



(L'aviation militaire kényane a bombardé lundi en Somalie deux camps des islamistes somaliens shebab, qui ont revendiqué l'attaque le 2 avril de l'université de Garissa (148 morts), a annoncé à l'AFP un porte-parole de l'armée kényane.)

BURUNDI :

Le Burundi obtient le rappel du représentant de l'UA
06.04.2015/lavoixdelamerique.com

Des diplomates expliquent que le départ du représentant de l'UA annoncé lundi par le gouvernement burundais, est motivé par les objections internationales à un nouveau mandat du président burundais.

Boubacar Diarra, le représentant de l'UA a en effet quitté Bujumbura vendredi et ne reviendra pas, a expliqué à l'AFP un haut diplomate de l'UA parlant sous le régime de l'anonymat,

Officiellement, M. Diarra est parti pour une réunion sur les Grands-Lacs à Addus-Abeba.

Le chef de la diplomatie burundaise Laurent Kavakure a confirmé le départ de Bujumbura de M. Diarra. Pour lui, ce départ "n'a rien à voir avec la question du 3e mandat du président Nkurunziza".

Pourtant, le diplomate qui s'est exprimé sous anonymat à l'AFP, a indiqué que le président Pierre Nkurunziza trouvait gênant le représentant de l'UA "notamment sur la question de son 3e mandat".

Le chef de l'Etat avait exprimé "le souhait du Burundi de ne pas voir l'ambassadeur Diarra continuer sa mission", lors d'une rencontre fin mars à Bujumbura avec la présidente de la Commission de l'UA, Nkosazan Dlamini-Zuma, a précisé le diplomate.

Selon un autre diplomate ayant requis l'anonymat, M. Diarra s'était fait au Burundi le porte-voix de la communauté internationale qui a mis en garde contre les tensions autour d'une éventuelle candidature de M. Nkurunziza à un nouveau mandat, inconstitutionnel selon ses opposants, ce que réfutent ses partisans.

Un proche du président Nkurunziza a expliqué à l'AFP que M. Diarra était allé au-delà du rôle dévolu à l'UA.

De passage au Burundi, le 27 mars, Mme Dlamini-Zuma elle-même avait implicitement appelé M. Nkurunziza à ne pas se présenter à nouveau.

Boubacar Diarra, diplomate d'origine malienne était le représentant spécial de l'UA pour le Burundi et les Grands-Lacs depuis novembre 2012, après avoir occupé le poste de représentant spécial pour la Somalie et de chef de l'Amisom, la mission de l'UA dans ce pays.

Au Burundi, les tensions croissantes à l'approche des législatives de mai et de la présidentielle de juin se cristallisent notamment autour de l'intention prêtée à M. Nkurunziza de briguer un troisième mandat.

RWANDA :

Report Reveals Flaws in Rwanda Genocide Intervention

VOA News/April 06, 2015

Flawed decision making by the international community failed to contain the horrific 1994 genocide in Rwanda, a new report found.

The findings were released Monday to coincide with the 21st anniversary of the start of the genocide and stem from a multi-national conference last year at The Hague.

The conference was sponsored by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and The Hague Institute for Global Justice.

Former peacekeepers, peacemakers and monitors from more than a dozen countries were gathered to analyze the events and international response in order to "shed light on modern day challenges."

The report, based on a 230-page transcript of the two-day conference, found several points of concern in how the international system functions.

Some of the findings include:

- The negotiation and implementation phases of the peace accords reached in Arusha, Tanzania were out of sync with each other.

- Ordinary Rwandans were poorly informed of the peace process taking place in Arusha.

- Western governments failed to develop a common policy on Rwanda that could have prevented the genocide.

- The international community staked everything on the success of the Arusha peace agreement and failed to develop a backup plan.

- The conference on Rwanda was the first stage in a broader effort to examine international

decision making in the event of genocide.

Conference organizers said that later this year a second conference will be held at The Hague to study the fall of United Nations "safe areas" in Srebrenica during the Bosnian war. The failure by U.N. peacekeepers to protect the besieged enclave of Srebrenica in northeastern Bosnia led to the massacre of more than 8,000 men and boys in 1995.

RDC CONGO :

La RDC nie l'existence d'un charnier de victimes de la répression

Par RFI /06-04-2015

L'affaire de la « fosse commune à Maluku » est au centre d'une controverse dans la capitale de la République démocratique du Congo. Plusieurs personnes ont été inhumées de nuit dans un cimetière situé à la périphérie est de Kinshasa. Accusées, et sommées de s'expliquer, les autorités congolaises ont réfuté la thèse d'une fosse commune qui renfermerait les cadavres des victimes des événements de janvier dernier.

Pour le vice-Premier ministre en charge de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité, il s'agit des indigents dont les corps ont été abandonnés à la morgue centrale de Kinshasa. Le 19 mars, plus de 400 corps sont enterrés tard dans la nuit dans le cimetière de Maluku, à plus de 120 kilomètres à l'est de Kinshasa. Pour certains, ce sont des victimes des événements des 19, 20 et 21 janvier, lors des débats au Parlement sur la loi électorale. Le gouvernement est interpellé par les défenseurs des droits de l'homme, notamment par le bureau des droits de l'homme de la Monusco.

