



(Kenyan government officials angrily denied claims by Garissa University College officials that 166 students are still missing and may have been kidnapped by Al-Shabaab after the attack on the school last week.)

BURUNDI :

#### Assemblée pour les enfants du Burundi

le 10/04/2015 /ladepeche.fr

L'Association «Action pour les Enfants de Bubanza au Burundi» a fait au cours de son assemblée générale le bilan de ses réalisations pour 2014. Pour les 6 000 élèves de Bubanza ce sont près de 2 400 livres scolaires qui ont été achetés. Pour les 120 enfants des orphelinats, l'achat d'une vache et de son veau provenant d'un croisement entre une race locale et une race européenne à permis d'améliorer le quotidien dans un pays où le lait manque cruellement. Ces résultats sont dus aux bénéfices dégagés lors de différentes manifestations comme le concert de Gospel, les inscriptions au repas africain et bien sûr aux cotisations et aux dons des 84 membres de l'association. Les projets pour 2015 restent de développer l'accès à l'enseignement en achetant sur place des livres scolaires pour les enfants, mais également, pour cette année, de financer par l'intermédiaire de notre association-relais sur place l'achat d'une presse manuelle à huile de palme, huile de palme essentielle dans l'alimentation au Burundi et qui ne met pas en danger l'écosystème du pays. Ce nouveau projet d'auto-développement est au bénéfice des orphelinats et de la population locale.

RWANDA :

## Rwanda: Raised in the shadow of death

10 Apr 2015/Ryan Lenora Brown/mg.co.za

Twenty-one years after the genocide, Rwanda is rapidly rebuilding its national identity - but ethnicity is still a factor.

In a narrow, dark vault beneath the small Catholic Church in Nyamata, 42km from the Rwandan capital, Kigali, lie the skeletons of the country's past.

And make no mistake, they are actual skeletons, many thousands of them – the skulls arranged in neat rows on long metal shelves, facing forward, teetering stacks of femurs and fibulae crossed over each other like twigs.

On a bright April day in 1994, a militia walked through this sanctuary and slaughtered everyone inside. The tattered clothes of those victims have been stacked in heaps across the pews – a slinky leopard print dress, a sky-blue blazer with cream white buttons, a child's jumper emblazoned with a cartoon image of a spiky-haired skater punk. A small statue of the Virgin Mary, her eyes downcast, perches on a shelf above the altar.

But as guides lead tourists through the church, they must raise their voices to be heard above the shrieking giggles of the children playing at the primary school next door, oblivious to the dark history lesson on offer just across the fence.

This, in many ways, is contemporary Rwanda – a young country energetically attempting to outpace a bleak history, a place whose future is constantly shouting to be heard over its past.

In both Rwanda and South Africa, April 1994 marked a sudden and profound turning point, a radical pivot that has dictated the course of the two countries' histories ever since. And in both countries, the generation born after the leap bears a burden – to be raised in the shadow of a momentous history they do not remember. But they also, at least in theory, possess a singularly rare opportunity – the ability to recast their national identity in their own image.

“For a lot of young Rwandans, it's not that we're tired of hearing about the genocide exactly, but it's that we're tired of hearing it told in a way that makes our country out to be an object of pity,” says Natasha Muhoza, a 21-year old slam poet who runs communications for a Kigali tech start-up.

“We want to see the genocide remembered for what it is – a fact of the past, not something to make us a charity case to the world.”

Rwanda is a strikingly youthful country – even more so than South Africa. The median age is 18.6 and nearly half the country's population was born after 1994. With a fertility rate of nearly five children for every woman, the country's population is growing both younger and larger every year, and the United Nations estimates it will double by 2050.

Those young Rwandans are, by many barometers, growing up in a far more prosperous country than their parents did. Since 1994, life expectancy has doubled, the country's economy is growing at a rate of 8% a year and per-person GDP has tripled in the last decade.

