



(Une campagne dénonçant les étrangers fait des ravages dans le pays depuis deux semaines. Six personnes au moins sont mortes. Durban, la grande ville zoulou d'Afrique du Sud, est le théâtre de violentes attaques depuis deux semaines. Une campagne xénophobe dénonçant les étrangers à la vindicte de la rue est largement relayée sur les réseaux sociaux.)

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

#### Ethiopia and Rwanda seeks to reinforce bilateral relations

Apr 17, 2015/Source:Xinhua

Rwanda's President Paul Kagame on Thursday held talks with Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, during his official visit to the country. Ethiopia and Rwanda have vowed to further strengthen and deepen relations between the two countries. with an agreement signed on urban development cooperation.

Prime Minister Hailemariam said he discussed with President Kagame and agreed to share experiences as well as best practices on boosting economic growths in their respective countries. He also revealed that they have dwelt upon issues of regional integration and electricity interconnection between Ethiopia and Rwanda.

"The issue of integration in the region was our agenda item. And we decided that there will be energy, electricity interconnection between our two countries through the regional pool and that integration will help us to boost, to transform our economies into industrial economy," noted Hailemariam.

The Prime Minister said that they have also agreed to share experiences in agriculture and rural development.

"And again, we agreed that we will cooperate on peace and security in our region. You know that Ethiopia and Rwanda contribute to peace and security of both in Eastern Region and we have also

experience in the Great Lakes region. So, both of us we want to exchange our views and cooperate in pacifying our region as well as the continent,” added Hailemariam.

President Kagame expressed Rwanda’s commitment to making joint efforts with Ethiopia for the benefit of the two countries and the regional integration at large.

“Rwanda and Ethiopia collaborate, work together not only for the benefit of only the two countries and our peoples, but also for regional integration, the strengthening and building of our continent,” noted Kagame. Enditem

RDC CONGO :

**RDC: 19 personnes décapitées à la machette**

16-04-2015/fr.canoe.ca

OICHA, République démocratique du Congo - Dix-neuf personnes ont été tuées à la machette mercredi en territoire de Beni, région de l'est de la République démocratique du Congo théâtre de massacres attribués à des rebelles ougandais, selon un nouveau bilan officiel obtenu jeudi.

«Nous déplorons la mort de 18 personnes plus une femme enceinte qui a été décapitée», a déclaré à l'AFP Amisi Kalonda, l'administrateur du territoire. Il avait donné mercredi un bilan de cinq morts, alors qu'une ONG locale avait parlé de dix personnes tuées.

Au total, a précisé M. Kalonda, 13 hommes et six femmes ont péri dans le massacre, et neuf des victimes ont été décapitées.

Cinq personnes ont été blessées, a ajouté l'administrateur. Il a accusé, sans apporter de preuve, les rebelles ougandais musulmans des Forces démocratiques alliées (ADF) d'être responsables de cette nouvelle tuerie.

Selon M. Kalonda, l'attaque a eu lieu dans la matinée de mercredi à Mbau, à 280 km au nord de Goma, la capitale de la province du Nord-Kivu. Les victimes, selon lui, ont été surprises par leurs assaillants alors qu'elles se rendaient aux champs.

Un photographe travaillant pour l'AFP a assisté à l'exhumation de dix d'entre elles dans la ville d'Oicha, où deux autres avaient été enterrées la veille.

Grande ville du Nord-Kivu et place commerciale régionale importante, Beni, à environ 250 km au nord de Goma, est le fief des Nande, une communauté dont les dirigeants s'étaient ralliés massivement à une milice soutenue par l'Ouganda pendant la deuxième guerre du Congo(1998-2003).

Les ADF sont une milice opposée au président ougandais Yoweri Museveni et présente en RDC depuis 1995. Elle est accusée d'être responsable des tueries ayant endeuillé la région de Beni depuis octobre 2014.

D'octobre à décembre, plus de 260 personnes, essentiellement des civils (hommes, femmes et enfants), ont été tuées à Beni et dans ses environs dans une succession de massacres commis principalement à l'arme blanche.

En décembre, une opération conjointe de l'armée congolaise et de la Mission de l'ONU pour la

stabilisation du Congo (Monusco) avait contribué à ramener le calme. Les tueries n'ont cependant pas cessé complètement et se sont étendues à des zones limitrophes de la Province-Orientale au tournant de l'année.