Les corps étaient ceux d'indigents, selon le gouvernement

En fin de semaine, Evariste Boshab, le vice-Premier ministre en charge de l'Intérieur, a invité le bureau des droits de l'homme de la Monusco, la représentante de Human Rights Watch et les ONG locales des droits de l'homme, avec pour objectif affiché de faire la lumière sur cette affaire. Selon Evariste Boshab, une enquête administrative menée par les soins du gouverneur de la capitale a démontré que les corps enterrés à cette occasion étaient ceux des indigents dont les corps ont été abandonnés par leur famille dans les différentes installations médicales de la ville, avant d'être conduits à la morgue centrale.

« Parmi ces morts figuraient des fœtus et des mort-nés ramassés par-ci par-là dans différents quartiers », précise encore le vice-Premier ministre. Au nom du gouvernement, Evariste Boshab s'est engagé à autoriser l'exhumation de ces corps pour les besoins de l'enquête si la demande devait lui être faite.

UGANDA :

Terrorism fight: Uganda to stand by Kenya

Date: Apr 06, 2015/By Vision Reporter

President Yoweri Museveni has condemned the attack by the al-Shabab terrorists on a Kenyan

university. He pledged to stand by Kenya in the fight against terrorism.

Full statement

The Government of Uganda strongly condemns the terror attack on Garissa University in Kenya.

We have learnt with shock and horror that gunmen invaded Garissa University near Kenya's border with Somalia on Thursday in a brutal and senseless terror attack, killing scores of students who were just getting up to start the day. The terrorist group, al Shabaab, unashamedly announced that they were behind this criminal attack.

The terrorism threat by extremist forces is one of the most urgent problems facing our region. It therefore, calls for a common strategy and joint efforts by all the countries in our region to fight and defeat the terrorist forces that are determined to roll back the gains we have together been making.

This attack on Garissa University is an attack not only on Kenya but on our entire region. The students massacred at Garissa are citizens of Kenya, but they are the children of all of us in the region, who were preparing to take on various roles to move our region forward.

The Government and people of Uganda stand with the government and people of Kenya at this moment as they try to deal with the tragedy at Garissa University.

We commend the contribution that Kenya, under AMISOM, continues to make to fight terrorism in Somalia as we all work together to rid our region of terrorism. Uganda will continue to work with Kenya and all other countries of the region to move forward the frontiers of peace and eliminate terrorism from our midst.

Our prayers are with the families of the people who were brutally murdered in this attack as well as those who were injured. May this horrendous massacre of our children not break our spirit in the struggle against terrorism and extremism but, instead, strengthen our resolve even further and bring us closer together.

On behalf of the people of Uganda, the government of Uganda, and on my own behalf, may I extend our deepest condolences to the people of Kenya as they mourn the loss of their beloved ones.

May God rest their souls in eternal peace.

Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa detains teenage girl trying to join Islamic State

By Reuters/7 April 2015

JOHANNESBURG, April 7 (Reuters) - South African authorities have detained a 15-year-old girl who was travelling to join Islamic State, the state security ministry said on Monday.

The teenager was intercepted at Cape Town airport on Sunday after evidence was found in her bedroom indicating that she had been in contact with Islamic State recruiters, the ministry added.

"We can confirm that she was planning to leave the country with the intention of joining IS, and had been actively engaged with social media networks," Minister of State Security David Mahlobo was quoted as saying in The Star newspaper. (Reporting by Joe Brock; Editing by Andrew Heavens)

Bucketful of excreta: how one man's protest has thrown South Africa into a debate on race and history

Bhavya Dore/scroll.in/07/04/2015

Not since Apartheid has the country seen student protests of such intensity.

At a corner of the verdant rugby field at the University of Cape Town stands a statue covered in wooden slats. Until around three weeks ago, this 81-year-old statue of the colonialist Cecil John Rhodes had lorded over the campus from its vantage point unhindered. Things changed on March 9 when a 30-year-old black student named Chumani Maxwele emptied a bucket of excrement on it.

That act of protest, aimed at the "institutionalised racism on campus" and the "continuous denigration of black students", catalysed a student movement of a fervid intensity unseen since the days of apartheid in South Africa.

For a month now, agitations have been raging on the campus demanding the removal of the statue that is seen as "a celebration of an imperialist". "This is about transformation as a whole, and decolonising our community," said one student leader, addressing school students at a public meeting last Thursday. "The statue is a representation of institutionalised racism."

The debate has now spread far beyond the varsity. Maxwele's act has sparked a national conversation on race, history, heritage and white privilege, with #RhodesMustFall dominating conversations online and offline. There is little sign of the conversation petering out. Though the Cape Town university senate voted last Friday to remove Rhodes's statue, the final decision on this will be taken next week by the university council.

"The statue has great symbolic power; it glorifies a mass murderer who exploited black labour and stole land from indigenous people," says the mission statement of the Rhodes Must Fall campaign. "Its presence erases black history and is an act of violence against black students, workers and staff – by 'black' we refer to all people of colour. The statue was therefore the natural starting point of this movement. Its removal will not mark the end but the beginning of the long overdue process of decolonising this university."

Ways to ensure diversity

Cecil John Rhodes, whose legacy is best known through the Rhodes Scholarships he endowed for students at the University of Oxford, was born in 1853 and built a fortune in Africa through mining. He was prime minister of a part of the cape from 1890 to 1896, and a key figure in imperialist expansion in the region. He had donated the land on which the University of Cape Town was built.

