



(ZAMBIA, Tanzania and Kenya have signed a US\$1.2 billion power inter-connector project agreement aimed at promoting trade in electricity and to foster economic integration. The inter-governmental agreement signed yesterday sets out principles that will define the relationship among the three countries as they develop the power interconnection line.)

BURUNDI :

**Burundi: pas de comparution pour Agathon Rwasa dans le dossier Gatumba**

Par RFI /16-12-2014

Gatumba en 2004, devait comparaître pour la première fois devant le parquet près la cour d'appel de Bujumbura ce lundi 15 décembre. Mais il n'a pas été entendu finalement, sans qu'aucune explication ne lui soit donnée.

Lorsque Agathon Rwasa arrive devant l'entrée qui mène aux bureaux du parquet hier matin, il trouve porte close. Des dizaines de policiers burundais font face à un millier de sympathisants survoltés, pour qui le principal leader de l'opposition burundaise est dans la ligne de mire d'un pouvoir qui le craint. « C'est de l'injustice, s'indigne l'un d'entre eux. Ils ont peur de lui car ils ont vu qu'il est très fort, le seul capable de leur damner le pion ici au Burundi ».

Que s'est-il passé entretemps ? Un policier expliquera à l'ancien chef rebelle burundais que la convocation du parquet de Bujumbura a été reportée sine die, sans aucune explication. Il devait être entendu sur son rôle dans le massacre de 166 réfugiés congolais banyamulenge en août 2004, dans l'ouest du Burundi.

## Immunité provisoire

Agathon Rwasa rappelle qu'il est couvert, tout autant que l'actuel président burundais Pierre Nkurunziza, ancien chef rebelle comme lui et condamné à mort en son temps, d'une immunité provisoire qui court toujours. Cela cache mal dit-il, une volonté de se débarrasser de lui. « Tous les politiciens burundais, tous, sont couverts par une immunité provisoire, explique-t-il, même le président de la République. Tant que l'immunité n'est pas levée, il faut la respecter. Et s'il faut la lever, on ne doit pas la lever pour une seule personne, ça, c'est vraiment de l'inédit, ça n'arrive qu'au Burundi. »

Volonté de rendre justice à des victimes d'un horrible massacre ou instrumentalisation de la justice contre un adversaire politique que l'on craint ? Au Burundi, où l'on se prépare fiévreusement aux élections générales de 2015, beaucoup pensent que le président Nkurunziza veut se débarrasser de son principal opposant.

L'affaire Gatumba serait donc un simple prétexte ? Bujumbura s'en est toujours défendu, mais beaucoup ici le pensent. Son parti, le FNL lui a été confisqué, il est interdit de toute réunion politique depuis son retour d'exil, mais les choses seraient en train de changer, sous la pression de la communauté internationale.

## RWANDA :

### **Bharti Airtel Sells 1,100 Towers in Zambia and Rwanda to IHS**

By ET Bureau/economicstimes.indiatimes.com/16 Dec, 2014,

NEW DELHI: Bharti Airtel BSE -0.37 % has signed a deal to sell its over 1,100 telecom towers in Zambia and Rwanda to Africa's leading mobile infrastructure company IHS Holding for about Rs 2,000 crore as the world's fourth largest and India's No. 1 carrier attempts to lower its debt and turn around its loss-making operations in the continent. This is the fourth such deal by Bharti in the past five months.

The stock was trading in the red; falling over 2 per cent in intraday trade.

Shares of Bharti Airtel had gained 0.65% to close at Rs 350.05 on the Bombay Stock Exchange on Monday, a day when the exchange's benchmark index, the Sensex, slipped 0.11%. Sunil Mittal-promoted Bharti Airtel signed the deal with IHS through its international arm Bharti Airtel International (Netherlands) BV. Under the pact, Bharti will sell and lease back the towers under a 10-year renewable contract, the two companies said in a joint statement on Monday.

While the companies did not provide financial details of the deal, a person familiar with the matter said each tower is valued at Rs 1.5-2 crore, which is the market value of a tower in Africa.

"The agreements will allow Airtel to focus on its core business and customers, enable it to deleverage through debt reduction, and will significantly reduce its on-going capital expenditure on passive infrastructure in these African markets," Bharti said in the statement.

Bharti Airtel's Africa business has not made profit even four years after the telecom company entered the continent by buying Zain's Africa operations in 2010. Net loss at the Africa business rose sharply to \$124 million (about Rs 753.6 crore) in the quarter to September from \$46 million

(. `288.4 crore) a year ago.

The development follows the sale of Airtel's 4,800 towers in Nigeria to American Tower Corporation for around \$1.05 billion in November, over 3,500 towers in six other African countries to Eaton Towers in September for an undisclosed amount, and 3,100 towers located across Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo and Chad to Helios Tower Company for around \$800 million in July. The latest tower assets sale is also part Bharti's stated position to hive off non-core assets.