Meanwhile, over the same period deaths from HIV, tuberculosis and malaria have each fallen by more than 80%. Rwanda also holds another intriguing global superlative – it now has a higher proportion of women in its Parliament (64%) than any other country on earth.

“It is better now than it was for my parents,” says Alice Ngabire (18), who lives with her extended family in a small mud-brick hut in a village in the sun-baked northeastern district of Nyagatare.

The markers of that prosperity are basic – that her family eats every day, she says, and she finished primary school. “At least I learned to read,” she adds.

But as Ngabire’s experience suggests, Rwanda’s gains have hardly been evenly distributed.

“To have human rights in Rwanda, first you must have money,” says a young activist who declined to be named for fear of government retribution for speaking to a foreign reporter. “Without funds, there is no way here to determine your destination in life here.”

Many Rwandans argue that the costs of the country’s rapid development have been profound. Critics say the President Paul Kagame, a lanky bespectacled former general with a tough temper, presides over a veritable police state.

In 2014, Amnesty International’s annual report on Rwanda levelled a damning list of charges against Kagame’s government, including harassment of human rights defenders, unlawful detention of opposition figures, and political assassinations abroad, including at least one suspected hit in Johannesburg.

Last year, Reporters Without Borders ranked Rwanda at a startling 162 out of 180 countries in its annual press freedom index – below Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, and Myanmar.

“What happened in 1994 completely shattered what existed before, and in that context what has happened in Rwanda over the past two decades is in many respects very impressive,” says Marc Sommers, author of *Stuck: Rwandan Youth and the Struggle for Adulthood*.

“But this so-called miracle in the centre of Africa is also a profoundly regulated country, whose programmes are carried out with force from a centralised state and youth feel the brunt of that.”

Those social controls, he says, play out in tight regulations over where people can live, the land they can till, and the types of houses they can build. Such regulations, in turn, have made it nearly impossible for young people to pass through the traditional gateways to adulthood, foremost among them building their own home, Sommers says.

The country’s “born-free” generation also finds itself at the centre of contemporary Rwanda’s most vexing riddle – in the aftermath of a deeply intimate mass killing, in which neighbours slaughtered neighbours, how do you go about rebuilding your national identity?

How do you create an idea of being Rwandan that is expansive enough to include both genocidaires and their victims, and to mean something to both?

The path the country has chosen is one in which, officially, ethnicity simply does not exist. The census no longer records who is Hutu, Tutsi or Twa and a slate of liberally-applied laws prohibit promoting “divisionism” and “genocide ideology”, murky categories that many say can amount to something as simple as discussing ethnicity.

But ethnicity still tiptoes quietly across the surface of life here.

“Do you think now that people do not know if they are Hutu or Tutsi or Twa? They know, of course they know, but they are just too afraid to speak,” the young activist says.

For 17-year old Umuhoza “Cadette” Laurence, vice-chairperson of the Children’s Forum of Rwanda, such silences serve an important healing purpose.

“People of my parents’ generation, I think they don’t want their children to suffer as they suffered, even by hearing their experiences,” she says. “Being silent is their way of protecting us.”

And indeed, in speaking to young people like Laurence, or 19-year-old cycling champion Jeanne d’Arc Girubuntu, it is easy to lose track of what one believes an African country’s greatest ambition should be.

Is it the chaotic democracy of South Africa, where many born-frees feel themselves abandoned by the very political system that promised to redeem them?

Or is it Rwanda, with its uncannily clean streets and low corruption index, a country whose hard reset in 1994 has given it the unlikely gift of starting completely anew?

“We have equality here, we can compete with men in anything,” Girubuntu says with a softness that belies her fierce prowess on the road. Lanky and rail-thin, just three years ago Girubuntu had never ridden a bicycle. But now she is Rwanda’s national champion, and earlier this year in an all-continental race she finished just one place shy of qualifying for the Olympics.

“When you are racing, you have only two options,” she says. “You lose because the other rider is stronger than you or you are the stronger one and you win. You must be the stronger one.”

