



(A riot broke out Sunday night outside of a major soccer game in Egypt, with a stampede and fighting between police and fans killing at least 25 people, authorities said. The riot, only three years after similar violence killed 74 people, began ahead of a match between Egyptian Premier League clubs Zamalek and ENPPI at Air Defense Stadium east of Cairo.)

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

**1st Utility-Scale Solar Energy Project In East Africa Now Online — Rwanda's Total Grid Capacity Surges 6%**

February 9th, 2015/ by James Ayre/cleantechnica.com

The first utility-scale solar energy project in the whole of East Africa — Gigawatt Global's 8.5 gigawatt (GW) solar project at the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village — is now online.

The completion of the project boosted Rwanda's total electric grid capacity by ~6%. The project represents the first instance of a utility-scale project reaching financial closure and coming online under the Africa Clean Energy Finance program.

The \$23.7 million solar energy project was officially brought online at a ceremony on February 5th. The ceremony was attended by important public figures, such as Rwanda's Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. James Musoni, and the Chief of Staff of the US Government's Overseas Private Investment Corporation, John Morton, amongst others.

“Top quality developers like Gigawatt Global are the keys to success for President Obama’s Power Africa Initiative,” stated Elizabeth Littlefield, President and CEO of OPIC. “After OPIC provided critical early-stage support through the ACEF program, Gigawatt smoothly and swiftly brought the project online to give Rwanda enough grid-connected power to supply 15,000 homes. Gigawatt Global in Rwanda is a clear demonstration that solar will be a key part of Africa’s energy solution.”

The managing director and co-founder of Gigawatt Global, Chaim Motzen, stated: “Our project proves the viability of financing and building large-scale solar fields in sub-Saharan Africa, and we hope that this solar field serves as a catalyst for many more sustainable energy projects in the region. The speed with which this project was completed is a tribute to the strength of the Rwandan government’s institutions and their laser-focus on increasing Rwanda’s generation capacity as well as to the nimbleness of our team and partners which spanned eight countries.”

As mentioned before, this project was constructed on land owned by the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village — which was put together to support some of Rwanda’s “most vulnerable children orphaned before and after the Rwandan genocide.”

The agreement between Gigawatt Global and the Village is that the leasing fees provided by the project will be used to pay for some of the Village’s expenses. Gigawatt Global will also reportedly be providing solar energy technology training to some of the students at the Liquidnet High School on the grounds of the Village.

### Rwanda: The Rwandan Spirit Will Prevail Over Genocide Denial

The New Times (Kigali)/9 February 2015

editorial

In October last year, the BBC ran a documentary-Rwanda the untold story. The documentary was a deliberate attempt at genocide denial and revisionism.

A commission of inquiry was set up to look into the issue, but even before the findings are released, another public television broadcaster in France, French 2 on January 31, aired a breakfast show which out rightly promoted Genocide denial. Attempts aimed at belittling the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi have been on going over the last 20 years.

The forces behind this well calculated ploy are the very perpetrators of the 1994 Genocide, which left over one million innocent people dead. Many of the perpetrators are still at large trying to evade justice.

However, these attempts at genocide denial should make Rwandans even stronger and more determined to counter the evil forces.

The genocide revisionists are never going to give up on their sinister motive of belittling the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

But as Rwandans, it is within our hands to defeat this evil and defend our dignity. The Rwandan spirit should prevail just like it has done over the last 20 years.

As we gear up for the 21st commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, the Rwandan Diaspora should take a lead in countering Genocide denial. Most of the genocide deniers and their

sympathisers have found a safe haven in foreign capitals where they are given a platform to perpetrate genocide revisionism.

Like the theme of Kwibuka 2015 says, we should engage the international community on the issue of genocide denial and revisionism. Genocide denial is a crime and the international community should not allow it to continue unabated.

As we mark Kwibuka 2015 let us re-affirm our resolve to counter genocide denial because it is an insult to Rwandans and the souls of those who died during the genocide.