"This agreement will accelerate infrastructure sharing amongst operators and benefit customers in form of affordable tariffs and wider network coverage," Christian de Faria, MD & CEO - Africa at Bharti Airtel said in the statement. Issam Darwish, executive vicechairman and Group CEO of IHS, said the company has been engaged with Airtel for many years.

"Our first buy and lease back transaction with Airtel is an opportunity to expand our East African business bringing IHS' market leading energy and infrastructure management practices to a wider market," Darwish said. With this buy, IHS expanded its footprint across Africa to over 21,000 towers across five countries.

IHS customers, who are the mobile network operators, will benefit from lower operating costs, expanded network coverage and accelerated network roll out times, higher network capacity and improved quality of service, the statement added.

RDC CONGO :

#### **Naufrage d'un bateau : Plus de cent morts en RDC**

15/12/2014/KongoTimes!

129 personnes au moins ont péri dans le naufrage d'un bateau surchargé sur le lac Tanganyika, dans le Sud-Est de la République démocratique du Congo, selon un nouveau bilan officiel communiqué aujourd'hui. "Les équipes de secours ont repêché au total 129 corps" de noyés, hommes, femmes et enfants, a déclaré Laurent Sumba Kahazi, ministre des Transports de la province du Katanga. Le ministre avait indiqué samedi que le drame avait fait, jeudi, au moins 26 morts.

Pour l'heure, on compte "232 rescapés", essentiellement des hommes, a ajouté le ministre, indiquant que les secours avaient récupéré encore dans les dernières heures des gens très faibles, qui avaient réussi à s'accrocher à des bidons ou à d'autres objets flottants. "Les recherches pour secourir des personnes vivantes ou repêcher d'autres morts continuent", a précisé Sumba Kahazi.

Le drame s'est produit jeudi soir dans le nord de la province du Katanga au large de Tembwe, entre les villes de Moba et Kalemie, que ralliait le bateau avant de rejoindre Uvira, plus au nord, dans la province du Sud-Kivu.

UGANDA :

#### **Bank Of Uganda Says Economic Growth Set At 5.5Pct**

By Makula Dunbar/afkinsider.com/December 15, 2014

“The current low rates of inflation are partly attributable to a fall in food prices in 2014 — due to a good domestic harvest — lower global food prices, and subdued traded goods price inflation,” Prof. Emmanuel Tumusiime Mutebile, Bank of Uganda governor told CCTV Africa.

According to a new report, the Bank of Uganda has solidified projected economic growth for the country to be 5.5 percent. This figure is reflective of the time period ending in June 2015. While the country has seen a drop in inflation, heightened public spending to support the 2016 election is expected to once again affect prices, according to CCTV Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA :

### Celebrating reconciliation in South Africa through the arts

16 Dec 2014 /mg.co.za

See what's happening around SA in celebration of our country's reconciliation, on a holiday that has been turned around after years of bloodshed.

It's been decades since blood flowed through the Ncome River. To be precise, 176 years have elapsed since the gore of an estimated 3 000 zulu warriors stained the river a crimson red, giving it its new name, Blood River.

This historic battle between the Voortrekkers and Zulu warriors, which resulted in the defeat of Zulu Kingdom ruler Dingane kaSenzangakhona's men and his subsequent fleeing of Natal, has been commemorated and later made a public holiday.

From Dingane's Day to the Day of the Vow, which is said to have marked the prayer the Voortrekkers took ahead of the battle, December 16 has over the years been known as many things.

“Until the National Party seized power in 1948, this day was observed as Dingane's Day. After 1948 the National Party government set about politicising this day to legitimise their apparent uniqueness and historical relationship with God. Hence in 1952, Dingane's Day officially became the Day of the Covenant or the Day of the Vow,” writes website SA History.

But also on December 16 1961, the armed wing of the ANC, called Umkhonto we Sizwe, was launched. According to Umkhonto we Sizwe, on this day in 1961: “organised acts of sabotage against government installations took place, marking the emergence of Umkhonto we Sizwe [The Spear of the Nation], which was later to become the armed wing of the ANC.”

The armed wing of the liberation party said this contentious date commemorated “the military victory of the Afrikaner Voortrekkers over the African warriors on the banks of the Ncome River (re-christened by the settlers Blood River) in Natal in 1838 and is thus symbolic for the ascendancy of white power over the Blacks”.

So years later, as the democratically-elected ANC party came into power in 1994, this day was renamed Day of Reconciliation and was marked as a day for national building and unity, unlike what it's been known for: blood shed and violence.

To celebrate Reconciliation Day, the Mail & Guardian Friday looks at some events taking place in the Western and Eastern Cape, and Gauteng on the public holiday.