But one does not have to travel far to remember that Girubuntu’s Rwanda is hardly open to everyone. Just a few miles from her training camp in the mountain town of Ruhengeri, in the foothills of the towering Virunga volcanoes, Apollo Saasita shares a damp, sour-smelling three-roomed mud hut with his wife, children and grandchildren.

Saasita is Twa, Rwanda’s indigenous ethnic minority, and grew up in a clan of nomadic hunter-gatherers inside the nearby Volcanoes National Park. But 30 years ago, the government expelled the Twa from that land and today they live in viciously impoverished villages on its fringes.

Once among the world’s most self-sufficient people, the Twa now rely on handouts from local farmers and visiting tourists to survive each day.

On a recent morning, three of Saasita’s granddaughters huddle over the embers of a dying fire inside their hut, sharing a plate of boiled potatoes.

“My hope for them is that they will be clever, so they can go far from here,” he says, laughing wryly. “They must go far from here.”

The reporting of this story was made possible by a fellowship from the International Women’s Media Foundation

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

### Corning Community College Teams Up With Ugandan Water Project

Torri Singer/mytwintiers.com/04/09/2015

CORNING, N.Y. (18NEWS) -- Corning Community College students get involved in The Ugandan Water Project to fundraise for millions without access to clean water.

The Ugandan Project is a non-profit organization that raises funds for a number of sustainable water solutions for communities including water filters, rainwater collection tanks and borehole rehabilitation.

Corning Community College students spent Thursday afternoon learning information from project director, James Harrington on how to get involved and save lives. A total of 9.2 million Ugandans do not have access to safe drinking water. Those who do have access are still vulnerable because their supply is unstable and the cost of water is relatively high in a country where the majority of people earn less than three dollars a day.

Harrington said the community support makes a huge impact on the lives of Ugandans.

"A vast majority of our funding comes through local communities events like this and we help people see that there is very little barrier between what they choose to do here in this room today and the actual impact that will happen in the next 30 to 60 days."

Corning Community College President, Dr. Douglas said helping with this project is an example of how CCC students learn outside of the classroom.

"Here in the Finger Lakes water is a beautiful resource. It supports so many dimensions of our lives but we also recognize that there are those who with which we share this planet that do not have that beautiful resource and we wanted to do something about that."

Students sold fairtrade gifts made by Ugandans to support the funding for rainwater collecting tanks. One tank costs \$3,600 and services 300 people for 30 years.

Harrington said he is proud the project allows people to enjoy shared experiences and see tangible change.

"The impact for an event like this is twofold one the students are going to help bring clean water to a school in Uganda so that is pretty sound for most people in Uganda but also it's an experience that the students will carry with them and see a glimpse of their own capacity to produce change."

Writing Specialist and Tutor, Keith Ward said the school is thankful to local businesses that are also supporting the project.

"We are very happy to have worked with over a dozen Corning locally owned businesses," said Keith. "They partnered with us to support this event."

## SOUTH AFRICA :

### After fall of statue, South African university weighs colonial legacy (+video)

By Diana Neille, Contributor Ryan Lenora Brown, Correspondent/csmonitor.com/ April 9, 2015

A contentious statue of British imperialist Cecil Rhodes was removed Thursday after a successful campaign by University of Cape Town students. But questions still remain of how South Africa should remember its checkered history.

Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa — For 81 years, the brooding bronze likeness of colonial titan Cecil John Rhodes has gazed out across the University of Cape Town's verdant campus.

That statue — hunched forward, his chin resting thoughtfully on his palm — stood by throughout the 20th century while the university around it slowly drifted from the ideals of Rhodes, one of its great benefactors. He was there as the school admitted its first black students and erupted in protests against white minority rule, as it appointed a prominent anti-apartheid activist to its helm and as it began an intensive program of affirmative action for disadvantaged students.

