



(Alors que la justice égyptienne a jugé anticonstitutionnelle la loi électorale devant régir les prochaines Législatives, le Président Abdel Fattah al-Sissi a exigé que le texte soit rectifié sous 30 jours. Il s'agit des premières depuis celle du Président Abdel Fattah al-Sissi.)

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

Rwanda to open embassy in Zambia, launch direct flight to Lusaka

Mar 02, 2015 /eturbonews.com

LUSAKA, Zambia - Rwanda is finalizing the process of setting up an embassy in Zambia, Minister of Foreign Affairs Harry Kalaba has said.

Mr Kalaba also said in an interview yesterday that Rwanda Airlines will also establish a direct flight between Kigali and Lusaka.

He said Zambia is ready to receive the embassy and the airline.

“We are waiting for our colleagues in Rwanda to finalise the process. In fact, the airline is good for business between the two countries,” he said.

Mr Kalaba said as soon as preparations are over, Rwanda will open its embassy in Zambia.

Meanwhile, Turkey is also planning to establish an airline in Zambia.

Mr Kalaba said discussions have advanced and “very soon”, there will be flow of air traffic between

Lusaka and Kigali.

“We will now be connected with the other side of Europe and this is good for trade,” Mr Kalaba said.

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

Uganda: Victims back leniency for LRA chief but trial awaits

By Associated Press /March 1

BARLONYO, Uganda — This is the horror that Silveria Okweny is willing to forgive:

On Feb. 21, 2004, as the sun dipped below the horizon, rebels walking single file approached the Ugandan refugee camp in which she lived. At the shrill sound of a whistle, one of the worst attacks on civilians by the Lord’s Resistance Army began.

With gunfire and screams punctuating the evening, some of the rebels entered Okweny’s hut as the family cowered inside. As the insurgents assaulted Okweny’s husband, their 5-year-old son Innocent pleaded with them to stop. Instead, one grabbed the boy by the legs and smashed his head against a wall, killing him.

All told, more than 120 civilians — including Okweny’s husband and her older son — would die that day.

Eleven years later, the International Criminal Court in The Hague is preparing to try senior LRA commander Dominic Ongwen for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Ugandan military officials and survivors say he helped direct the attack on the camp in Barlonyo.

But Okweny and some other survivors of the Feb. 21, 2004, attack say Ongwen should not be tried by the ICC. Instead, they say he should be pardoned if he comes to Uganda to confess his crimes and seeks forgiveness in a ritual ceremony.

Their willingness to forgive is partly a function of northern Uganda’s traditions and culture, but it is also prompted by Ongwen’s personal history — he was kidnapped as a boy by the LRA and turned into a child soldier.

“From the victims’ perspectives under the circumstances, traditional justice and reconciliation would have been more appropriate,” than a trial in the Netherlands, said Jonathan Odur, who runs the Facilitation for Peace and Development in northern Uganda. “Many victims think that an international trial is not going to change anything tangible.”

Ongwen was taken into custody in January in Central African Republic by a local rebel group and handed over to U.S. special forces who are pursuing top LRA leader Joseph Kony, who started the insurgency in the north not long after President Yoweri Museveni seized power in 1986.

Though this region suffered the most at the hands of the LRA, there is widespread feeling that it would be appropriate for Ongwen to undergo a traditional ceremony in which the aggressor confesses his crimes, goes through some form of ritual cleansing, and is then made to pay damages. During the ceremony — called “Kayo Cuk” or “Utmost Forgiveness” — a bull may be slaughtered, its blood smeared on the foreheads of both the perpetrator and victims. Only then, some believe, may it be possible to achieve justice and reconciliation.

“Kayo Cuk is about extending an olive branch, and if Ongwen comes to Barlonyo and seeks forgiveness and people see that he is sincere then he can definitely be forgiven,” said Ben Erweny, a senior member of the Lango Cultural Foundation, an institution that unites the clans of the Langi people. “He would maybe bring a bull which would be slaughtered for the people to eat. It would an occasion for merriment.”

Anna Acheng, a 45-year-old who had been abducted by the LRA and whose left ear was partly sliced off by rebels, said reports that Ongwen turned himself in makes him seem a sympathetic figure and worthy of Kayo Cuk.

“Since he surrendered, we can now forgive him for the atrocities he committed against our people because we are confident that he will never go back to the bush,” she said.