Last week, at a panel discussion between the judges of the International Man Booker Prize following the announcement of the awards shortlist, there was a brief interruption when a group of students silently entered the university hall bearing placards saying "Rhodes Must Fall". The panel itself could not help but refer to the ongoing debate. One belligerent audience member even stood up and asked the judges why the panel had chosen to align with a university where black voices "continue to be undermined".

Throughout the storm, the university's vice chancellor Max Price has been singularly tested, although he has consistently said that he is impressed by the student activism and personally believes the statue should be taken down and displayed somewhere with proper contextualisation.

At the International Booker event, he congratulated the students for their "thoughtful and dignified protests". "It is not just about redressing past inequalities, but [also] about ensuring diversity," he remarked. Several days before, when the occupy movement at the campus had kicked off, students, civil society groups and supporters had spoken at length, as Price and other officials had stood behind and watched.

What about other issues?

In the last month, the statue campaign has not left the pages of newspapers; editorial pages are filled with censorious and approving letters from readers. Demands have been made for the Rhodes University in the Eastern Cape province to be renamed. Last week, a group of students at the University of KwaZulu Natal, riding the wave of anti-imperialist protests, defaced a statue of King George V on that campus.

The movement has been driven by black students but other groups have also joined in. A former student said that he did not think white people really had a right to have a say in this matter. Some have compared Rhodes to Hitler, while pointing out that nowhere in modern-day Germany is the Nazi leader celebrated.

However, many have questioned the way some of the protests unfolded (on one occasion anti-Semitic imagery has been used), whether they have detracted from other issues by focusing on one statue, and whether cosmetic changes can be harbingers of real transformation. Some have pointed out that there are other, more pressing issues for the country to deal with, including poverty, corruption and crime, instead of focussing on the statue of a long dead white man.

One former student said she could not understand what the fuss was about. "He was a complex figure," she said. "It's just a statue. What happened is history, it's over. Is throwing faeces the way to protest?"

South African Embassy Leads Visa Services to Liberians

by FPA Reporter /07 April 2015

Monrovia - Liberia seems to be making some headway in the quest to reduce travel constraints for its citizens travelling to countries such as South Africa and many believe the pendulum has now shifted to European Union countries who are yet to commence issuing visas in Liberia.

Travelling to Liberia to EU countries including Britain, France Norway, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Germany and others remains a nightmare due to huge difficulties. Until early April South Africa and all the EU countries have not been issuing visas to Liberians in Monrovia. Liberians desirous of traveling to these countries and many others have to travel to Ghana, Ivory Coast and other places in search of visa before traveling resulting in high financial burden.

Students benefiting from scholarships and other Liberians seeking training, business and other opportunities in these countries are in most instances compelled to abandon their interest as a consequence of the cost associated with renting a hotel in Ghana or Ivory Coast and other associated costs only to process a visa. But on April 2, South Africa announced that it would begin

offering visa services to Liberians in Monrovia, something that has been described as a major relief to Liberians, leaving European Union countries in the spotlight.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia announced that the pronouncement by South Africa follows months of intensive bilateral discussions between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the South African Embassy. South African Envoy to Liberia, H.E. Masilo Esau Mabeta announced his country's decision to begin visa services to Liberians when he paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan.

Accordingly, the Foreign Minister disclosed that the Government of Liberia is working with all of its bilateral partners with resident missions in Liberia, especially countries from the European Union to consider the establishment of visa issuance outlets in Monrovia. "These conversations are in advanced stages and we hope that a breakthrough can be made soon", Minister Ngafuan remarked.

Travel constraints still remain

The European Union has been a long term partner to Liberia assisting through various means, including direct budget support, financing of major projects, amongst others. But in spite of the longstanding friendly ties, travelling to EU countries remains a headache for Liberians, which many believe is responsible for the huge Liberians interest in travels to the United States rather than EU countries.

Amongst the powerful countries, the United States of America is the only country that offers visa services in Monrovia which is easily accessible by ordinary Liberians who have to pay US\$160 for visa application. The cost of travelling from Liberia to any of the EU countries is so high due to the unavailability of visa services in Monrovia. Should the EU pay heed to negotiations by Liberian officials to offer visa services in Liberia it will be a big relief to Liberians who can take advantage of the numerous opportunities across the EU countries.

EU countries have attractive job market, reputable universities and other opportunities which people from other African countries including Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and others are taking advantage of but Liberians are unable due to the travel constraints.

TANZANIA :

Potions and Polls: Tanzanian Albinos Terrified After Attacks

Agence France-Presse/April 07, 2015

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: Their limbs hacked off and babies and children abducted or killed, albinos in Tanzania live in fear of another horrific spate of attacks against them ahead of elections in October.

Albino body parts are boiled up in foul human potions for witchcraft in the east African nation, and reports of killings have increased as local politicians order their spells in the belief that the expensive brews will secure poll victory.

"Local political leaders believe in the power of witchdoctors and think that it could help them to win elections," said Vicky Ntetema, director of Under The Same Sun, an organisation defending the

rights of albinos in Tanzania.

With an entire corpse selling for as much as \$75,000 (70,000 euros), Ntetema claims the high price is an indication that "some political and economic elites" could be involved in albino murders.

In one recent attack, a six-year-old albino boy's hand was chopped off with a machete and his mother assaulted as she tried to protect him.

At least 76 albinos have been murdered since 2000 with their dismembered body parts selling for hundreds of dollars, according to United Nations experts.