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

#### Uganda: Discontent Over Local Content

By Ronald Musoke/The Independent (Kampala)/8 February 2015

The Association of Uganda Oil and Gas Service Providers has up to 78 member companies and organisations plus 24,000 farmers in the districts of Hoima, Masindi, Buliisa and Nwoya. Over the last several years, these suppliers have been gearing up and talking big about reaping from the oil and gas industry. But they are now more measured in their speech and a little worried given the uncertainty surrounding the oil companies that are operating in Uganda. Emmanuel Mugarura, the CEO of the association, says the high expectations of his members are being affected. "The industry has a lot of naysayers and the government needs to address these uncertainties," he said.

He was speaking on Jan.28 as the World Bank launched a new report titled, 'Leveraging Oil and Gas Industry for the Development of a Comprehensive Private Sector in Uganda,' on Ugandans can improve their potential to tap into the oil and gas industry.

Moses Ogwal, the policy officer at the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), agreed with the aspiring local suppliers about the indecision on the part of the major stakeholders. "There is a lot of uncertainty in the sector right from the top," he said. "Why are decisions taking long; is there suspicion?" He asked.

With the conclusion of the exploration phase, expectations were high that production phase would be the highly anticipated cash cow with multi-billion dollar engineering, procurement and construction projects for the refinery and an oil pipeline. This phase, experts said, is expected to take almost 70% of activity and therefore provides the majority of jobs and service opportunities in the industry.

Apparently, the ongoing nosedive in crude oil prices on the international market - from \$140 per barrel less than a year ago to less than \$50 currently - appears to have thrown a spanner in the works as the oil companies in Uganda appear to have developed cold feet and are significantly scaling back on their activities. But others, like Mugarula, blame the government for its slow pace in decision making, which they say has left the oil companies and the potential local suppliers frustrated.

"Our members have been training workers while others are servicing loans but at the moment there is hardly any work in the sector," said Mugarula. To make matters even worse, the local suppliers still face a challenge when it comes to accessing information in relation to what the so-called 'quality standards' are in the sector.

"The reality is that we are struggling to get those businesses as the oil companies still prefer to use the service providers that they have worked with for the last 40-50 years," he said. Yet, local suppliers such as Bemuga, Threeways, Globetrotters, Transtrac etc have already proven that they have the capacity and competence to give their foreign counterparts a good run for their money.

However, Marc Dankloff, the supply chain manager at Tullow Uganda, said the industrial baseline survey that they carried out identified gaps in the industry in terms of what the oil companies need today and what they will need in future - welders, fitters, grinders, etc.

"There is a notion that oil companies have a preference to get supplies from abroad but that is not the case because it makes economic sense for the companies to get their supplies locally," he said.

The Industrial Baseline Survey (IBS) that was carried out by oil companies identified 25 sectors with high potential for national content.

These include transportation and logistics, food supply, domestic waste management, facility management, manpower agency, work safety products, road construction among others. These are the sectors that are less technical and where local capacity exists.

Unfortunately, there are only two sectors --cement and manufacturing -- among the 25 that meet the standards and have a quantity gap of less than 10%. The remaining 23 sectors face either quantity or quality gap constraints or both.

The World Bank report might not have anticipated the ongoing oil crisis on the international arena. Though officials could not say how long it will be before the industry stabilizes, hope should not be lost.

At the report launch, Sajjad Shah, the acting World Bank country manager, suggested that the current oil price slump notwithstanding, Uganda's 6.5 billion barrels of oil resources offer a unique opportunity for broader national development.

He said even before oil production commences and oil revenues start flowing in, there are benefits to be reaped from the sector such as the many opportunities that are there to supply the oil industry with various products and services.

\$145m boost:

It is for this reason that the World Bank is supporting Uganda in its efforts to develop the sector with a \$145m credit for the Albertine Region's development, focusing on infrastructure and skills.

The Bank is also engaging with the Petroleum Exploration and Production Department (PEPD) and the private sector under the competitiveness and enterprise development project besides providing technical assistance to develop a comprehensive capacity needs assessment and development plan.

The World Bank is also helping the government to develop a national content policy for the petroleum industry and there are also a number of initiatives, both by the government and the

private sector seeking to provide support for national content development. But as much as these efforts are commendable, more still needs to be done, according to the local suppliers.