Depuis le 1er janvier, cinquante-cinq personnes au moins ont ainsi péri dans des attaques similaires dans le territoire de Beni ou en Province-Orientale.

Les relations entre la Monusco et les autorités congolaises se sont nettement détériorées au début de l'année, en raison d'un désaccord sur la façon de mener à bien l'offensive contre les Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) réclamée avec insistance par la communauté internationale pour mettre hors d'état de nuire ces rebelles hutu rwandais présents dans l'est du pays depuis plus de vingt ans.

Selon plusieurs diplomates en poste à Kinshasa, le renouvellement du mandat de la Monusco pour un an, fin mars par le Conseil de sécurité, n'a pas amélioré les choses, et les Casques bleus et l'armée congolaise n'entretiennent toujours aucune coopération militaire depuis plusieurs mois

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

#### Anti-immigrant unrest erupts in South Africa

April 17, 2015 /Reuters

Johannesburg: South African police fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse anti-immigrant protesters in Johannesburg, as the country's president called for a halt to a wave of violence directed at foreigners.

Around 200 protesters, shouting that they wanted immigrants to leave, pelted passing vehicles and police with rocks in the country's biggest commercial city on Thursday, triggering the show of force.

At least four people have been killed in the unrest that started two weeks ago in Durban, a major port on South Africa's Indian Ocean coast where further clashes broke out on Thursday.

Violence flared days after Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini reportedly said that foreigners should leave South Africa. He has since said his comments were misinterpreted.

The foreign ministry of China, a major trade partner, said Chinese-run shops had been damaged in Johannesburg. The Chinese consulate lodged a protest with the police and asked that they ensure the safety of Chinese people.

Johannesburg was the epicentre of anti-foreigner attacks in 2008 that killed more than 60 people as locals vented frustrations over various issues, particularly the high level of unemployment that plagues Africa's most advanced economy.

Addressing parliament in Cape Town on Thursday, President Jacob Zuma reiterated his condemnation of the violence, calling it a "violation" of South Africa's values.

"No amount of frustration or anger can ever justify the attacks on foreign nationals and the looting of their shops," he said. "We condemn the violence in the strongest possible terms. The attacks violate all the values that South Africa embodies."

Mr Zuma also said the government was taking steps to secure its porous borders and making progress in setting up a Border Management Agency, announced last year and scheduled to be up and running in 2016.

South Africa has erected safe camps for fleeing immigrants whose shops were looted and burnt in Durban, where hundreds of people took part in a peace march on Thursday.

Only a few blocks away, however, fresh skirmishes broke out between foreign nationals, locals and police.

The violence may also be fanning anti-South African sentiment abroad.

Petrochemicals group Sasol said Mozambican employees of service providers for one of its gas projects in Mozambique were "protesting about the presence of South African employees" although there had been no cases of violence.

Separately, an industry source said Mozambican employees at a sub-contractor for mining group Vale had become "hostile" to South Africans working on the Moatize project in that country but there had been no violence.

It was not clear if the incident occurred at the coal mine or the railway part of the project and Vale officials declined to comment.

South Africa, with a population of about 50 million, is home to an estimated 5 million immigrants, from African countries including Somalia, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Malawi, and from further afield, including China and Pakistan. Many own shops or sell wares as informal hawkers on street corners or in markets.

Periodic outbreaks of anti-immigrant violence have been blamed on high unemployment, officially around 25 percent although economists say in reality much higher, widespread poverty and glaring income disparities.

### Flambée de violences xénophobes en Afrique du Sud

Francetv info/le 16/04/2015

Une campagne dénonçant les étrangers fait des ravages dans le pays depuis deux semaines. Six personnes au moins sont mortes.

Durban, la grande ville zoulou d'Afrique du Sud, est le théâtre de violentes attaques depuis deux semaines. Une campagne xénophobe dénonçant les étrangers à la vindicte de la rue est largement relayée sur les réseaux sociaux.