But if the Rhodes statue has often borne witness to history, it is now making some of its own. After more than a month of intensive student protests calling for the statue to be toppled, it was removed from its prominent location at the center of campus early Thursday evening.

As it came down, hundreds of students danced and celebrated the decision by the university's council — its highest governing body — the night before.

The removal is a turning point in a conflict that has sharply divided both the UCT community and observers across the country in recent weeks, unfurling a widespread debate about how South Africa should remember its checkered colonial past. But the protests have also drawn pointed attention to the country's present, and the vast inequalities that continue to pervade higher education here, more than two decades after the advent of democracy.

“What happens to the Rhodes statue is less important than what happens at UCT,” says Mahmood Mamdani, the Ugandan political and social theorist and former chair of UCT's African Studies program. “More important than physical reminders of the past are its institutional and intellectual legacies. It is only when statues become symbolic of institutional practices and intellectual traditions of an era supposedly gone by, that they gain in importance.”

A colonial history

Originally founded in 1829, UCT is Africa's second oldest university — and arguably the continent's most elite, outpacing its African competitors in all major regional and global rankings. But in the two decades since Nelson Mandela became South Africa's first democratic president, the university has struggled to remake itself in the image of the new South Africa.

Although the number of black students at UCT rose steeply after the end of apartheid, whites still make up by far the largest racial group — just under half the student body of 26,000 — in a country where their overall share of the population hovers around 9 percent. Seventy percent of the university's professors — a distinction reserved here for esteemed late career academics — are white men, and none are black women. Even the 30-person council that decided the statue's fate is less than 50 percent black.

"Institutions need to transform around students and not expect students to conform around the

institution,” says Ezra Mokgope, one of the student activists who gathered outside the room where the statue was being debated Wednesday evening. They eventually barged in on the proceedings.

Students like Mr. Mokgope say they are angry not just at the statue of Mr. Rhodes, but also at the slow pace of change on campus, and the limited scope of its so-called “transformation” policies. Although UCT has instituted preferential admissions for black students, for instance, graduation rates for whites still significantly outpace those of blacks. Recent university statistics show that 80 percent of white students complete their degree in the allotted five years, while only half of black students do.

“To transform an institution, you can’t just change admissions policies or respond to individual complaints about racial issues — it needs to be part of the university’s everyday business,” says Kesh Govinder, a mathematics researcher at the University of KwaZulu Natal who studies demographic change in South Africa’s universities. “This isn’t just a political issue, it’s an ethical one too.”

A national reaction

The protests that led to the Rhodes statue’s ouster kicked off in early March, when a political science student named Chumani Maxwele marched a dozen students to Rhodes’ bronze feet carrying vats of excrement, and then hurled them over the seated figure. He says the action was sparked by a long-standing anger at the university’s failure to remove such a prominent reminder of its racist history. In the weeks that followed, student activists gathered themselves under the banner of a movement they called “Rhodes Must Fall,” organizing pickets, protests, and sit-ins and swaddling the statue in thick black plastic trash bags.

They argued that displaying the statue was a tacit endorsement of Rhodes himself, a British mining magnate and governor of the Cape Colony in the late 19th century, who was among the most ardent and influential supporters of Britain’s African colonial empire.

“Rhodes donated land [to build UCT’s campus], but whose land was that? It was the land of our people. He killed our people,” says Wandile Kasibe, who is completing his PhD in sociology at UCT. “People are still living under the poverty line because of the leaders of the past... and therefore we cannot accept a situation whereby people are saying 'it's in the past.' No, it's actually in the present, today.”

And the movement quickly spread, with a group of students at Rhodes University in the Eastern Cape issuing calls for the school to change its name, and students at the University of KwaZulu Natal in Durban spray-painting a statue of their own colonial denizen — King George V — with the words, “end white privilege.” The move even broke the bounds of the university community, with several statues of colonial figures defaced across the country over Easter weekend, including a statue of former President Paul Kruger in Pretoria slathered with green paint by members of an opposition political party, the Economic Freedom Fighters.