#### Western Cape

1. From art exhibitions to shows on ceramics and music during apartheid, Cape Town's Iziko Museums of South Africa will be open on the public holiday and entrance is free. Find out what exhibitions are on.
2. The last day of Sonar, a two-day international music and new-media art festival, is taking place on this day. The 21st Sonar event has been held in Barcelona, Tokyo and Reykjavik, to name a few, and is now being held at the Good Hope Centre. Synth-pop band Pet Shop Boys headlined the event on Monday, but some of the Tuesday acts include Sibot and Toyato, Das Kapital and Fever Trails. Find the lineup here.
3. The rolling hills and vineyard landscapes will provide the backdrop to pop group Beatenberg's Reconciliation Day performance. Taking place at Warwick Wine Estate, vocalist-guitarist Matthew Field, bassist Ross Dorkin and Robin Brink, who plays the drums, will perform their hits as part of the estate's annual Pink Picnic Party.

#### Gauteng

1. Monthly brunch and party, The WKND Social is taking place at Constitution Hill's recently launched The Hill Café. Music and socialising usually characterises this event, and this time it will be hosted at a venue adjacent to the Constitutional Court and the Old Fort Prison Complex.
2. Soweto Art and Craft Fair will open its doors on the Day of Reconciliation. Usually open on the first Saturday of every month, the market is home to proudly Sowetan and South African arts and crafts, and takes place at the Soweto Theatre.
3. Husky-voiced singer and guitarist Oliver Mtukudzi will perform at Ekurhuleni Boksburg Hotel on the public holiday.
4. Once again, the All White Jazz Concert will move guest at Morula Casino. The annual benefit jazz show will feature South African acts The Soil, Zahara and Zonke as well as Selaelo Selota, to name a few.

#### Eastern Cape

The Mquma Jazz Arts and Culture Festival will usher us into the festive season with a line-up that features local musicians, not just in jazz but in other genres as well. The line-up includes Simphiwe Dana, Zakes Bantwini, Tsepo Tshola, iFani, Berita and many more. – Staff reporter

#### TANZANIA :

Zambia signs \$1.2bn power deal with Kenya, Tanzania  
December 16, 2014/daily-mail.co.zm

#### NANCY MWAPE, Livingstone

ZAMBIA, Tanzania and Kenya have signed a US\$1.2 billion power inter-connector project agreement aimed at promoting trade in electricity and to foster economic integration. The inter-governmental agreement signed yesterday sets out principles that will define the

relationship among the three countries as they develop the power interconnection line. Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Development Christopher Yaluma said the project is envisaged to enhance security of electricity supply and stimulate investment in power generation to meet increased regional demand.

"In the case of Zambia, Zesco has secured funds for the construction of the transmission line from Pensulo to Kasama.

"The construction of the transmission line and the associated substations has reached an advanced stage and will be completed in June 2015," Mr Yaluma said.

The minister said the remaining section from Kasama to Nakonde border with Tanzania will start once the feasibility studies currently underway are completed.

"The three countries cannot fully realise the project in the absence of financial support from the development partners and other financing institutions.

"I wish to appeal to the development partners to support the project by providing the required financial support," Mr Yaluma said.

And Tanzania's Minister of Energy Sospeter Muhongo said Africa needs an investment of about US\$900 million to afford everyone access to electricity.

Professor Muhongo said there is need for governments to develop conducive and attractive laws that will provide for investment in energy.

"There is no way we can use national budget funds to invest in energy because our economies will collapse. If we invest US\$400 million from the budget, our social sectors will suffer. [That's the] reason [why] we need the private sector," he said.

Earlier, Kenya's Minister of Energy and Petroleum David Chirchir said it is time to bring the project to fruition and to foster trade among regions to develop the growing industries.

"We need to implement this project quickly and we cannot spend time on paperwork but rather scale up actual works," he said.

The signing of the agreement was witnessed by the co-operating partners and financial institutions.

KENYA :

ANGOLA :

**China gives \$2b credit line to Angolan oil**

AFP/December 16, 2014

Angola's state oil company Sonangol will benefit from a new \$US2.0 billion (\$A2.16 billion) line of credit from the Chinese Development Bank to finance new projects, the state oil company says.

"This Chinese financing will support Sonangol's plans for expansion in oil and gas," the company said in a statement, adding that among the first projects will be a new refinery in Lobito, southern Angola, next year.

The southwest African country is China's second biggest supplier of oil, accounting for some 40 per cent of the Asian giant's needs.

Since the end of Angola's civil war in 2002, Beijing has extended a total of \$US14.5 billion to the former Portuguese colony, according to the latest figures from the Chinese embassy in Luanda.

Recent years have seen China help finance major infrastructure projects including roads, rail lines and new cities.

During a state visit to Angola by Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang in May, he and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos pledged to diversify their cooperation, currently concentrated in the construction sector.

Bilateral trade totalled nearly \$US36 billion last year, according to the Chinese customs services.

The new line of credit comes at a difficult economic time for Angola, Africa's second largest oil producer after Nigeria, because of plunging world prices for crude.