Scores of former LRA rebels who were granted amnesty by Uganda’s government have been guided through similar rituals. They now live freely across northern Uganda. None of these former rebels, however, had been charged with war crimes by the ICC.

Ongwen told the ICC in his first and so far only appearance that he was abducted as a 14-year-old boy in 1988. That account is confirmed by his relatives who say he was kidnapped by the LRA while walking home from school.

Ongwen rose, according to the ICC arrest warrant, to membership in the LRA’s “Control Altar” — a group of senior commanders that plotted and carried out attacks in northern Uganda. It does not specifically cite the Barlonyo incident.

When the LRA fighters attacked Barlonyo, its population had swelled to more than 11,600 people, many of them war refugees and living in a camp.

After a rebel blew his whistle, the column fanned out, first attacking and overwhelming an outnumbered local defense force, then hacking, shooting and burning alive unarmed civilians, according to AP reports from the scene. Those who fled their huts of dried mud walls and grass-thatched roofs were gunned down; those who stayed inside burned to death, one survivor told AP.

Hundreds of people were abducted; the LRA kidnapped boys to become fighters and girls to be sex slaves, and others to be porters.

The LRA fighters are now reduced to a few dozen who roam the wilds of Central African Republic, Congo and South Sudan, still carrying out the occasional attack on civilians or kidnapping children. The LRA was forced out of Ugandan territory in 2005.

Today, a ceramic-tiled monument marks the mass grave where scores of the Barlonyo victims were buried. A headstone says “LRA terrorists” killed 121 people. Estimates of the death toll are often higher. Many of the victims were so badly burned their bodies were not counted, said Moses Ogwang, a local aid worker who was the Barlonyo camp leader back then. He said he counted 301

bodies.

Lira, a northern district that encompasses Barlonyo, remains one of the poorest parts of the East African country, and many residents say the government did not do enough to help the area recover after the LRA insurgency ravaged lives and the economy. Most homes in the area are made of mud and wattle, not the brick and concrete common in other parts of Uganda. Kidnap victims who eventually left the LRA were unable to return to school because they were too poor or too psychologically damaged, creating legions of young people who while away their days in bars.

Most of the survivors of the attack have returned to their ancestral homes. The dry expanse of bush and farmland is now sparsely populated, with just a few dozen people still clinging to the site.

One of them is Okweny, the woman whose children and husband were killed during the attack. Five grandchildren now live with her. About 300 meters (yards) from her home, a village is slowly taking shape with a half-dozen shops lining a dirt road and offering kerosene for lamps, soap and other essentials for sale. Jobless young men show up early to sip a local homemade beer. It is hot, humid and dusty.

The 55-year-old Okweny, who never remarried and still wears her wedding band, grows cassava in her garden and sells it at the roadside, making \$3 on a good day. She saves as much as she can to buy livestock. A few goats roam her dirt compound, feeding on cassava peel.

“Time has helped us to recover from what happened, and also prayers have helped us to come out of this suffering as the world abandoned us,” she said.

“I feel that Ongwen should be pardoned,” she added.

Okweny’s spirit of reconciliation comes in part from personal experience — her own nephew was abducted by the LRA as a teenager in 2002 and hasn’t been seen since. She believes that all boys who were abducted, including Ongwen, should be seen as victims of the conflict and forgiven.

“Even my nephew should also be treated like that if he ever comes out, because they did not join the rebellion willingly,” Okweny said, speaking in Acholi through a translator.

Maria Kamara, a field outreach official with the ICC, said it is unlikely that victims will appear as witnesses in Ongwen’s ICC trial.

That’s fine with Ogwang, the former Barlonyo camp leader, who would rather forget what happened here.

But he does not want Ongwen to ever forget.

“Maybe they can bring Ongwen to Barlonyo,” he said, “because we want him to see what he did here.”

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Uganda expects economic growth of 5.3%

March 1, 2015/Reuters/By Elias Biryabarema

A lot of people have been talking about the end of the African renaissance. Some African nations have failed to deliver on the promise of economic growth and improvement, and according to some observers, the much-hoped-for rise of the middle class is a failing proposition. But the naysayers might want to take note of this update out of Uganda – the country seems to be planning to use its oil wealth to invest, and it looks likely to deliver strong growth this fiscal year. Perhaps the African renaissance may yet come to pass. – FD

KAMPALA, March 1 (Reuters) – Uganda’s economic growth is set to accelerate to 5.3 percent in fiscal 2014/15, driven by infrastructure investment aimed at maximizing benefits from an expected oil boom, outgoing finance minister Maria Kiwanuka said.