'Rhodes must fall'

Meanwhile, at UCT the faculty senate voted at the end of March to support the statue’s removal, pending approval by the university council and the local heritage authorities. In the days that followed, boards were erected around the statue, covering it from view.

As they awaited the council’s decision Wednesday, a crowd of about 100 students blocked a small residential road outside the meeting room, carrying posters reading “All Rhodes Lead to... the Colonisation of the Mind. Rhodes Must Fall” as they danced and chanted songs popularized during the anti-apartheid movement.



As the closed meeting inside wore on into its second hour, the students became increasingly suspicious of the council's intentions, eventually moving into the courtyard of the building, and then into the meeting room itself, where they wove between the council members chanting, "nothing about us without us," before being asked to exit so the council could ratify its decision to remove the statue.

"I think a society really that is trying to break out into a new narrative needs the universities to be like nurseries of democratic debate," says Jay Naidoo, a prominent apartheid-era student activist, trade union leader, and later politician. "I think [these students] have every right to build a road to the destination ... that we in 1994 vowed in a covenant – to deliver a better life to all our people. That reality has not materialized."

### South Africa develops new medicine that may help battle against drug-resistant tuberculosis

Apr 10, 2015/firstpost.com

Drug-resistant tuberculosis is a major health challenge across much of Africa, but a new medicine being pioneered in South Africa could be a breakthrough after decades of frustration.

Bedaquiline is being made available to 3,000 people suffering side effects of the usual drug-resistant tuberculosis treatment, or who have developed complete drug resistance.

The early signs are encouraging, doctors say, though bedaquiline hasn't yet been tested in large-scale clinical trials.

The new drug -- one of the first new tuberculosis antibiotics released in 40 years -- was first given to 217 South African patients as part of an early access programme.

Jennifer Hughes, a 36-year-old British doctor in Cape Town, said she has seen the benefits.

Already, word has spread at Hughes's clinic in Khayelitsha, a poor township, and people are coming from all over the city requesting the new drug, developed by US-based pharmaceutical company Janssen.

"Everyone has heard that this is where you get better treatment," said Hughes, who recalls the "really, really happy day" when her first bedaquiline patient was declared tuberculosis-free in November last year.

South Africa has one of the worst tuberculosis epidemics in the world, with more than 1,000 cases per 100,000 people and the department of health describing the rise of drug-resistant tuberculosis as a "major public health problem."

"We want to get 3,000 patients on bedaquiline this year, and plans are in place to scale up," said Norbert Ndjeka, South Africa's director of the drug-resistant tuberculosis programme.

"The drugs are already in a number of our facilities. Definitely these drugs will reach the patients."

The treatment is also being used in Russia and has received conditional guidelines from the World Health Organization (WHO).

But clinical trials aren't concluded, and the drug can be prohibitively expensive -- factors that have



limited its distribution.

Ndjeka said South Africa was paying approximately \$1,000 per six-month course of bedaquiline, which can run a hefty price tag of up to \$30,000 in developed countries.

Globally, drug-resistant tuberculosis cases are growing so fast that last year the WHO warned that rates were at "crisis levels."

Tuberculosis, a contagious bacterial infection of the lungs, is one of the world's most deadly diseases, killing 1.5 million people in 2013.

Though promising, experts point out that the new drug is not a silver bullet and has side effects of its own, including liver and heart complications.

"The treatment we've got is not great, but we know what the side effects are," said Andrew Black, a pulmonologist at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. "At the moment we don't know (enough) about the new drug."

On a Wednesday morning in March, Black was on duty at a drug resistant tuberculosis clinic at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital.

Over 20 people were waiting for treatment, all with white masks covering their mouths.

Overhead, ultraviolet lights -- light kills tuberculosis germs -- cast a purple glow on the room. Occasionally, a person let out a hacking cough.

While the new drug is welcome, South Africa's ability to combat tuberculosis is held back by an overstretched health care system, said Black.