A further 34 albinos have survived after having parts of their bodies hacked off, and grave robbers have dug up at least 15 more albinos, seeking buried limbs and bodies.

Forced to flee

Sengerema Simon, a 28-year-old man with albinism, was forced to flee his village in Tanzania's northern Tabora region fearing he would be attacked and cooked.

"In the village, I often heard people just call me 'the albino', then one day men I did not know called me by my name, saying they were going to do business... I was very scared," he told AFP.

Unemployed, he now ekes out a living in the commercial capital Dar es Salaam with help from the Tanzania Albinism Society.

Albinism is a hereditary genetic condition which causes a total absence of pigmentation in the skin, hair and eyes.

It affects one Tanzanian in 1,400, often as a result of inbreeding, experts say. Tanzania is home to some 49 million people.

Many attacks take place in northwestern Tanzania among the Sukuma people, the country's largest ethnic group and one with a long belief in witchcraft.

But experts say a thriving informal mining industry has also driven the killings, with prospectors desperate for anything that could help them strike it rich.

"The murders are connected to gold and diamond miners' efforts to secure lucky charms for finding minerals and protection against danger while mining," a 2010 report by the British-based Journal of Modern African Studies said.

In Africa, albinos generate a mixture of fear and fascination: some are stigmatised for their different colour, others treated almost as "divine figures," said Giorgio Brocco, an expert at Germany's Free University of Berlin.

"In some part of Africa, some ethnic groups originally believed that people with albinism disappeared instead of dying - or that they are gods," Brocco said.

Stigma from birth

Not in Tanzania, however, where they have "mostly been discriminated against" because they cannot so easily take part in farming, as their skin burns in the fierce sun, Brocco added.

That stigma begins at birth, said Josephat Torner, 32, who has albinism and works for the country's Albino Society.

"When I was born, the community wanted to poison me. People thought I was a bad omen for the village... but my mother stopped them and saved my life."

Torner recalls how growing up he was ostracised for his looks.

"Children didn't want to play with me because they thought I could contaminate them, even my own brothers didn't touch my clothes for the same reasons," he said.

Campaigners say that education and raising awareness are vital in changing beliefs and prejudice.

"You may apply for a post of employment... you may have all the qualifications and experience, but you will never get employed because of negative attitudes," said Kondo Seif, who works for Under the Same Sun.

Seif, a top student at the University of Dar es Salaam, says he was denied a scholarship and teaching post after studying "because of my condition."

Still Seif is optimistic that attitudes are slowly changing, at least in urban areas.

"Bad reactions in a restaurant or a bar were very common in the past but not so much now," he said.

In March, Tanzanian police rounded up hundreds of witchdoctors in a bid to stem the albino murders.

But campaigners such as Torner - who travels regularly around remote northern regions to raise awareness about albinism - say that in the long-term, it will be education that will "eliminate the false beliefs."

KENYA :

L'aviation kényane bombarde deux camps shebab en Somalie

06 avril 2015/AFP

Nairobi - L'aviation militaire kényane a bombardé lundi en Somalie deux camps des islamistes somaliens shebab, qui ont revendiqué l'attaque le 2 avril de l'université de Garissa (148 morts), a annoncé à l'AFP un porte-parole de l'armée kényane.

Nous avons bombardé deux camps shebab dans la région (méridionale) de Gedo, frontalière du Kenya, a déclaré le colonel David Obonyo. Les deux cibles ont été touchées et les deux camps ont été détruits, a-t-il assuré, sans pouvoir donner de bilan plus précis.

Il a précisé que la destruction de ces deux cibles était déjà prévue avant l'attaque de l'université de Garissa par un commando islamiste, revendiquée par les shebab. Le bombardement entre dans le cadre de l'engagement permanent contre les shebab, qui va se poursuivre, a expliqué le colonel Obonyo.

L'armée kényane est entrée en octobre 2011 en Somalie pour combattre les shebab. Le contingent kényan a depuis été intégré à l'Amisom, la force de l'Union africaine déployée depuis 2007 en Somalie pour soutenir les fragiles autorités et combattre les islamistes et actuellement forte de 22.000 hommes.

Les shebab ont multiplié depuis fin 2011 les attaques meurtrières sur le sol kényan en représailles à cette intervention.

L'attaque de l'université de Garissa est la plus meurtrière depuis l'attentat contre l'ambassade américaine de Nairobi, perpétré par le réseau Al-Qaïda auquel les shebab sont affiliés, qui fit 213 morts en 1998.

Avant le massacre de Garissa, les shebab ont notamment revendiqué le spectaculaire assaut contre le centre commercial Westgate en septembre 2013 (au moins 67 morts), et une série de raids sur la côte et dans les régions de la façade est du Kenya, frontalières de la Somalie, qui ont fait au moins 160 morts en 2014.

Plus de 400 personnes ont été tuées au Kenya depuis la mi-2013 dans des attaques revendiquées par les shebab ou qui leur ont été attribuées.

Les shebab ont à nouveau menacé samedi le Kenya d'une longue et épouvantable guerre et d'une nouveau bain de sang, en l'accusant d'oppression contre l'importante minorité musulmane du pays et d'occuper les terres musulmanes de Somalie et des régions somali et de la côte du Kenya.

Kenya bombs two al Shabaab camps in Somalia
07/04/euronews.com

Relatives of the 148 victims who died in the al-Shabaab attack on a Kenyan University have been identifying the dead. Afterwards several described the young students as humble and studious.

