was criticised by experts and advocates as politically motivated and shortsighted.

Adam Kamradt-Scott, a senior lecturer at the University of Sydney's Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity, said the ban would do nothing to protect the country from Ebola while potentially having a negative public health impact by unduly raising fears and creating a general climate of panic.

Medical professionals say Ebola is difficult to catch and is spread through direct contact with bodily fluids from an infected person and not transmitted by asymptomatic people. Ebola is not airborne.

There has been a growing chorus of critics, including public health experts, the United Nations, medical charities and even the White House, denouncing mandatory quarantines as scientifically unjustified and an obstacle to fighting the disease at its source in West Africa.

"Anything that will dissuade foreign trained personnel from coming here to West Africa and joining us on the frontline to fight the fight would be very, very unfortunate," Anthony Banbury, head of the U.N. Ebola Emergency Response Mission (UNMEER), told Reuters in the Ghanaian capital Accra.

He said that health workers returning to their own countries should be treated as heroes.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

Ebola outbreak: Australia denies visas from Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone

Thomson Reuters/Oct 28, 2014

No Ebola cases in Australia to date

Australia came under fire on Tuesday from health experts and rights advocates after it issued a blanket ban on visas from West African nations affected by the Ebola outbreak, making it the first rich nation to shut its doors to the region.

Australia has not recorded a case of Ebola despite a number of scares, and conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott has so far resisted repeated requests to send medical personnel to help battle the outbreak on the ground.

The decision to refuse entry for anyone from Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, while touted by the government as a necessary safety precaution, was criticized by experts and advocates as politically motivated and shortsighted.

"The government has strong controls for the entry of persons to Australia under our immigration program from West Africa," Immigration Minister Scott Morrison told parliament on Monday.

"These measures include temporarily suspending our immigration programme, including our humanitarian program from Ebola-affected countries, and this means we are not processing any application from these affected countries."

All non-permanent or temporary visas were being cancelled and permanent visa holders who had not yet arrived in Australia will be required to submit to a 21-day quarantine period, he added.

The announcement comes amid a toughening of rhetoric from the Australian states around the disease, with at least one local government saying it was considering mandatory detention for anyone suspected of carrying the disease.

Healthcare workers in Queensland state are being asked to enter voluntary quarantine upon returning from treating Ebola patients in West Africa, but officials indicated stronger action could be taken.

"If someone doesn't enter voluntary quarantine and we have a reasonable concern then we will seek a quarantine order from a magistrate," Queensland Health Minister Lawrence Springborg said. Unduly raises fears, critic says

In the U.S., New Jersey has imposed mandatory quarantines on returning doctors and nurses amid fears of the virus spreading outside of West Africa. Federal health officials say that approach is extreme.

The Ebola outbreak that began in March has killed nearly 5,000 people, the vast majority in West Africa.

The disease has an incubation period of about three weeks, and becomes contagious when a victim shows symptoms. Ebola, which can cause fever, vomiting and diarrhea, spreads through contact with bodily fluids such as blood or saliva.

The risks to Australia are small due to its geographical isolation, said Dr Adam Kamradt-Scott, a senior lecturer at the University of Sydney's Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity.

The visa ban, he said, would do nothing to protect the country from Ebola while potentially having a negative public health impact by unduly raising fears about the disease and creating a general climate of panic.

"This is purely just a political decision," Kamradt-Scott said. "There is very little scientific evidence or medical rationale why you would choose to do this, and this is the type of politics we find starts to interfere with effective public health measures."

Australia's "narrow approach" to Ebola makes no sense from a health perspective, given that applicants for humanitarian visas are already screened and monitored for illnesses, said Graham Thom, a spokesman for Amnesty International Australia.

"There are ways and means in which people can be monitored, quarantined to insure that those who come are free from the disease," he told Reuters.

"All it does is insure that already exceedingly vulnerable people are trapped in a crisis area and sends a signal about Australia's commitment to actually dealing with this crisis in a responsible way as a member of the international community."

Ebola visa block a death sentence, African community says

By Abby Dinham/sbs.com.au/28 Oct 2014

Members of Australia's African community are angry at a federal government decision to block refugees from West Africa coming to Australia, amid concerns over the Ebola virus.