People often default in their treatment because they have to travel so far to a clinic and miss countless days of work.

Still, despite the challenges, Black believes South Africa is making progress.

"We won't know if we're winning for a couple of years," he said, "but it's not like HIV was, we're not ignoring it."

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

**Kenya officials: No one missing, students should have fought back**

By Karen Graham/digitaljournal.com/10/04/2015

Kenyan government officials angrily denied claims by Garissa University College officials that 166 students are still missing and may have been kidnapped by Al-Shabaab after the attack on the school

last week.

All this has come about after the horrific attack and mass murder of 148 people, 142 of them students at the university in eastern Kenya. Kenyan officials are already under fire for the late response of the country's special anti-terror police, who waited for 11 hours before initiating a counter-attack on the militants who took over the school on April 2.

We know 152 students to be dead and 166 are unaccounted for," said Secretary General Muga K'Olale, according to Kenya's Standard newspaper. "We fear that they might have been kidnapped by Al-Shabaab, and the government should come clean about their whereabouts."

Kenyan government officials admitted on Thursday that "mistakes had been made" in the handling of the terrorist attack on the school. According to the LA Times, Presidential spokesman Manoh Esipisu told newspaper editors in Nairobi, "Did we do something wrong in Garissa? Yes, of course. It is always a learning curve. The only person with all cards is a terrorist. He knows where and when, what time. You react. In reacting, there are always time lapses. You have to react and plan." But senior police official Pius Masai Mwachi seemed to be putting the blame for the dead on the students themselves, saying people should fight back and "don't just be killed like cockroaches." His remarks were made at the morgue where families were collecting their dead.

"Any Kenyans who fall into the hands of militants should not allow themselves to be divided along ethnic and religious lines, like what happened in the Garissa attack," Mwachi also said.

Another official, Information, Communication and Technology Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i, has struck out at the media, saying Kenya's media should be more "patriotic." He was irritated at the negative picture Kenya papers were painting of the government's handling of the terror attack.

Accounts from many survivors suggest that most of those who survived the attack either ran for their lives hid in closets or played dead among the slain bodies. They did not go up against the heavily-armed gunmen who came into rooms spraying gunfire.

Many Kenyans say it is wrong to expect civilians to fight back against armed assailants, and that it is the government's responsibility to protect them. Most of the students who died had no chance at escaping or defending themselves. There is no defense when you are gunned down while sleeping in a bed or at prayer in a chapel.

### Somali anger at Kenya cash transfer freezes

By AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/April 10, 2015

MOGADISHU, Apr 10 – Residents of Somalia's capital Mogadishu on Thursday condemned as "collective punishment" Kenya's shutting down of money transfer services to the country over suspected links to the Al-Qaeda-linked Shabaab.

Kenya on Wednesday froze key transfer companies vital for impoverished Somalia, as part of a crackdown on alleged Shabaab supporters following the university massacre of almost 150 people by the Islamists last week.

"It is a bad decision that collectively punishes the Somali people," said Abdusalim Mohamed, a resident in Mogadishu.

"It is already affecting me directly, because I cannot get money and help from my daughter, who has a business in Kenya."

With no formal banking system in the impoverished country, diaspora Somalis use money transfer services to send cash back home to support their families, sending some \$1.3 billion (1.1 billion euros) each year, dwarfing foreign aid.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta on Saturday warned Shabaab fighters his government would

respond to the killing of 148 people at the university in Garissa in the “severest way” possible, with warplanes on Monday attacking Islamist bases in southern Somalia.

But Kenyatta also warned that the masterminds behind last Thursday’s attack were inside Kenya, not Somalia.

Somalis, like Kenyans, are struggling to combat the Shabaab — and now they say Nairobi’s decision is harming them.

“It is sad that the same people who are victims of Al-Shabaab here, are also being punished because of Shabaab,” said Samira Hussein, a mother of five who works in Somalia, but whose husband and children are in Kenya.