All had been trying to forge careers not only for themselves but for their families too.

Phylis Wakube was the aunt of one of the victims:

“He (God) has chosen my niece. I always used to comfort her and encourage her about school. She also has siblings behind who were actually depending, you know, counting on her. If she would succeed they would also do well.”

In Kenya's first major military response since the attacks its air force said it had destroyed two al-Shabaab camps in neighbouring Somalia.

Al-Shabaab has denied the camps were hit, saying the air force bombs fell on farm land.

Security has been stepped up, particularly at Garissa University where Thursday's attack happened.

With it emerging that one of the four gunmen was the son of a government official, President Uhuru Kenyatta admitted Islamist sympathisers are deeply embedded within Kenyan society and urged the Muslim community to do more to root out radicalisation.

Al-Shaabad said it carried out the attack as revenge for the activities of Kenyan military who are

part of a joint African Union Force battling against the Islamist militants.

The group has killed more than 400 people on Kenyan soil in the last two years, including 67 during a siege at Nairobi's Westgate mall in 2013.

Gunman in Attack Was Kenyan Official's Son

By Matina Stevis/wsj.com/April 5, 2015

Authorities say former law student vanished after withdrawing from family, friends last year

GARISSA, Kenya—One of the four gunmen who killed 148 people at a Kenyan college last week was the son of a government official, the country's Interior Ministry said, underscoring the country's challenges in tackling homegrown extremism.

Ministry officials on Sunday identified the gunman, who was killed by Kenyan security forces during the attack at the university campus, as Abdirahim Abdullahi. The man's father, an official in Kenya's Mandera district, had reported his son missing last year and was cooperating with the authorities, a ministry spokesman said.

The 20-year-old had been studying law at Nairobi University and was a top student, according to the Interior Ministry spokesman, Mwenda Njoka. But last year, the young man withdrew from family and friends and eventually went missing.

"The family told us that he became withdrawn and very critical of everything and everyone," Mr. Njoka said. "The family is Muslim, but Abdirahim criticized them about how they behaved and worshipped. At first, the parents thought he was just being a typical teenager, until he disappeared."

Kenyan authorities say Mr. Abdullahi is one of a number of young Muslim Kenyan men and women who have become radicalized at home and have eventually been drawn into training camps in Somalia by false promises of a meaningful life as members of al-Shabaab. The Somalia-based militant group, which has pledged allegiance to al-Qaeda and controls swaths of territory in Somalia, claimed responsibility for last week's attack. It has carried out other shooting massacres in Kenya and bombings in Uganda.

The attack on Garissa University College on Thursday claimed the lives of 148 students and staff, making it the deadliest assault in Kenya since the 1998 attack on the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, in which more than 200 people were killed. Mr. Njoka, the spokesman, said that many more people remained in the hospital in critical condition and that the death toll could rise.

In response to a series of recent militant assaults in Kenya—including the 2013 rampage at the Nairobi Westgate mall that left 67 people dead—security forces have targeted ethnic Somali enclaves with investigations and mass detentions. Over the past year and a half, Kenyan police have focused largely on the Nairobi suburb of Eastleigh, where hundreds within the local Somali community have been detained, prompting criticism of harassment from human rights groups.

Kenyan authorities say they suspect that militants from Somalia who have infiltrated local Somali communities are largely responsible for carrying out the massacres and the crackdowns have been focused on rooting them out. Similar crackdowns have been carried out within Muslim communities along Kenya's Indian Ocean coast.

But students who survived Thursday's attack in Garissa said the attackers spoke fluent Swahili, the

most commonly spoken language across east Africa—not Somali.

The identity of the other three gunmen, all killed during a security-forces operation to end the attack on the university, remained unknown, Mr. Njoka said. Abu Ali, a spokesman for al-Shabaab, said the other attackers were Kenyans and Tanzanians.

In a statement published online by al-Shabaab, the group warned of more attacks to come in Kenya in retaliation for the government's military involvement in Somalia as part of an African Union force fighting militants there. "No amount of precaution or safety measures will be able to guarantee your safety, thwart another attack or prevent another bloodbath from occurring in your cities," the statement warned.

In a nationally televised address on Saturday, Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta vowed a "severe" response to the attack but didn't specify any additional measures to improve national security.

Mr. Kenyatta said Islamist militants were "deeply embedded" in Kenyan society and called on Muslim Kenyans to help root them out. Mr. Njoka, the interior ministry spokesman, said families and communities in general were key to containing the radicalization of young Muslim Kenyans by reporting abnormal behavior and disappearances.

"We can't do that much without the communities' support," he said.

The country's security forces will be on high alert, he added. But he warned that "the problem is that these people [the militants] are very patient: When they see heightened security they hold back and wait before attacking again."

Millions of Christian Kenyans went to Easter Sunday mass as army and police officials stood guard at churches. Roadblocks and checkpoints were set up throughout the country.

The latest assault has renewed questions about the government's overall security strategy. A U.K. travel advisory last month specifically mentioned Garissa as a possible terrorist target, only to be dismissed by Mr. Kenyatta as unfair. Senior Western diplomats said the Kenyan government has been reluctant to take up offers of assistance with intelligence-sharing and security, even since the deadly September 2013 attack on the Nairobi Westgate mall.