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison has confirmed the department is no longer processing any applications from West African countries affected by the virus including Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea.

William Davies came to Australia as a refugee from Liberia and said many of his friends and family members have since tried to do the same.

But for some, it's too late.

A childhood friend, his wife and six-month-old-baby all died from Ebola within two weeks.

Mr Davies described the government's block on visa applications as a death sentence

"It's like someone is in the house that is burning with fire and this person is trying to get out of this house and someone is shutting the door on them, it means there is no more hope," he said

Mr Davies spent 10 years in a refugee camp being processed, and said the current processing measures are so stringent the chance of an Ebola infected person getting to Australia is near impossible.

"You have to do Malaria test, you have to blood test, even urine test and everything you have to go

through so I think there is no one someone could come in with Ebola because of the checks," he said.

The government measures mean temporary visas granted to people in Ebola-affected countries will also be cancelled, if they haven't commenced travel, and permanent visa holders who are still in Africa will have to submit to a 21-day quarantine period.

Queensland Liberal MP Andrew Laming said if people don't fully disclose their travel they will face penalties.

"So obviously some people might be reluctant to tell us, that's an issue of breaking the law and that any declaration one makes when entering the country we have to do our best to ask those questions and get accurate answers," he said.

However Greens spokesman for health Richard di Natale says Mr Morrison shouldn't be making decisions on who needs to be quarantined.

"The Immigration Minister has gone rogue here," he said.

"He doesn't have the qualifications to make these calls and I want to know what advice he's been given by the chief health officer by the health department about whether this is an appropriate response."

Nineteen people in Queensland entered home isolation earlier this month, though none have tested positive for the disease so far.

Pamela Curr from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre has accused the government of scare-mongering.

"It's about beating the drum to frighten Australians about people from Africa, and really we would hope for better political leadership than that," she said.

The Liberian Australian community fear the new government measures will lead to a worsening of the crisis, as they say many in the West African countries rely on income sent from family members working in Australia.

William Davies said he's the only one in his family working in Australia, and every fortnight he sends money back home to help support his parents and eight siblings.

"Basically we have to send money down every fortnight, every month to sustain our family," he said,

"Some people had been hoping that if another member of their family came out to Australia, the burden would be less on them."

EU/AFRICA :

EU says Ebola fight needs bigger health staff

By Raf Casert/Associated Press/October 28, 2014

New coordinator says West Africa needs 5,000 beds

BRUSSELS — The European Union's newly appointed Ebola coordinator said Monday that new funds should be used to finance a vast increase in health staff and hospital beds to treat patients in West Africa.

Christos Stylianides said the number of beds for Ebola patients in the region should increase "from 1,000 at present to 5,000 as soon as possible" while some 40,000 staffers needed to be mobilized to set up and keep field hospitals working.

Stylianides said that overall, 244 health workers had died from a pool of 443 that had been infected by the disease as they sought to treat patients. He said that health workers "deserve all our respect and support. Their ranks need to be strengthened and protected."

The numbers he called for were largely in line with the recommendations of the World Health Organization.

Lacking an Ebola vaccine, separating the sick from the healthy is the only way to stop transmission. But that job has been made difficult because there aren't enough beds in treatment centers or knowledgeable staff to treat everyone.

The outbreak has killed nearly 5,000 people, the vast majority of them in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone and is still out of control. Stylianides acknowledged that the response was later than it should have been.

"We must be ready to admit possible mistakes," he said. "All of us underestimated the danger and the extent of the threat," he said.

The EU and its 28 member nations have committed about \$1.26 billion to fight the crisis, with about half of the pledges coming over the past week.

US Army Major General Gary J. Volesky, commander of the 101st Airborne Division, assumed command in Liberia on Saturday of the growing contingent of US forces in Liberia.

"You need our support demonstrated with action not words, and action is exactly what we are going to provide," Volesky said.

A 25-bed hospital for infected health care workers in Monrovia, Liberia's capital, should be fully operational in the first week of November. American doctors and nurses will staff it.

About 600 US service members are now in Liberia, according to the US Department of Defense. The United States has also set up Ebola testing labs in Liberia.

Continuing her trip to West Africa on Monday, Samantha Power, the American ambassador to the United Nations, said the United States will help fight Ebola over "the long haul."