Kenya’s police on Wednesday issued a list of 85 people and businesses with suspected links to the Shabaab, with the top name alleged Islamist commander Mohamed Mohamud, a Kenyan said to be the mastermind behind the university massacre in Garissa.

But the list also included money transfer companies, including Dahabshiil, one of the most important transfer companies across the wider Horn of Africa region.

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud this week said “remittances are a critical lifeline to millions in poverty.”

- ‘Devastating consequences’ -

The Shabaab fled their power base in Somalia’s capital Mogadishu in 2011, and continue to battle the AU force, AMISOM, sent to drive them out that includes troops from Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

The group has warned of further revenge attacks in neighbouring countries, notably Kenya and Uganda, in response to their participation in the AU force.

“It would better for Somalis that Kenya pulls its troops out of Somalia than stop remittances,” said Mogadishu resident Ahmed Moalim Dahir.

The restrictions are also hampering business transactions.

Abdullahi Ahmed, who works for an international aid agency in Mogadishu, said that if Kenya maintains the ban — currently blocking him from receiving his salary from Nairobi — organisations and businesses would be forced to shift operations elsewhere.

“It will hit Kenya economically, because organisations will move to another country, like Djibouti,” Ahmed said.

Banks in the United States and Europe have previously also moved to shut the transfer services, with aid agencies warning of “devastating consequences” from those measures.

“Hundreds of people are showing up here to get money from relatives, but after the Kenyan decision, people have to look for alternatives,” said Mohamed Jamal, working in a Dahabshiil office in Mogadishu.

Somalia has been unstable since the collapse of Siad Barre’s hardline regime in 1991, with the

country's internationally-backed government, along with African Union forces, currently battling the Shabaab.

Stopping remittances "would only compound the misery of a population cowed by terrorism," President Mohamud added.

But it is not only in Mogadishu the impact is already being felt.

In the Kenyan capital Nairobi, those in the largely ethnic Somali district of Eastleigh said the move had sparked frustration, with people arguing that those wanting to send cash to support the Shabaab would still find easy ways to do so illegally.

"Closing the remittance companies was a bad idea – and it has nothing to do with security measures," businessman Mohamed Khalil said. "What the government should do is focus on intelligence based information."

### Aid agencies urge Kenya to let Somali remittances resume

By Maria Caspani /reuters.com/Thu Apr 9, 2015

NEW YORK (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Aid agencies urge Kenya to allow Somali money transfer firms to resume operations, expressing concern that halting remittances will hurt struggling families and relief operations in Somalia.

On Wednesday, Kenya suspended the licenses of 13 Somali money transfer agencies in Nairobi in an effort to curb the financing of insurgents. This followed the recent massacre of 148 students at Kenya's Garissa University College by al Shabaab militants.

"Somali families are losing their only formal, transparent and regulated channel through which to send and receive money," said a statement issued by a group of relief agencies including Oxfam, CARE, Mercy Corps, Adeso and World Vision Somalia.

"Aid agencies working in Somalia also risk losing their only means of transferring money to sustain their daily humanitarian and development operations," it said.

Each year Somalis abroad use money transfer operators to send home an estimated \$1.3 billion, more than all humanitarian and development aid to the country combined, according to a 2013 report by aid groups Oxfam, Adeso and the Inter-American Dialogue.

The money provides a lifeline to millions of people in a country rebuilding itself despite an insurgency by Islamist militants as well as widespread hunger and recurring drought.

It is not only Somalis in Somalia who are at risk of losing a vital lifeline, but also Kenya's Somali community, which numbers just over one million.

"It's going to hurt Somalis in Kenya more than Somalis in Somalia. The amount of money sent from abroad to Kenya is huge," Somalia's central bank governor Bashir Issa Ali said on Wednesday.

Aid groups said that many of the remittance companies whose licenses were suspended in Kenya were delivering legitimate funds, and urged Kenyan authorities to vet them on an individual basis.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 10 Avril 2015... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 10/04/2015