Despite the massacre, the White House said that President Barack Obama still planned to visit Kenya in July for an entrepreneurship conference.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Africa: Nigeria, Others Hold Africa's U.S.\$350 Billion Real Sector Finance Market
By Femi Adekoya/The Guardian (Lagos)/7 April 2015

Citing a survey by the African Development Bank of 300 banks operating in 45 African countries,

the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has described the market for trade finance in Nigeria and other developing countries in the continent to be hovering around \$350 billion.

Indeed, the WTO noted that the figure could be markedly higher if a significant share of the financing requested by traders had not been rejected, noting that based on such rejections, the estimate for the value of unmet demand for trade finance in Africa is about \$120 billion, representing one-third of the gap in the existing market.

Comparing the situation in Africa to that of Asia, the WTO stated that the Asian Development Bank, in a similar survey in Asia, found preliminary estimates showing an unmet demand of about \$800 billion.

Based on the outcome of the surveys, the WTO stated that a lack of capacity in the financial sector to support industries, and also a lack of access to the international financial system could be a significant trade barrier for developing countries.

According to the WTO, up to 80 per cent of global trade is supported by some form of financing or credit insurance noting that the impact of financial limitations on a country's trading potential can be very, very significant.

The Director-General, WTO, Roberto Azevêdo in a statement stated that in many countries there is a lack of capacity in the financial sector to support trade, therefore limiting the ability of these countries to use simple instruments such as letters of credit for trade.

He said: "After the financial crisis, the supply of trade finance has largely returned to normal levels in the major markets -- but not everywhere and not for everyone.

"The structural difficulties of poor countries in accessing trade finance have not disappeared -- indeed the situation may well have declined due to the effects of the crisis.

"There are indications that markets are even more selective now. Under increased regulatory scrutiny many institutions have lowered their risk-appetites and are focusing more on their established customers.

Some are deliberately decreasing their number of clients in a so-called "flight to quality". "In this environment, the lower end of the market has been struggling to obtain affordable finance, with the smaller companies in the smaller, less-developed countries affected the most.

"Members asked us to provide more evidence of this phenomenon last year. I was particularly struck by the fact that the financing gaps are the highest in the poorest countries, notably in Africa and Asia.

And I was struck by the size of those gaps". Azevêdo explained that the main reasons for the rejection of requests for financing include, the lack of creditworthiness or poor credit history, the insufficient limits granted by endorsing banks to local African issuing banks, the small size of the balance sheets of African banks, and insufficient US dollar liquidity.

According to him, some of these constraints are structural, and can only be addressed in the medium to long term adding that the retreat of global banks from Africa, and from other poor countries, is one such issue.

"Small and medium-sized enterprises are the most credit constrained as 50 per cent of their requests

for trade finance are estimated to be rejected. This is compared to just 7% for multinational corporations.

"Moreover, two-thirds of the companies surveyed reported that they did not seek alternatives for rejected transactions. "Therefore these gaps may be exacerbated by a lack of awareness and familiarity among companies -- particularly smaller ones -- about the many options, which exist. A large majority of firms stated that they would benefit from greater financial education".

He lamented that the findings are particularly striking as Africa and developing Asia are two areas of the world in which trade has grown fastest in the past decade, stating that the potential evolution of new production networks is faster than the ability of the local financial sectors to support them.

"This way, the lack of development of the financial sector can be a significant barrier to trade. It can prevent developing countries from integrating into the trading system and accessing further trade opportunities.

And it can therefore prevent them from leveraging trade as a powerful source of development. "So we need to respond to this problem. At the WTO we are doing everything we can to help developing countries to integrate into the global trading system. This is reflected in our technical assistance work.

It is reflected in the outcomes of the Bali Package, which we are implementing now. And it is reflected in the current negotiations on the work programme to conclude the Doha Round. "But the effectiveness of all this work will be lessened if proper access to trade finance is not secured", the WTO boss added.

Sea Shepherd rescues crew from 'poaching' vessel sunk off west Africa
theguardian.com/2015/apr/07

Conservation group received distress signal from vessel Thunder and its ships Bob Barker and Sam Simon are in the process of rescuing the crew

International conservation group Sea Shepherd has rescued up to 40 crew from what it says is a poaching vessel that sank under suspicious circumstances off the coast of west Africa.

Sea Shepherd ships Bob Barker and Sam Simon are in the process of rescuing the entire crew of the vessel Thunder. The group says there are no injuries.

The Bob Barker captain Peter Hammarstedt said a distress signal from the Thunder was received on Monday afternoon inside the exclusive economic zone off São Tomé and the crew immediately responded.

The Bob Barker, which launched its summer campaign from Hobart last December, has been engaged in a four-month, record-breaking pursuit of the vessel, which has gone from the Southern, to the Indian and Atlantic oceans.

The conservation group claims there were "clear signs the vessel was intentionally scuttled".

Vaincre Boko Haram au Nigeria : le Président Buhari attendu pour sortir le Nord de la misère
mardi 7 avril 2015 / par Assanatou Baldé/afrik.com

Les observateurs sont tous unanimes, pour vaincre Boko Haram, le Président Muhammadu Buhari, élu mardi, va devoir remporter la bataille sociale et économique du nord du pays, minée par la misère.