The World Bank has identified lack of information on opportunities in the sector for local suppliers; an uncondusive business environment to private sector growth, challenges with accessing credit for local suppliers, inadequate infrastructure, difficulties in meeting quality standards, quantity requirements and limited business knowledge of suppliers.

In addition, oil company procurement plans are not known to suppliers in advance; tender announcements require answers within several weeks; unless suppliers have some 'connection' to the oil company/EPC, there is little public information available.

Key suggestions:

In order to increase participation of the Albertine region in the oil and gas sector, the World Bank says a package of incentives such as tax incentives and land concessions should be provided by the government to investors to set up operations in the region and use small holders as outgrowers or contract farmers.

But also a bigger impact could be achieved if operations were expanded to other towns of the region and assistance was provided to enable supply of other food categories besides fruits and vegetables. Also each investor could target a particular product or a group of products such as a milk plant, chicken farm, and beef plant while large scale investors--possibly foreign--could set-up processing facilities in the Albertine region and use local smallholders as out growers or contract farmers. The other possibility, according to the World Bank, is where a group of enterprises could be housed within an agro-industrial park area with shared infrastructure.

Kampala's importance in the national economy and availability of many businesses could also serve the oil and gas industry, and the World Bank strongly recommends that Kampala becomes the centre of national content initiatives.

However, although it is expected that Kampala-based market leaders could play the major role in supplying the oil camps with food, achievement of some level of participation of the Albertine region is highly desirable -- both from the social and economic standpoint - the report notes.

The prospect of supplying food to the oil camps appears to be a major opportunity for the region given that most of the population is involved in agriculture.

A positive example already exists in the Albertine region in the Irish-initiative, Traidlinks, a non-profit based in Hoima District. It has helped local farmers to grasp opportunities coming from the oil fields development through supplying fresh fruits and vegetables to the oil camps.

Indeed, Clovice Bright Irumba, an official from PEPD, said the government cannot achieve national content development single-handedly. The oil companies, the private sector, development partners all have a role to play.

He noted that in recent years, there has been an increased number of local enterprises to tap into the oil and gas sector; notwithstanding that the country has been in exploration phase where you don't expect significant levels of local involvement.

The objective of the study was to provide recommendations to the government on policies and strategies of leveraging the oil discoveries for development of the national economy in order to

transform the oil resources into sustained growth.

The study shares experiences from other countries particularly Malaysia and Brazil with the development of local content policies and establishment of supplier development programmes.

According to Shah, if Uganda is to reap maximum benefits from this sector, the winning combination would include creating a conducive environment for and encouraging foreign direct investment in the sector--especially in very complex sectors where local capacity may be limited or does not exist yet, and building capacity of domestic suppliers--especially in those sectors which are relatively well developed in the country.

Unfortunately, Shah said, Uganda does not have much time to prepare for the upcoming opportunities.

The construction phase during which most of the employment opportunities will be created and contracts tendered is nearing.

Shah said it is therefore critical for all of the stakeholders to work together to provide timely assistance to the local labour force and private sector.

Moses Kibirige, a trade and competitiveness expert from the World Bank, said they are moving fast to deal with the challenges.

He said the Albertine region is set to benefit from a World Bank facility of about \$70m, while another \$100m has been earmarked for the competitive and enterprise development with another \$70m set to go into the skilling project.

Vareliya Goffe, the World Bank's Finance and Private Sector Development specialist, however noted that sustainability of national content programmes would be critical.

"The last thing we want to do is support a sector that will not exist after three years.

"It is essential to ensure sustainability of national content development programmes because when the construction phase is over, business with oil firms will be reduced and local firms need to be prepared to serve other clients," she said.

Goffe said they are looking forward to a speedy implementation process for the local content policy so as to tap into the enumerated benefits from the oil and gas sector.

### **Uganda: Suing Uganda for 'Brain Drain'**

Human Rights Watch (Washington, DC)/6 February 2015

press release

By Maria Burnett

According to recent data from Uganda's parliament, the country has 1 doctor per 24,725 people and 1 nurse per 11,000 people, both well below guidelines from the World Health Organization. By contrast, Trinidad and Tobago has 12 doctors and 35 nurses per 10,000 people.

So why is the Ugandan government advertising and recruiting to send more than 250 "highly qualified" health workers to Trinidad?