She was speaking to Reuters before she was moved in a cabinet reshuffle on Sunday to become presidential advisor on finance.

Her forecast was the government’s first growth estimate for the fiscal year ending in June, after Uganda rebased its gross domestic product in November.

In 2013/14, the economy grew 4.5 percent and Kiwanuka said she expected growth to reach 6 percent annually in the coming years.

“We have an ambitious public infrastructure investment programme covering power, roads. Manufacturing and construction have also picked up again after the effects of the global economic crisis,” Kiwanuka told Reuters on Friday for the Reuters Africa Investment Summit.

East Africa’s third-biggest economy is due to begin oil production in 2018 and Kiwanuka said she expected oil prices would recover and so would not affect long-term investment in the sector.

“It has happened before, the prices will go back. I don’t see this short-term price movement impacting the long-term investments,” she said.

Her views differed from those of central bank Governor Emmanuel Tumusiime-Mutebile, who said last week that low crude prices were likely to slow down investment in Uganda’s petroleum sector.

President Yoweri Museveni named Matia Kasaija to replace Kiwanuka as finance minister on Sunday, in a cabinet reshuffle seen as rewarding close allies before a presidential election early next year.

Kiwanuka said investor worries about the possibility of a surge in public spending ahead of the election were unwarranted, though they have already pushed up yields on government debt.

“There will always be investment concerns around about the time of any elections in Africa,” she said. “The government of Uganda has had a very conservative fiscal record ... We’ll remain within spending thresholds.”

She also said that as Uganda was still an oil importer, low crude prices were likely to improve the country’s current account position in the medium term.

According to the latest central bank data, Uganda’s current account deficit widened to \$808 million in August-October last year, from \$488 million for the three months through July.

Museveni, already one of Africa’s longest serving leaders, is widely expected to seek re-election in 2016. Shortly after the last election in 2011, Uganda saw inflation hit an 18-year high above 30

percent, a sharp depreciation of the shilling and a steep rise in interest rates.

Government geologists estimate the country's crude reserves, along its border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, at 6.5 billion barrels.

Uganda is at various stages of implementing several multi-billion dollar infrastructure projects, including two hydro power dams, a refinery, express highways and a railway line.

Reuters

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Le projet d'accord de paix d'Alger : Un compromis courageux, mais...
maliweb.net/2 mar 2015

Au moment où nous écrivions ces lignes (samedi dans l'après-midi) le projet d'Accord pour la paix et la réconciliation au Mali n'était pas encore paraphé par les parties belligérantes. En revanche, leurs représentants s'étaient déjà prononcés sur le document. Il comporte une trentaine de pages, avec ses annexes.

Pour l'Etat malien, représenté par le ministre des Affaires étrangères et de la coopération internationale, Abdoulaye Diop, le projet d'Accord est «un document équilibré, qui prend en compte l'essentiel des préoccupations du gouvernement du Mali». Il est centré, a-t-il laissé entendre, sur le principe de la libre administration des collectivités, dans le cadre d'un Etat unitaire. On retrouve la même satisfaction chez le représentant de la Plateforme des mouvements d'autodéfense, Me Harouna Toureh, qui s'est réjoui du caractère rassembleur du document.

On notait quelques réserves de principe chez les représentants de la Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad, qui avaient laissé entendre qu'ils allaient étudier le projet d'accord en détail,

admettant en même temps la nécessité de parvenir rapidement à «un compromis courageux».

Du côté de la médiation dont l'Algérie est le chef de file, il n'était plus question de tergiverser. C'était à prendre ou à laisser, la cérémonie de paraphe du document ayant été programmée pour hier dimanche. Cette douce pression a certainement eu raison de ce soupçon de maximalisme chez la Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad et le document a sans doute été paraphé hier dans la capitale algérienne par les parties.

Il faut du recul pour faire une analyse sérieuse du texte, à propos duquel il y a tant à dire et à redire. Cependant, un écrémage de ce projet d'Accord laisse apparaître que l'Etat malien a renoncé à certaines de ses exigences. Certainement au nom de la paix. Il a accepté, par exemple, que figure dans le projet d'Accord la dénomination «Azawad». « L'appellation Azawad recouvre une réalité socioculturelle, mémorielle et symbolique partagée par différentes populations du nord Mali, constituant des composantes de la communauté nationale. Une compréhension commune de cette appellation qui reflète également une réalité humaine, devra constituer la base du consensus nécessaire, dans le respect du caractère unitaire de l'Etat malien et de son intégrité territoriale», peut-on lire dans le document.