« Boko Haram c'est tout le monde, les jeunes au chômage, les femmes démunies, les père de famille en colère contre la misère qui se sont laissés convaincre par le groupe armé ». Ce constat de cet observateur, qui s'est livré à Afrik.com, basé à l'extrême nord du Cameroun, où sévit l'insurrection armée, révèle bien la tâche immense qui attend le Président Muhammadu Buhari. Elu à la tête du pays face au Président Goodluck Jonathan, il a promis de lutter contre la corruption qui mine le pays mais aussi de vaincre le groupe terroriste Boko Haram, qui sème la terreur dans le nord.

Les observateurs sont en effet tous unanimes : pour vaincre Boko Haram pour de bon, le chef d'Etat nigérian, âgée de 72 ans, ancien général, va devoir redresser la situation sociale et économique du nord plongé depuis des décennies dans la misère. C'est de cette misère d'ailleurs que Boko Haram a pu grossir ses rangs, en engageant des jeunes désœuvrés, des pères de famille en colère ou encore des femmes démunies, qui ont perdu tout espoir d'un changement de leur situation.

La solution militaire pas suffisante

Boko Haram est vrai en perte de vitesse depuis que les troupes tchadiennes, nigériennes, camerounaises et même béninoises sont à ses trousses pour épauler l'armée nigériane qui n'a jamais réussi à faire face au groupe armé. Mais la solution militaire ne suffira pas à éradiquer définitivement l'insurrection armée, affirment les analystes. Il va donc falloir que le pouvoir mène un travail en profondeur dans le nord du pays, où les populations attendent que leur vie change.

En attendant, Boko Haram, bien qu'affaibli, n'a pas dit son dernier mot. Depuis 2009, le groupe terroriste a fait plus de 14 000 morts et poussé des milliers de personnes à se déplacer vers les pays voisins. Selon l'organisation de défense des droits de l'Homme, Human Rights Watch, la nébuleuse a en outre tué plus de 1 000 civils sur les trois premiers mois de 2015, notamment au Cameroun et Niger, qu'elle n'a pas épargnés. « Je peux vous assurer que Boko Haram va vite mesurer la force de notre volonté collective et de notre engagement à débarrasser la nation de la terreur et pour ramener la paix », a déclaré le nouveau chef d'Etat nigérian, dans un discours prononcé à Abuja, après avoir reçu de la commission électorale un certificat attestant de sa victoire. « Aucun effort ne sera épargné pour vaincre le terrorisme », a-t-il ajouté.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

U.S. shouldn't neglect terror fight in Africa

Monday, April 6, 2015 /By Jack Jackson/richmondregister.com

“Boko Haram,” what is it?

We're seeing and hearing more and more about this term. North-central Africa, mainly the the

nations of Chad, Niger, Cameroon and Nigeria are currently combatting this group of terrorists of the Islamic persuasion.

In 2013 Boko Haram, which originated in Nigeria, was credited with killing 10,000 people in the aforementioned areas of the continent. One of the group's first atrocities, bringing it to the world's attention, was the kidnapping of a group of schoolgirls who have yet to be returned to their families.

On its murderous campaigns, this terrorist group is displaying the same brutality, intolerance, and subjugation of people as their better-known ISIS "brothers" in the Middle East.

Chad is a landlocked country in the north-central Africa surrounded by Libya, Sudan, Central African Republic, Cameroon and Niger. Chad, about three times the size of California, shares Lake Chad on the western side with Nigeria, perhaps the best known African nation today. Most people in Chad are strong Muslims of the Sanusiyya sect that originated in northern Libya in the 19th century. The Sara group, located in the south of Chad, is the largest single group, making up about one-third of the population.

As is often the case, the continent of Africa isn't given the international attention most other regions receive, for one reason or another. Although rich in human history, and for a long time an economic powerhouse, the continent just isn't as relevant to the U.S. as it once was.

But, the loss of human life and displaced families in this region of the world are no less tragic and horrendous than anywhere else. Suffering is suffering, no matter where it's occurring.

What many people throughout the world are watching is the approach our country is taking and the strategy we'll use to halt the spread of terrorism in that part of the world.

Usually, the enthusiasm and interest with which the U.S., and the West in general, shows in any region is welcomed and has come to be expected.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

Russian industrial giant looks to Africa to boost exports

By Gleb Stolyarov and Ed Stoddard/Reuters/April 7

- * Sanctions drive Russian firms to hunt for new markets
- * Rostec says Uganda refinery, Zimbabwe project on track
- * Arms-exporting subsidiary eyes sales to Africa
- * Economic crisis could check Rostec's ambitions

MOSCOW/JOHANNESBURG, April 7 (Reuters) - Russia is pursuing costly state oil and platinum projects in Africa despite an economic crisis at home, hoping they will bolster sales, including of arms, for businesses hit by Western sanctions over the conflict in Ukraine.

Moscow has mostly focused on building ties with Asia since the U.S. and European Union sanctions came into force last year, but the Africa deals signal a desire to rebuild what was a big market for its weapons and technology during the Soviet era.

The drive by government-owned industrial giant Rostec, which includes Russia's monopoly arms exporter in its vast portfolio, is complicated by the economic slowdown, which has strained government finances and forced firms to seek state support.

Lower commodity prices mean non-government Russian investors in Africa in the early 2000s have mostly pulled out, but Rostec says it is on track to build a \$4-billion oil refinery in Uganda and a \$3-billion platinum project in Zimbabwe.

The conglomerate, which controls hundreds of firms ranging from arms exporter Rosoboronexport to the world's top titanium producer VSMPO-Avisma, sees the projects as a door-opener in Africa, particularly to its fast-growing arms market.