Power, who traveled to Sierra Leone on Monday, met with religious leaders before leaving Guinea, where the Ebola outbreak was first identified in March. "We have got to overcome the fear and the stigma that are associated with Ebola," she told them.

Many people hide in their homes rather than seek medical care because of fears an Ebola diagnosis

is an automatic death sentence and the social stigma attached to the disease, further fueling its spread. So far, more than 10,000 people are believed to have been infected.

Accra, the capital of Ghana, has become the main staging area and headquarters for the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, or UNMEER, the UN's first-ever emergency health mission.

Fear of the disease and its stigma is also making life difficult for foreign health care workers who are returning home after a tour treating Ebola patients, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said Monday.

Some US states are beginning to require returning doctors and nurses to quarantine themselves during the disease's incubation period, which can last up to 21 days. Ban said the world depends on health workers to fight Ebola and asked government leaders not to quarantine them.

Power described a "heartbreaking change" in Guinea: No one hugs or even touches, for fear of catching the disease.

Ebola is forcing such changes of behavior throughout the region. In August, Liberia's government ordered that the body of anyone who died of Ebola in Monrovia be cremated — a practice deeply at odds with the typical funeral rites in the country.

The decree has been blamed for keeping many Liberians from seeking treatment because they want to be buried if they die.

CHINA/AFRICA :

Ebola Outbreak In China Is A Likely Scenario As A Result Of Chinese Workers In Africa: Expert
By Michelle FlorCruz /@mflorcruz/m.florcruz@ibtimes.com/ on October 27 2014

While international fears continue to rise as Ebola crosses international borders and continents, China still has not reported a confirmed case of the deadly virus. But Professor Peter Piot, the director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and one of the doctors who discovered Ebola hemorrhagic fever, said that it's only a matter of time before the high volume of Chinese working in Africa bring the disease within China's borders.

While speaking at a symposium at the University of Hong Kong, Piot, a Belgian scientist known for his research on Ebola and AIDS, who is also credited for being part of the team that discovered Ebola in 1976, said that the virus will come to China because of the number of Chinese people employed in Africa, adding that the outbreak will likely continue to expand and worsen before medicine and public health protocol catches up and controls the disease by next year.

Recent cases of Ebola have been recorded in the United States, Germany, Spain, Norway, France and the U.K., but countries in West Africa have been hit the worst. In Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, over 4,500 deaths due to Ebola have been confirmed so far, with over 9,000 cases reported.

As a measure of preventing the spread into international borders, several countries have employed new tactics to screen for the virus, ranging from the most extreme cases of shutting all borders from tourists such as in North Korea to arrival screenings in various different cities. Hong Kong's airport, which is an international hub, is mostly relying on arrival screenings to prevent Ebola from entering

its borders, but it may not be as effective as the region's officials think.

“Widespread screening [of arrivals] in airports is not that effective, to be honest.... [T]he most cost-effective method is to screen people before they take the plane,” Piot said at the symposium, according to the South China Morning Post. “In Africa, there are many Chinese working there, so that could be a risk for China in general, and I assume that one day [an outbreak of Ebola in China] will happen,” he added.

China’s government and health officials hope to take lessons from dealing with the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, pandemic that hit China in 2003 by setting a plan in place ahead of time and placing importance on honest and accurate communication and reporting between government bodies. China’s National Health and Family Planning Commission ordered local governments to conduct assessments of their preparedness for Ebola cases if and when the virus arrives. This included keeping detailed databases of people who have been in close quarters with suspected patients and having designated hospitals for care.

China sends more relief to West Africa

CCTV.com/10-28-2014

China is sending about nine million US dollars worth of supplies to West Africa to aid the relief effort for preventing the spread of Ebola.

Two shipments carrying protective clothing and goggles, sprayers and temperature monitors are expected to arrive in Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic Congo, on Wednesday. From there, the cargo will be dispersed to Mali, Ghana, Benin, Guinea-Bissau, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria.

The Chinese government also provided emergency humanitarian relief, which worth 5.6 million US dollars to the affected countries in April and August. Relief will include hospital beds, ambulances and motor-cycles.

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 28 Octobre 2014... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 28/10/2014