The Ugandan government is not sending short-term humanitarian aid workers, or even longer-term technical assistance. It's the middleman, screening and recruiting technically skilled health workers for private sectors jobs in a middle income country.

Ugandan activists believe the recruitment violates the right to health and puts Ugandan lives in jeopardy by depleting the country of much-needed personnel.

A novel legal case filed in December 2014 is set to challenge the government's action of facilitating the "brain drain."

The Institute for Public Policy and Research, a Ugandan think tank, is seeking an injunction to stop the recruitment, arguing that it violates international human rights law and Uganda's constitution, and is an "unauthorized reversal of the national health policy objective of health system strengthening."

Ugandan health workers suffer from low wages, poor working conditions, poor infrastructure, inadequate equipment and supplies, and work overload.

In the end, health services remain out of reach of many Ugandans, and health worker retention and motivation remains a major barrier to people receiving care, especially in rural areas. One 2010 Ministry of Health study said that a doctor in Kenya earns roughly four times what a doctor in Uganda earns.

Ugandan doctors look beyond Uganda for employment already. Media reports indicated that in 2010, 250 Ugandan doctors worked in South Africa with more doctors scattered across other southern African countries.

Clearly, health workers should be able to work where they choose. But the question remains, should the government be spending money to facilitate the recruitment of its skilled health workers abroad, a move that could undermine the possibility of achieving positive health outcomes for all Ugandans?

Uganda's healthcare system is already weak. The country has high maternal mortality rates, with 17 women dying each day in childbirth. It also has rising HIV rates.

Civil society groups say that the government's recruitment is "'out of touch' with the struggle for access to life saving health services" and called on the government to stop "defying its own evidence" of how limited skilled health workers negatively impacts access to health care.

The government has defended the recruitment, stating that it will not lead to a depletion of key staff and that workers have a right to seek employment.

The case's next hearing will be March 2. It is one to watch as it winds through the courts - and in the court of public opinion in the run-up to the elections early next year.

In the meantime, Uganda's government can do much to retain skilled health staff by improving working conditions, including salaries and access to appropriate equipment. These basic steps will improve access to health care for all Ugandans.

## SOUTH AFRICA :

### Bodies of four newborn babies found in freezers in South African house

AFP/2015-02-09

South African police say they have discovered the frozen corpses of four newborn babies in freezers at a house in the South African city of Mthatha.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided a house on Saturday and made the grim discovery.

The infants were estimated to be aged between just one and two months.

"The babies were found in two freezers," police spokesman Mzukisi Fatyela said.

Police are looking for the owner of the house, a woman, who was away in Johannesburg at the time of the search.

Investigations have been launched and the bodies have been sent for autopsies.

Mthatha is one of the main towns in Eastern Cape province and lies near Qunu, the final resting place of former president Nelson Mandela.

## TANZANIA :

### Kenya Resorts to 30-Year Law to Ban Tanzania Vans

By Mercy Gakii/The Star (Nairobi)/7 February 2015

Tanzanian tour vans have been banned from crossing into the country without licences, including dropping or picking visitors at the JKIA, as Kenya reacts to her neighbour's similar stance.

Cabinet Secretary for East African Affairs, Commerce and Tourism Phyllis Kandie on Friday invoked a 1985 bilateral agreement on tourism between the two countries, which barred tour vans from cross-border operations.

This means that Tanzanian tour operators with clients using the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for arrival, transfer or departure will have to strike deals with the local counterparts to handle the process on their behalf.

Tanzanian tour vans cannot also take tourists to any Kenyan game parks or reserves, or other attractions, without requisite preapprovals under the 30-year rule.

Currently, Kenyan tour vans are not allowed to drop or pick tourists in Tanzania, including access to attraction sites, airports and airstrips.

Kandie said Kenya has resorted to the rule to "ensure fair play and safeguard Kenyan businesses".

She said Tanzania was granted a three-week window to negotiate on the bilateral agreement after her Tourism minister personal made the request, which elapsed on midnight Friday.



"The bilateral agreement will ensure fair play, since Kenya has kept her part of the deal, but has been denied the same opportunity to operate in Tanzania," Kandie said.