AU/AFRICA :

### Drug-resistant malaria: the world's next big health crisis? - TRFN

By Astrid Zweynert/reuters.com/Tue Dec 16, 2014

MIN SAW, Myanmar (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Ka Lar Nar caught malaria for the sixth time when he was working away from home on his small farm in the jungle of south-eastern Myanmar but this time it was a lot harder to get rid of it.

After testing positive for malaria he got a three-day course of drugs from a community health volunteer in his village but even though his fever subsided, he continued to be plagued by headaches and another test still showed positive results.

Experts say his case could be an indication of drug resistance to the mosquito-borne disease, which has been spreading in Myanmar and other countries in the Mekong River basin in what threatens to become the next big global health emergency if it marches on to India and Africa.

"This was a missed opportunity," said Eisa Hamid, an epidemiologist working with the United Nations in Myanmar, who specializes in monitoring and evaluating malaria programs.

Normally, after three days of treatment the farmer's blood should have been clear of malaria-transmitting parasites.

"With any patient showing positive test results after three days of treatment, we have to suspect drug resistance, and more sophisticated blood testing should have been done as he could still carry the parasites that cause malaria in his blood."

### MALARIA'S NEW GROUND ZERO

Malaria death rates dropped by 47 percent between 2000 and 2014 worldwide but it still killed some 584,000 people in 2013, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Much of the success in fighting the disease is due to the use of combination therapies (ACTs) based on artemisinin, a Chinese herb derivative, which is now under threat as malaria parasites have been building up resistance to the drugs.

Experts say Myanmar, which has the largest malaria burden in the region, is the next frontier in the spread of resistance to artemisinin.

Positioned between the Andaman Sea and the Himalayas and bordering India and China - home to 40 percent of the world's population - Myanmar is in a unique position to halt the spread of resistance to India and Africa.

"We need to act fast to avoid a big catastrophe," said Pascal Ringwald of the WHO's Global Malaria Programme. "The consequences could be disastrous."

If the problem spreads beyond the region, history would repeat itself for a third time, as resistance to other malaria drugs developed in the area before and spread to Africa to claim the lives of millions, especially children.

But the urgency is far greater this time as new drugs to replace ACTs are not yet available.

"Artemisinin resistance could wipe out a lot of the gains we've made in containing malaria and there is nothing yet to replace it," said Nyan Sint, an epidemiologist and regional malaria officer working with the government's national malaria control program.

Before being identified in Myanmar in 2008, signs of resistance were found in Cambodia and since have also been confirmed in Thailand, Laos and Vietnam, according to the WHO.

Why parasites become resistant to drugs is not entirely clear but prolonged civil conflict, dense jungles, migration and poor quality drugs are all believed to play a part.

The human and economic cost of failing to stop the spread would be huge, according to a model published in the *Malaria Journal* last month.

The study estimated an extra 116,000 deaths per year if artemisinin resistance is not stopped. Medical costs could exceed \$32 million per year, while productivity losses from a rise in cases and deaths are estimated at \$385 million.

## WORSE THAN EBOLA?

Francois Nosten, a French malaria expert who has been studying the disease along the Myanmar-Thai border for about three decades, said drug-resistance is a quiet menace that is at risk of being overlooked as world attention focuses on the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

"You don't see people dying in the streets, like with Ebola, but the consequences of it spreading further could be a lot worse," he said.

In Myanmar the partner drugs in ACTs are still working, but they are already failing in western Cambodia, a sign that the clock is ticking fast in the fight against drug-resistance.

Some 60 percent of Myanmar's 51 million people live in malaria-endemic areas, many of them migrants and people in hard-to-reach rural areas.

The number of people dying from the disease fell sharply after ACTs became more widely available but the country still recorded 333,871 malaria cases in 2013 and 236 deaths, WHO data shows.



In Kayin state, formerly known as Karen state, much progress has been made since a January 2012 ceasefire between the government and the Karen National Union (KNU), halting one of the world's longest-running civil wars.

Villages like Min Saw used to have lots of malaria cases but better access to health care workers since the ceasefire, ACTs, rapid diagnosis tests and mass distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets led to a sharp drop.

"We used to have much higher incidence rates," said Saw Ohn Myint, a community health worker. "But we need more training and more equipment to continue to make progress."

International aid organizations have been working with ethnic groups and the government to set up a network of 1,500 village health volunteers that can dispense ACTs.

But thousands of Kayin's state 1.5 million people remain uncovered because they are in hard-to-reach areas, sometimes still controlled by armed ethnic groups restricting access for government health workers.

Mistrust following five decades of military rule in Myanmar still runs deep in Kayin state as its people recover from shelling, land mines explosions and forced displacement.

The situation is also complicated by fake or low-quality anti-malaria medicines dispensed at village shops, which instead of killing the parasites only make them stronger.

"This is a big problem," said Kayin State Health Minister Aung Kyaw Htwe. "We're trying to educate shopkeepers not to sell these drugs and people not to take them."