En réalité, l'Azawad, selon l'historien Bakary Kamian, donc l'une des voix les plus autorisées, n'est rien de moins qu'une enclave se trouvant entre la ville de Tombouctou et Araouane, une localité située à un jet de pierre de la Cité mystérieuse.

L'article 13 du projet d'Accord fait cas de la «mobilisation en faveur d'un développement des régions du nord» et, à l'article 38, il est stipulé que «la Zone de Développement des Régions du nord bénéficiera, de façon prioritaire, des dispositifs de soutien de l'Etat prévus dans le présent Accord. A cet égard, les Parties conviennent de mettre en œuvre toutes les mesures à court, moyen et à long termes énoncées dans l'annexe relative au développement socio-économique et culturel».

On perçoit ici une discrimination positive en faveur des régions du nord. Probablement à cause des conditions géo-écologiques particulières. Pour la paix, ce n'est peut-être pas une concession de trop. Sinon, à Diafarana, village situé dans l'ex-arrondissement de Keleya, commune de Dogo, cercle de Bougouni, on chercherait avec une torche en plein jour un centre de santé digne de ce nom. En vain.

A quelques encablures de la capitale, dans certains villages du cercle de Kangaba, le berceau même de l'empire du Mali, on continue de vivre dans des huttes antédiluviennes.

Au chapitre du redéploiement des forces armées et de sécurité, on peut lire à l'article 21 «les forces armées et de sécurité reconstituées se redéployeront, de manière progressive à compter de la signature de l'Accord, sur l'ensemble des régions du nord. Ce redéploiement s'effectue sous la conduite du Mécanisme Opérationnel de coordination (MOC), avec l'appui de la MINUSMA». L'on est fondé à se demander si, dans la mise en œuvre de l'Accord, cette «progressivité» ne comporte pas quelques embûches.

La signature de l'Accord définitif devrait avoir lieu à Bamako. On peut parler d'avancée s'agissant de cette signature, si elle a lieu. Cependant, une chose est de signer un Accord, l'autre est de l'appliquer sur le terrain. On peut déjà présager que, à la lumière d'un passé récent, son application ne sera pas une mince affaire. Loin s'en faut. En la matière, des questions de fond demeurent.

Les futurs ex-combattants sauront-ils se dépouiller de leurs manteaux de corsaires, tournant le dos aux razzias des temps modernes pour se muer en bâtisseurs de la nation consciencieux? Leurs accointances avec les milieux du narcotrafic ne vont-elles pas les rattraper? La communauté internationale, France et Algérie en tête, pourra-t-elle arrêter de jouer au «bal masqué dans le Sahara

malien» afin de jouer la carte du réalisme, une posture salvatrice pour la paix au Sahel et la sécurité mondiale? L'avenir nous le dira.

Egypte : Sissi exige que le texte de la loi électorale soit révisé sous 30 jours
dimanche 1er mars 2015 / par Abubakr Diallo/afrik.com

Alors que la justice égyptienne a jugé anticonstitutionnelle la loi électorale devant régir les prochaines Législatives, le Président Abdel Fattah al-Sissi a exigé que le texte soit rectifié sous 30 jours.

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Selon le juge Anwar al-Asy, l'article invalidé porte sur le découpage des circonscriptions électorales, alors que l'Egypte n'a plus de Parlement depuis juin 2012. Compte tenu de la situation, Abdel Fattah al-Sissi, qui a ratifié la loi électorale au mois de décembre, a ordonné à son gouvernement d'amender, dans un délai d'un mois, les textes législatifs encadrant ce scrutin.

Dans un communiqué, la Présidence égyptienne a indiqué que « le Président 'Abdel Fattah al-Sissi) a donné des directives pour procéder rapidement aux changements législatifs nécessaires des lois organisant ce processus électoral ». Ce qui entraîne un nouveau calendrier pour la tenue du scrutin, annonce la commission électorale.

A souligner que le calendrier initial qui avait publié par la commission électorale nationale, au mois de janvier, prévoyait la tenue de ces élections par étapes entre le 21 mars et le 7 mai, souligne Reuters.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 02 Mars 2015... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 02/03/2015