Kenya had decided not to implement the tough agreement in the spirit of East African Community integration, but this has proved costly at a time the tourism sector is ailing and clutching at whatever straw it is handed.

The move is expected to further strain the EAC integration process, with uptake of the single tourist visa turning out to be a mirage.

KENYA :

ANGOLA :

**Pres. Lungu to Address Special Parley Session in Angola**

Peter Adamu/zambiareports.com/February 9, 2015

Angola President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has invited President Edgar Lungu to address a special session of Parliament in addition to official invitation to witness the launch of the reconstructed Benguela railways on February 14, 2015.

President Lungu has accepted the invitation and has thanked his Angolan counterpart for the extraordinary honour, which he says will greatly cement Zambia's renewed relations with its strategic neighbour on the north western border.

President Lungu says he has humbly accepted the honour, which he says is in line with deliberate steps undertaken by the late President Michael Sata, who upon assumption of power in 2011 assigned former president Kenneth Kaunda as special envoy to fully normalise Zambia's relations with Angola.

The Head of State is pleased that his Angolan counterpart has decided to upgrade the status of the visit to include the honour of addressing a special session of Parliament, the first ever such act by a Zambian President.

The President will visit the memorial of founding President Antonio Agostinho Neto, attend full military honours and State Lunch at the Presidential Palace.

After addressing Parliament in the capital Luanda, Presidents Lungu and dos Santos will fly to Luau, Moxico Province to join DRC President Joseph Kabila for the official launch of the rehabilitated Benguela Railways.

President Lungu will unveil a plaque, get a special briefing on the Lobito Transport Corridor and later hold a joint Press Conference with Presidents dos Santos and Kabila.

In line with the re-launched Zambia Foreign Policy, the President has instructed the Minister of

Foreign Affairs to actively pursue “constructive engagements at both bilateral and multilateral levels” so that Zambia maximises economic gains and builds strategic political ties with international partners.

The President departs Lusaka for Luanda on February 13, 2015. The railway link is expected to boost trade between Zambia and Angola that share a huge border in the northwestern part of Zambia.

AU/AFRICA :

### At least 25 killed in Egypt soccer riot, official says

February 08, 2015/Associated Press

CAIRO – A riot broke out Sunday night outside of a major soccer game in Egypt, with a stampede and fighting between police and fans killing at least 25 people, authorities said.

The riot, only three years after similar violence killed 74 people, began ahead of a match between Egyptian Premier League clubs Zamalek and ENPPI at Air Defense Stadium east of Cairo. Such attacks in the past have sparked days of protests pitting the country's hard-core fans against police officers in a nation already on edge after years of revolt and turmoil.

Two security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said at least 25 people were killed.

The violence comes as police face increasing scrutiny following the shooting death of a female protester in Cairo and the arrest of protesters under a law heavily restricting demonstrations. President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has pledged to bring stability to Egypt amid bombings and attacks by Islamic militants, but also has said Egypt's emergency situation meant that some violations of human rights were inevitable, if regrettable.

Egypt's public prosecutor issued a statement ordering an investigation. After convening an emergency meeting to discuss the violence, the Cabinet announced that it was postponing upcoming soccer matches until further notice, Egypt's state television said.

What caused the violence wasn't immediately clear. Security officials said Zamalek fans tried to force their way into the match without tickets, sparking clashes. Fans have only recently been allowed back at matches and the Interior Ministry planned to let only 10,000 fans into the stadium, which has a capacity of about 30,000, the officials said.

Zamalek fans, known as "White Knights," posted on their group's official Facebook page that the violence began because authorities only opened one narrow, barbed-wire door to let them in. They said that sparked pushing and shoving that later saw police officers fire tear gas and birdshot.

A fan who tried to attend the game, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity out of fear of being targeted by police, said that the stampede was caused by police who fired tear gas at the tightly packed crowd.

"Those who fell down could not get back up again," the man said.

The Zamalek fan group later posted pictures on Facebook it claimed were of dead fans, including

the names of 22 people it said had been killed. The AP could not immediately verify the images.