In Min Saw, where a package a colorful tablets purportedly containing anti-malaria drugs sells for as little as 10 cents, villagers like Ka Lar Nar say sometimes it is easier to buy medication from the "village quack" than to see a health worker.

## ALL-OUT ASSAULT

Under a \$100 million, three-year initiative in the Greater Mekong region, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has allocated \$40 million to Myanmar to fight artemisinin resistance.

Part of the plan is an all-out assault to eliminate plasmodium falciparum, the deadliest malaria parasite, as containment through bed nets, insecticides and treating only those who test positive no longer works.

Villages with a high number of infected people will be flooded with drugs to be taken by everybody, well and sick, to eliminate falciparum before treatments fail completely. The plan has received ethical clearance from the Myanmar government.

Nosten, whose team is mapping 800 villages on the Thai-Myanmar border for potential mass treatment, says elimination is a challenge, in particular as malaria is worst in remote rural areas and because of a large number of migrants in the region.

"Some of these villages are five days' walk from the nearest road," said Nosten, director of the Shoklo Malaria Research Unit in the Thai border town of Mae Sot. "But if we don't do it quickly, it will be too late and millions of people will die."

Mass drug treatments have been tried before with varying success. If the parasites are only cleared from half the population, the plan could backfire and boost resistance rather than eliminate it.

It also requires consent of the population but Nosten is confident that most villagers will participate.

Screening points have also been set up at key locations frequented by migrant workers where everyone can be tested, no matter whether they show malaria symptoms.

### Suspension du parti l'ex-président Compaoré au Burkina Faso

Reuters /le 15/12/2014

OUAGADOUGOU, 15 décembre (Reuters) - Le gouvernement de transition du Burkina Faso a annoncé lundi la suspension temporaire du parti politique de l'ancien président Blaise Compaoré et de deux groupes politiques alliés qui le soutenaient lorsqu'il était au pouvoir.

Après avoir passé 27 ans à la tête de l'Etat, Blaise Compaoré a fui son pays en octobre face à d'importantes manifestations contre sa tentative de modifier la Constitution afin de briguer un troisième mandat présidentiel.

Le ministère de l'Administration territoriale et de la Sécurité a indiqué que le Congrès pour la démocratie et le progrès (CDP) de Compaoré, ainsi que l'ADF-RDA, troisième parti du pays, et le groupe politique Fedap-BC menaient des "activités incompatibles avec la loi constituant la charte des partis et formations politiques".

Le ministère a précisé que cette suspension était temporaire.

"La sanction ne peut pas excéder trois mois et les partis peuvent contester la décision devant le tribunal administratif", a dit Sadou Sidibé, secrétaire général du ministère.

Le lieutenant-colonel Isaac Zida, commandant la garde présidentielle, s'était proclamé chef de l'Etat avant de remettre le pouvoir à un gouvernement civil qui doit conduire le pays à des élections générales l'an prochain.

UN/AFRICA :

### Latest Ebola News: UN commission wants Ebola debts to be cancelled

Dec 16, 2014/Source: PTI

Addis Ababa, Dec 15: A UN commission is asking for more debt cancellations for the three West African nations hardest hit by the Ebola virus. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa said today that it is crucial that the current Ebola health crisis not be a catalyst for FINANCIAL distress in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia. (Read: EU extends aid to fight the Ebola outbreak)

Carlos Lopez, a UN under secretary-general and the executive secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, appealed in Ethiopia today for loan forgiveness. A new report on the socio-economic impact of Ebola said the overall impact on Africa should be minimal because the three countries account for only 0.68 per cent of Africa's GDP. (Read: More than 2,000 Germans registered as volunteers to fight Ebola)

The report estimates that Ebola's impact on the continent's GDP levels in 2014 and 2015 will be only -0.19 per cent and -0.15 per cent.

## UN: Tens of thousands dead in S Sudan war

16 Dec 2014/aljazeera.com

Security Council says feuding leaders "personal ambitions" fomented crisis, as nation marks one year since start of war.

Tens of thousands of people have died in South Sudan during one year of war and the country's leaders are putting their "personal ambitions" ahead of the young nation's future, the UN secretary-general has said.

Ban Ki-moon called on the country's leaders to agree to an inclusive power-sharing arrangement that would address the root causes of the conflict and ensure accountability for any crimes committed on the battlefield.

There is no official death toll for the conflict, but Ban said "tens of thousands" of South Sudanese have died.

The UN Security Council blamed South Sudan's "man-made political, security and humanitarian catastrophe" on its feuding leaders on Monday, as the world body threatened targeted sanctions against those impeding the peace process.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, said that civilians faced a "dreadful" situation and were victims of targeted killings and looting.

"The people of South Sudan are living in a tinderbox, with emotions high, an abundant flow of weapons and with both sides recruiting fighters, often forcefully and including children," Hussein said.