"Apart from proceeds from the project itself, building the crude oil refinery (in Uganda) opens markets for products of all Rostec's companies and Russian companies as a whole," Rostec said in a statement to Reuters.

The company and its chief executive, Sergei Chemezov, an ally of President Vladimir Putin, face sanctions over Russia's annexation of the Crimea region and Western accusations, which Moscow denies, of supplying separatists with weapons and troops.

RT Global Resources, a 100-percent owned Rostec subsidiary, won the contract to build and operate the refinery in February, raising concerns among some Ugandan opposition lawmakers about the selection of a company closely linked to Russian arms exports.

WEAPONS SALES

Uganda and Zimbabwe are not legally obliged to comply with the sanctions against Russia and both already have strained relations with the West.

Rostec said the project was launched in 2013, well before the introduction of sanctions, and

remained interesting in economic terms despite them.

The first stage of the Uganda project will require \$2 billion and the second \$1.7 billion, with the peak of investments expected in 2018-19, it said.

Rostec did not comment in detail on its involvement in the platinum-mining project in Zimbabwe. Russian development bank Vnesheconombank (VEB), which is expected to provide finance for the project and is also under sanctions, only said a cooperation agreement had been signed by partners in the project.

When the platinum deal was signed in September, Zimbabwe's defence minister, Sydney Sekeramayi, said the southern African country was looking at possible weapons purchases from Russia as well.

While geopolitical rivalry with the West may play a role, Rostec may be inspired by China, which has spent years pouring investment and loans into the continent to help meet its demand for natural resources, although for Russia, markets are the key.

SOVIET TRADITION

Rostec says it is interested in working with African countries that want to develop their defence sector.

Moscow was an active supplier of weapons to Africa before the collapse of the Soviet Union, when it lost the bulk of its market share. It is now the world's second-largest arms exporter behind the United States but sales to Africa make up a relatively small fraction of its total sales volume.

"Many countries on the African continent are traditional partners of Russia in military and technical cooperation, quite familiar with the quality of Russian weapons," Rostec said.

Soviet weapons still used in Africa and requiring repairs could also support demand for Russian arms, it added.

In 2013-2014, Rosoboronexport signed more than 20 contracts worth more than \$1.7 billion with sub-Saharan African countries, and Rostec said it intended to increase shipments to Africa in the coming years.

Currently only 2 percent of military products supplied to African countries come from Rosoboronexport, Rostec said on its website in September.

Rosoboronexport is already working with Angola, Nigeria, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Equatorial Guinea and is also looking to develop cooperation with Kenya, Rwanda, Djibouti and Ethiopia, Rostec said.

Konstantin Makiyenko, deputy head of the Centre for Analysis of Strategies and Technologies (CAST), a Moscow-based security and defence think tank, said Russian firms were interested in increasing exports to Africa because the region's weapons market was growing at a very fast pace.

"Civil projects have always aided weapons exports, that's why Rostec, which covers both civil and defence sectors, may well act as a link between civil projects and weapons sales," Makiyenko added.

Russia exported \$15 billion of weapons in 2014 and has an order book worth \$40 billion for weapons over the next 3-4 years, with the biggest buyers from India, China, the Middle East and Latin America. (Additional reporting by Alexander Winning and Polina Devitt; editing by Philippa Fletcher)

CHINA/AFRICA :

After Evacuation, China Stations Warships in North Africa

By Joshua Philipp, Epoch Times/April 6, 2015

Move appears to be part of larger strategy to project naval power

The Chinese regime put on quite a show last week when it sent a navy frigate to Yemen and evacuated 225 nationals from 10 countries. It marked the first time the Chinese regime sent a naval warship to evacuate non-Chinese citizens from a foreign country.

It now appears, however, that the Chinese regime had other plans. The evacuations may have been little more than cover for a naval pivot.

The naval warships dispatched by the Chinese regime for the evacuation will now be staying in North Africa.

The Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Sun Weidong, told the plan to Pakistani news outlet The News during a spring festival dinner on April 5.

Weidong said the warships of the Chinese regime's People's Liberation Army Navy will stay in the Gulf of Aden where, according to The News, they will "keep pirates away from one of the most important water courses in the world."

The Gulf of Aden is a major shipping chokepoint at the Horn of Africa. The channel separating Somalia and Yemen connects the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean and is near a key U.S. military outpost in Djibouti.

Several countries have been evacuating their citizens from Yemen, where a military conflict recently erupted with the Saudi Arabia-led military campaign against Houthi rebels, dubbed Operation Decisive Storm.

The Chinese regime sent its Type 054A Linyi frigate on April 2 to help evacuate foreign nationals, following similar missions to evacuate 449 of its own citizens, who were taken to Djibouti.

While the Chinese regime was conducting the evacuation, it sent an additional naval squadron to the Gulf of Aden for "anti-piracy patrols," according to The Associated Press. The squadron contains three warships, 800 sailors, and a special forces team.

News that the Chinese regime will keep the warships stationed in the Gulf of Aden comes on the heels of similar news that it may also build a naval base in Namibia's Walvis Bay, in the South Atlantic.

The naval outposts may be part of a larger strategy by the Chinese regime. According to The

Namibian, the Chinese state newspaper International Herald Leader reported in November 2014 that the Chinese regime wants to build 18 overseas bases in key locations around the world, including in Namibia, North Korea, and Thailand.

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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