Egypt's hard-core soccer fans, known as Ultras, frequently clash with police inside and outside of stadiums. They are deeply politicized and many participated in the country's 2011 uprising that forced out President Hosni Mubarak. Many consider them as one of the most organized movements in Egypt after the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood, which the government later outlawed as a terrorist organization following the 2013 military overthrow of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi.

The deadliest riot in Egypt soccer history came during a 2012 match when Port Said's Al-Masry team hosted Cairo's Al-Ahly. That riot, at the time the deadliest worldwide since 1996, killed 74 people, mostly Al-Ahly fans.

Two police officers later received 15-year prison sentences for gross negligence and failure to stop the Port Said killings, a rare incident of security officials being held responsible for deaths in the country. Seven other officers were acquitted, angering soccer fans who wanted more police officers to be held accountable for the incident and other episodes of violence.

In response, angry fans burned down the headquarters of Egypt's Football Association, also protesting its decision to resume matches before bringing those behind that 2012 riot to justice. They've also protested and fought officers outside of the country's Interior Ministry, which oversees police in the country.

UN/AFRICA :

**WHO: Ebola death toll surpasses 9,000 in West Africa**

Editor : isabella hart/nationalcolumn.com/07 February 2015

UN health agency says at least 22,525 people infected with deadly virus in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea.

The death toll from the Ebola outbreak in three West African countries reached 9,004, the World Health Organization said in a statement Friday.

The U.N. health agency said that at least 22,525 people were infected with the deadly virus in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea.

Sierra Leone had the highest number of cases, with 10,792 patients reported to date.

The highest Ebola death toll was in Liberia standing at 3,746, which is more than the 3,301 recorded deaths in Sierra Leone. In Guinea, 1,957 deaths were reported.

The number of new Ebola cases increased in all three West African countries in the last week of January for the first time in 2015, WHO said Wednesday.

There were 124 new confirmed Ebola cases in the last week of January, with 80 cases in Sierra Leone, 39 in Guinea and five in Liberia, WHO added.

The organization also had reported that 488 health workers died after being exposed to the deadly virus.

US/AFRICA :

**PunditFact: U.S. vaccination rate trails 16 African nations (w/video)**

By Katie Sanders and Lauren Carroll, Times Staff Writers/tampabay.com/Sunday, February 8, 2015

Sunday show talking heads continued to debate vaccinations of children — specifically, how there should be no debate — as they analyzed political missteps from the past week.

BBC World News America anchor Katherine "Katty" Kay made a startling comparison to highlight how Americans have been less diligent in making sure their children are properly immunized.

"There are countries in Africa where they have higher vaccination rates than here in the United States," Kay said on NBC's Meet the Press. "Because when people really need it, and they see the effects that measles can have on their communities, they will make sure that their children vaccinate."

On the comparison, Kay is correct. Her claim rates True.

The World Health Organization — which recommends infants be vaccinated with at least one dose of the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine before their first birthday — maintains immunization rates for the measles vaccine among 1-year-olds by country. The most recent data is for 2013.

There were 16 African countries that beat the U.S. rate of 91 percent for the MMR vaccine in 2013, according to the WHO data. (The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the measles immunization rate in the United States is 91.9 percent. But the WHO and CDC measure the statistic in different ways, and as you'll see, it doesn't make a difference.)

The countries that rate 92 percent or higher in Africa are Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Egypt, Eritrea, Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Mauritius, Morocco, Rwanda, Seychelles, Tanzania, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

Of course, many African countries facing steep impoverished conditions have substantially lower rates, such as the Central African Republic (25 percent), Chad (59 percent), Equatorial Guinea (42 percent), Ethiopia (62 percent), Nigeria (59 percent), South Sudan (30 percent) and South Africa (66 percent).

Still, Dr. Cathy Troisi, infectious disease epidemiologist at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health, said the nearly universal use of the measles vaccine in some parts of Africa is the result of a large international effort to reduce child mortality. Reducing by two-thirds the mortality rate of children younger than 5 between 1990 and 2015 was one target of the United Nations millennium goals.

Unlike in some regions of Africa where measles remains a leading cause of child death, some American parents are strangers to scary, eradicated diseases that afflicted past generations, she said. Americans also generally value individual rights over community needs, she added.