War broke out in the world's newest nation a year ago on Monday, when President Salva Kiir accused his deputy Riek Machar of trying to organise a coup.

More than 1.9 million people were displaced by the fighting, the UN says, with sectarian battles pitting militias loyal to Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, against those who support Machar, an ethnic Nuer.

The two sides have signed several peace deals brokered by neighboring governments, but none has succeeded in stopping the fighting in the oil-rich country.

In recent days, government troops and armed youths have been battling in Upper Nile state, a sign that widespread violence could return now that the six-month rainy season has ended.

Rights groups say the country is locked in conflict, with the bloodshed that erupted in Juba a year ago having set off a cycle of retaliatory massacres across large swathes of the country.

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

### The EU and South Sudan

15/12/2014/eeas.europa.eu

The events of 15 December 2013 and beyond, which pushed South Sudan into armed conflict only two and a half years after independence, have drastically changed the prospects for the world's newest country. While we are marking the one-year anniversary of this disastrous conflict, there is little reason for optimism. Despite a year of negotiations under IGAD, the warring parties have failed to conclude any meaningful political agreement while civilians continue to live in a situation of extreme insecurity, which threatens to worsen in the coming weeks.

This devastating conflict is causing immense human suffering and has resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands, the displacement of two million people and appalling violations of international humanitarian law and human rights. A famine among the most vulnerable population was avoided in 2014 – thanks to international assistance - but the humanitarian situation remains dire. At least 2.5 million people will face severe food shortages in the coming months and this man-made situation has become one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world.

Beyond the suffering it causes, this conflict risks affecting a region already prone to instability. With the end of the rainy season, there is growing fear that the warring parties are preparing for major offensives. The European Union (EU) remains strongly committed to supporting international efforts to end the violence, and calls for tougher measures from the International Community to press South Sudan's leaders to resolve their differences peacefully and democratically.

#### EU response to the crisis

Guided by the EU Strategy for the Horn of Africa, the EU has been working since the independence of South Sudan in 2011 towards stabilising the state. Our response to the crisis has been consistent with this approach, and the crisis has shown all the more the importance to build a stable, pluralist, and democratic state. From the onset, the EU, through the EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa and together with the international community, has been actively engaged in trying to prevent the crisis escalating into a full-scale ethnic-based civil war.

The EU's main objectives have been to avoid neighbouring countries from being drawn into the conflict, or even brought into conflict with each other, to bring an immediate end to the fighting and initiate a political transition. We have engaged and pursued a comprehensive strategy to support the restoration of peace in South Sudan, which includes:

- Politically and financially supporting the IGAD led process and the mechanism to monitor compliance with the cessation of hostilities;
- Imposing targeted measures (visa ban and asset freeze) against (two) military leaders that are spoilers to the peace process and that have committed human rights violations;
- Working with our Member States to strengthen and refocus UNMISS mandate with a priority on Protection of Civilians;
- Supporting accountability and reconciliation through the AU Commission of Inquiry and actions

by the UN Human Rights Council;

- And reshuffling our development portfolio, adopting a stabilisation package while increasing humanitarian assistance (see below).

It is frustrating that all efforts have so far proven unsuccessful at resolving this situation. The EU Foreign Affairs Ministers met today to demonstrate their unwavering resolve and commitment to South Sudan and its people and to "call for tougher action by the international community as a whole to press all sides in the conflict to pursue the path of peaceful negotiation in the primary interest of the South Sudanese population."

The EU Ministers further called on the parties to bring the conflict to an immediate end and swiftly reach a political settlement. Both sides have undermined the process by failing to honour their commitments and excluding others from negotiations, while continuing their hostilities on the ground. It stressed that it was essential that the parties respect their commitments and desist from planned offensive.

Given this alarming lack of progress, the EU foreign Affairs Ministers called for the adoption of restrictive measures by IGAD and the AU, in coordination with the UN Security Council. The EU has imposed an arms embargo and invited all key international partners to consider this step. It called for measures to ensure that the wealth of the country is being used for the benefit of the South Sudanese people rather than to stockpile weapons of war. The EU has also expressed its readiness to consider further targeted restrictive measures against those individuals obstructing peace in South Sudan.

Leaders on both sides have a responsibility for the conflict and the power to stop it in the interest of their people. It is high time that they live up to this responsibility and usher in a new period of peace and prosperity. The EU will continue to stand beside those acting for peace.

#### EU Humanitarian Aid

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan remains critical with nearly two million people forced to flee their homes, including some 470 000 South Sudanese seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. An estimated 3.8 million people need humanitarian assistance by the end of this year. The country faces a food security crisis with 1.5 million people at immediate risk. The UN has declared South Sudan a Level 3 emergency, the most serious humanitarian crisis designation based on criteria such as its scale, urgency, complexity and the global response capacity needed to address it. South Sudan ranks second in the European Commission's Global Vulnerability and Crisis Assessment index (after the Central African Republic).