"I'm old enough that I was born before the polio vaccine became available," Troisi said, "and you can bet when it came out, my mom was first in line to get me vaccinated. Part of the reason we're

seeing this refusal is because parents haven't seen what these diseases can do."

Another big topic Sunday was the continued fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, appeared on CNN's State of the Union and ABC's This Week from Germany to criticize the response from President Barack Obama.

One of Cruz's refrains was that Obama is not providing weapons to Kurdish fighters in northern Iraq who are battling ISIS. "The Obama administration is refusing to directly arm the Kurds," he said on CNN.

That stood in almost direct conflict to what Secretary of State John Kerry said on Meet the Press. "We have supplied them with enormous amount of ammunition, weapons, other things. And others are supplying them," Kerry said.

So what gives?

The key is Cruz's use of the word "directly." His claim rates Mostly True.

To make sense of this debate, it's crucial to understand that the Kurds are a semiautonomous group. They clash with the Iraqi government in Baghdad because the Kurds would like to be an independent nation. Leaders in Baghdad and the United States want Iraq to keep its current borders. However, cooperation between the Iraqi government and the Iraqi Kurds has at least appeared to improve recently because of the joint goal of defeating ISIS.

A State Department official told us that the United States has so far transported more than 3 million pounds of equipment to Erbil, the capital of the Kurdish Regional Government. These shipments have included: more than 15,000 hand grenades, nearly 40 million rounds of machine gun ammunition, 18,000 assault rifles, 45,000 mortar rounds, 40,000 RPG rounds and 2,800 RPG launchers. The United States has also been training Kurdish forces and conducting air strikes on their behalf.

However, because the Kurds are not a fully independent nation, the United States must coordinate these transfers through the Iraqi government in Baghdad. It's not that they're refusing to directly arm the Kurds, as Cruz says, though. It's the law — required by the Foreign Assistance Act and the Arms Export Control Act. Additionally, the United Nations prohibits transferring arms to Iraq other than on terms agreed to by the Iraqi government.

Aaron Sharockman contributed to this report. Read the full fact-checks at [PunditFact.com](http://PunditFact.com).

The statement

"There are countries in Africa where they have higher vaccination rates than here in the United States."

Katty Kay, on Meet the Press

The ruling PolitiFact ruling: True

We found ample evidence to back up Kay's point, with several African countries boasting better vaccination rates than the United States. Mauritius, Tanzania and Morocco have nearly complete vaccination of 1-year-olds, according to World Health Organization data. We rate her claim True.

The statement

"The Obama administration is refusing to directly arm the Kurds."

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, on CNN's State of the Union

The ruling PolitiFact ruling: Mostly True

Cruz might have been better off not using the word "refusing." There are domestic laws preventing the United States from directly arming the Kurds. Cruz's statement is accurate but needs clarification or additional information. We rate it Mostly True.

### Father of one-time Jihadi John suspect is jailed in US over Africa embassy bombings

09 Feb 2015/telegraph.co.uk

Osama bin Laden's former London spokesman, whose son was a British music rapper before joining Isil, is given 25-year sentence

An Egyptian man was sentenced to 25 years in an American prison on Friday for conspiring to kill Americans in the 1998 embassy bombings in Africa, which left 224 people dead.

Adel Abdel Bary - who was extradited to the United States from Britain in 2012 - pleaded guilty last September on three counts of working for al-Qaeda and Egyptian Islamic Jihad.

Bary's son, former London rapper Abdel-Majed Abdel Bary, is believed to have joined extremists fighting in Syria and was for a time one of the men suspected of posing as "Jihadi John", the masked killer who has appeared in videos showing the decapitations of aid workers and journalists.

In 1997 and 1998, Bary headed the London cell of Egyptian Islamic Jihad - then led by Ayman al-Zawahiri, who is now head of al-Qaeda - and the two groups essentially merged.

Bary passed to journalists al-Qaeda's claim of responsibility for the bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, which left more than 5,000 others wounded.

He also passed on threats of future al-Qaeda attacks that were sent from London to media organisations in France, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates the day after the embassy bombings.

The August 7, 1998 car bombing of the US embassy in Nairobi killed 213 people.

A near simultaneous truck bomb outside the US mission in Tanzania killed 11 people and wounded 70 more.

Federal judge Lewis Kaplan told Bary that the sentence would allow him to return to his family and live out the remainder of his life in freedom, a privilege not extended to his victims.

Bary has already spent 16 years in British and US custody.

"I would like to say I feel sorry for all the victims," he told the judge, speaking through a translator.

"If I could just do something to bring the victims back, I would," he added.

By pleading guilty, Bary avoided spending the rest of his life behind bars.

His alleged co-conspirator - Saudi exile Khalid al-Fawwaz, the purported chief of the London al-Qaeda cell - is currently on trial in New York.

A third co-conspirator, Libyan defendant Abu Anas al-Libi, died in custody last month from natural causes.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

**Retired Indian army officer helping build industries in Africa**

Francis Kokutse/smetimes.in/ 09 Feb, 2015

One hardly sees former Indian army officers in Africa's business arena. But Col. (Rtd.) Raj Kalra from New Delhi is an exception and is bringing a new dimension to Africa's industrial development.

Kalra has brought his academic and professional experience to Ghana and is keen to make a difference to the country's industrial development. So far, he has proved to be a businessman with a passion that is changing the face of industrial development quietly in Prampram, a coastal settlement, 60 km east of the capital, Accra.

The passion in him shows when he talks about how the country's industry should be developed and listening to him with one's eyes closed, he sounds more like a local politician addressing a rally on how the country should develop.

Kalra had come to Ghana in 2008 to help set up a healthcare centre but this did not work out.

"So, I left, but returned in 2010 to set up a company because I saw that there were opportunities here

for one to do a good job," Kalra told IANS.

Since then, he has started making waves and his passion is showing in the results his work is producing. Kalra is the founder, chairman and managing director of the ACEC Group which is based near the Ghanaian port city of Tema. An engineer by profession, with masters degree in technology and an MBA in finance as well as a certified Six Sigma Master Black Belt from the US, he has shown that he was using his academic qualifications together with his experience as chief executive of a heart hospital and research centre in India. He has also been the vice-president and head of business of Excellent Group with the Royal Bank of Scotland, London.

Before that, he served in the Indian armed forces for 22 years and commanded army units during peace and war. He is also a qualified lead auditor for ISO 9001:2008, software quality assurance, and a certified examiner for IMC Ramakrishna Bajaj National Quality Awards, India.

With such experience, Kalra has set about to use his company to provide a platform for international companies that want to enter Ghana. ACEC is doing this by building an industrial park at Prampram which Kalra said, "is in line with the concept of President John Mahama to turn Ghana into an industrial centre to employ more people".

Already, an Indian company, TND, has been assisted by the company to set up to produce electricity meters. In addition, companies from Indonesia, Brazil and France are operating at the Prampram Industrial Park engaged in agro-processing businesses.

Altogether, these companies have invested \$90-\$100 million.

According to Kalra, his vast experience of complex projects in the fields of construction, real estate development, investment, energy and power sectors has led to the building of different types of warehouse, pre-fab factories, corporate offices, and housing projects with state-of-the-art facilities for clients at very economical costs with time bound project deliveries.

"ACEC aims to envelope the entire West African countries by the year 2020," he said, adding that, the company has a team of highly motivated and skilled professionals with vast related experience to provide customers with world class services and business standards in Africa.

The latest to join ACEC's growing clients is the multinational Santerre Electric Power Company which plans to invest \$300 million in constructing a single-phase 200 MW thermal power plant to help alleviate the ongoing power cuts and load management in the country.

Construction work for the project, which will be spread across the company's 33.5-acre project site in Prampram, is expected to take off this year, and the entire plant will be built on a fast-track basis to meet the purpose for which it is being set up.

In addition to Santerre's plans to ease the pressure off the country's energy sector, Kalra said, the investment of \$300 million will create up to 1,000 jobs directly -- with additional jobs during construction and indirectly in the supply chain.

The company has been developing the first phase of the project based on an initial investment plan of \$150 million for 100 MW capacity, which would have led to up to 1000 jobs; but it has decided to revise its plans to develop the plant as a single-phase 200 MW power plant, giving a boost to independent power production industry.



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