The main humanitarian needs are food, clean water, healthcare, shelter, sanitation, hygiene and protection, as well as response to epidemics. In addition, the country suffers regularly from seasonal floods and other natural disasters. Unhindered access to people in need, irrespective of their political affiliation or ethnic group, continues to be problematic. Harassment of aid workers, commandeering of assets and diversion of aid continue in parts of the country despite the warring parties' obligation to allow free and unhindered movement of all humanitarian aid and personnel. At the same time, the crisis in South Sudan has a destabilising effect on the region. The humanitarian resource situation remains critical in the countries hosting South Sudanese refugees (principally Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Sudan).

The European Commission has provided more than €110 million in 2014 to respond to the unfolding and intensifying humanitarian crisis in the country and an additional €20 million to address the urgent needs of South Sudanese refugees in the region.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the people of South Sudan, the EU (including its Member States) has so far provided more than €267 million in humanitarian assistance in 2014.

#### EU Development Assistance

In 2011 and 2013, the EU adopted a number of projects worth €85 and €185 million respectively in the sectors of agriculture, education, health and the rule of law. The EU has continued its development assistance to avoid a further deterioration of the lives of an already suffering population and undermine delivery of basic social services. However, in response to the conflict,

upheaval and violence, the EU has had to change the way in which it works and developed a comprehensive approach to the crisis by:

1. Supporting IGAD in its efforts to mediate between the warring parties and broker a peaceful solution to the conflict. €1.1 million have been mobilised from the EU's African Peace Facility to allow IGAD to set up a platform for peace talks and provide initial funding to a monitoring and verification mechanism. The EU is about to increase this support by another €1.1 million and plans to financially support the mechanism in charge of monitoring and verifying the ceasefire agreement signed between the parties.

2. Mobilising an additional €45 million from the European Development Fund (EDF): to strengthen the EU response to the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan (€30 million) and support the needs of people who fled South Sudan and are now hosted in neighbouring countries (€15 million).

3. Adjusting development programmes to the new context following a set of agreed principles, including:

□ The focus should be on the immediate term to strengthen resilience while ensuring the sustainability of the EU's action.

□ Aiming for equitable access (i.e. donors must have access to all areas, regardless of whether they are controlled by the government or the opposition).

□ Aiming for ethnic non-discrimination (i.e. to counter the ethnic connotations of the conflict, donors should be in a position to reach the whole of the population regardless of their ethnicity, gender or political affiliation, and the Government and opposition forces should facilitate such access);

□ Ensuring that basic services and food assistance are not diverted to armed groups.

As a result of this approach, the EU has (since January 2014):

(a) suspended a 'State Building Contract' initially foreseen as budget support (€80 million);

(b) started re-programming this budget support to address education and health needs in partnership with EU Member States, NGOs and international organisations;

(c) contracted a total of €68 million with the aim of supporting

□ small scale farmers in conflict and non-conflict affected areas, strengthening markets and thereby increasing agricultural productivity (€57 million)

□ alternative education for children and youth (€5 million)

□ peacebuilding and stabilisation activities (€6 million).

(d) Shifted the priorities of a number of development programmes in the rule of law sector to redirect them towards direct support to the population to increase their access to justice and carry out reconciliation processes.

(e) Started support to local authorities country-wide, helping them deliver services by strengthening their capacity to implement their budgets in an efficient and effective manner.

In addition, a significant package funded under the 2014 Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) short-term (crisis response) will be implemented in both South Sudan and Sudan with a total budget €23.5 million.

### West Africa: Le Drian Urges African Countries to Combine Efforts Against Jihadist Threat

Radio France Internationale/15 December 2014

French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian made the appeal at a security conference in Senegal on Monday.

Speaking in Senegal's capital Dakar at the opening of the first International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa, Le Drian said that cooperation must become the rule and no longer the exception.

"The threat feeds off the absence of borders and their porous nature. Southern Libya is today the most dramatic example," he said, referring to the regrouping of Islamic extremist movements since French military intervention helped drive them from towns in northern Mali in 2013.

"The situation in the south of Libya today is a source of destabilisation for the whole of the Sahel" belt of nations on the southern edge of the Sahara.

As for the brutal Nigerian sect Boko Haram, "the issue is no longer whether it's a national or regional problem. (Cross border) attacks in the north of Cameroon give us an answer. We need a joint and coordinated regional response," Le Drian said.

The sluggish nature of current cooperation efforts is illustrated by the time it is taking Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger and Chad to deploy 2,800 soldiers to the region where their borders meet, confronted with Boko Haram.

Le Drian commended the readiness of African states to deploy peacekeeping troops across the continent. But the African Union's commissioner for peace and security, Smail Chergui, said that African nations should "take up their part in financing" such efforts, alongside European countries.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

**Another former Petrobras executive charged in Brazil scandal**

By Reuters/Mon, 15th December 2014

By Caroline Stauffer

SAO PAULO (Reuters) - Brazilian prosecutors said on Monday they had filed criminal charges against another former executive at Petrobras and three other people for alleged involvement in a massive kickback scheme at the state-run oil company.

Nestor Cervero, former international director of Petrobras, is the second former executive at the company indicted since last week in a scandal that has become a major crisis for the government of recently re-elected President Dilma Rousseff.

Julio Camargo, a consultant for contractor Toyo Setal, and lobbyist Fernando Soares were charged along with Cervero with allegedly paying out \$40 million in kickbacks to political parties, executives and contractors and accepting \$13 million in bribes from Korean shipbuilder Samsung Heavy Industries <010140.KS>, the prosecutors said in a statement.

The bribes helped secure a contract on a \$586 million drillship off the coast of Africa and the scheme was repeated in the Gulf of Mexico, where Petrobras has oil exploration rights, the prosecutors said. Toyo Setal declined to comment and Samsung Heavy Industries <010140.KS> did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The companies themselves are not charged with any crimes.

Edson Ribeiro, a lawyer representing Cervero, said his client "vehemently denies the alleged criminal acts." Lawyers for Camargo and Soares could not be reached for immediate comment.

Concern over the corruption scandal is driving shares and bonds of Petrobras to multi-year lows. Preferred shares of the Rio de Janeiro-based company fell 9.1 percent on Monday, touching their lowest level since 2005.

The team of prosecutors in Parana state vowed to expand their investigation last week after accusing 36 people, including executives from six of Brazil's largest engineering firms, with forming a cartel to funnel kickbacks to the ruling Workers' Party and its allies.

Sources involved in the widening investigation have said it could include the role of foreign companies in the scandal that has caused Petrobras to delay the publication of its earnings until next year.

More charges are possible this week.

Rousseff was Petrobras' chair from 2003 to 2010, when more than 10 billion reais (\$3.9 billion) were allegedly transferred from the company to her Workers' Party and allies. She has denied any knowledge of the scheme or wrongdoing.

Cervero, who Petrobras fired in March, was indicted on charges of corruption and money laundering for alleged crimes committed between 2006 and 2012. The same prosecutors indicted Paulo Roberto Costa, another former executive at Petroleo Brasileiro SA, as the company is formally known, last Thursday.

Cervero held various positions at Petrobras and was its international director when it purchased a Pasadena, Texas, refinery which critics say it overpaid for.

Prosecutors charged Alberto Youssef, a Parana-based money changer who led investigators to the kickback scheme, with money laundering and said on Monday they are seeking to recover an additional 296 million reais for public coffers.

Sergio Moro, the federal judge in Curitiba, Parana, has accepted cases involving Costa as well as engineering executives from Engevix, OAS [OAS.UL] and Galvão Engenharia and will likely open additional cases presented by prosecutors in coming days.

### **Brics countries lead global capital flight-report**

Tue, Dec 16 2014/livemint.com

The report says that between 2003 and 2012, \$6.6 trillion was moved by crooked means out of emerging economies

Johannesburg: The Brics grouping of emerging market nations is leading the flight of illicit capital



from the developing world, according to data in a new report released this week. In its annual estimate of illegal capital flows, Washington-based think-tank Global Financial Integrity (GFI) said a record \$991 billion was siphoned in 2012 from the world's developing economies, an increase of almost 5% from 2011. Illicit capital incorporates such things as misinvoicing of trade whereby exports and imports are booked at different values to avoid taxes or to hide large transfers of money. The report said that between 2003 and 2012, \$6.6 trillion was moved by crooked means out of emerging economies, finding its way to bank accounts in the developed world or far-flung tax havens. Of that total, about \$3 trillion or almost half was diverted from the Brics group—Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. China, the world's second biggest economy, lead the way with an estimated \$1.25 trillion leaving its borders illegally over the course of the decade. Russia is the second biggest exporter of illicit money, India is fourth, Brazil seventh and South Africa is 12th, according to the report. The Brics group is trying to assert itself on the global stage as a counterweight to the traditional economic power blocks of North America, western Europe and Japan. "There are questions about the commitment to financial transparency among the Brics consortia, especially among some of the bigger members," GFI president Raymond Baker told Reuters in an interview. Overall, the amount of capital spirited out of the world's developing countries in 2012 was 1.3 times higher than the amount of foreign direct investment they received that year and topped aid flows by over a thousand-fold. Trade misinvoicing remained the biggest channel for illegally moving capital offshore, accounting for almost 78% of illicit flows. The issue of capital flight from the developing world has been in the spotlight in recent years, as the missing funds could have been spent on education, health and other key areas. This has lead to calls to tighten the noose on tax havens and tackle trade misinvoicing. Some development economists have said sub-Saharan Africa, where illicit cash outflows equal about 5.5% of its gross domestic product (GDP)—is, contrary to popular belief, actually a net exporter of capital to the rest of the world because of such activities. Reuters