Les petits commerces tenus par des ressortissants étrangers sont saccagés, pillés. Malgré l'intervention de la police, on déplore au moins six morts, parmi lesquels plusieurs migrants venus

de l'est de l'Afrique.  
Des camps ouverts à la hâte

Sipho voit avec tristesse son épicier éthiopien plier bagages. "Noir contre noir, ce n'est pas bon. Tout ça n'aidera personne", dit-il à France 3. Des camps de toiles pour héberger les migrants en danger ont été ouverts à la hâte.

Ces regains de violences sont endémiques en Afrique du Sud, pays dont l'économie attire les migrants africains. Le parti au pouvoir a organisé une manifestation pour dénoncer ces crimes xénophobes. Pourtant, le président Jacob Zuma a été réélu l'an dernier en faisant campagne contre l'immigration.

### At least four killed as anti-foreigner protests rock South Africa

GEOFFREY YORK/The Globe and Mail/Thursday, Apr. 16 2015

JOHANNESBURG —

Even as President Jacob Zuma was pleading with South Africans to halt their “shocking and unacceptable” violence against foreign migrants, another outbreak of anti-immigrant protests erupted in two major cities on Thursday, provoking rubber bullets and stun grenades from police who struggled to disperse the angry mobs.

Migrants from African and Asian countries have become scapegoats for the persistently high unemployment rate in South Africa. The waves of mob attacks have terrified foreigners and blighted the country’s aspirations to moral leadership in the post-apartheid era.

At least four people have died in the latest anti-foreigner violence over the past two weeks, and several African governments are preparing emergency plans to evacuate their citizens from South Africa if the crisis worsens.

Many migrants are already closing their shops and sheltering in makeshift camps or fleeing home to countries such as Mozambique to escape the attacks. The protests continued on Thursday in eastern Johannesburg and central Durban, with mobs demanding that foreigners leave the country. Even a peace march in Durban was disrupted by the anti-immigrant protesters.

“No amount of frustration or anger can ever justify the attacks on foreign nationals and the looting of their shops,” Mr. Zuma told the South African parliament on Thursday. “We condemn the violence in the strongest possible terms. We appeal for calm, an end to the violence and restraint. Criminal elements should not be allowed to take advantage of the concerns of citizens to sow mayhem and destruction.”

Mr. Zuma reminded his listeners that many of the foreigners were refugees, and many were helping South Africa’s economy by contributing scarce skills. He also reminded them that other African governments had played a key role in helping fight apartheid in the 1970s and 1980s.

But while his words were noble, Mr. Zuma’s actions have been inadequate for the epidemic of violence that has haunted South Africa for many years. More than 60 people were killed in horrific assaults on foreigners in 2008, and similar attacks have continued sporadically since then, usually targeting African and Asian migrants who own small shops in South Africa’s poorest communities. They are often unfairly blamed for the country’s 25-per-cent unemployment rate and the lack of jobs for young people.

Despite the persistent violence, Mr. Zuma has ignored most of the anti-foreigner attacks in recent years. His son, Edward, and his close political ally, Zulu king Goodwill Zwelithini, have fuelled the attacks by demanding that foreigners should “pack their bags and leave.” He made no attempt to dissociate himself from either man in his speech on Thursday.

Critics say the Zuma government has tried to have it both ways: officially condemning the anti-foreigner violence while unofficially lending support to xenophobic sentiments. Mr. Zuma, for example, recently announced a plan to prohibit foreigners from owning farmland in South Africa, prompting loud applause from his ruling party members in parliament.

Even his speech on Thursday – his first detailed response to the violence that has erupted repeatedly since January – contained strong hints that he shares the views of the anti-foreigner protesters. He said his government was “sympathetic to” some of the issues raised by protesters. He mentioned their complaints about illegal immigrants, the perception that foreigners commit crime, and “the increase in the number of shops or small businesses that have been taken over by foreign nationals.”

He promised to tighten controls on immigration into South Africa and vowed to tackle “crime activities” at the borders. Instead of deploying South African troops to stop the violence, he is sending 350 soldiers to the country’s border posts to work as immigration officers.

### South Africa Xenophobia 2015: Amid Durban Violence, Malawi, Nigeria, Kenya Call For Evacuation Of Nationals

By Morgan Winsor/ibtimes.com/April 16 2015

Malawi, Nigeria and Kenya are calling for the evacuation of their nationals from South Africa amid continuing xenophobic attacks and violence in the coastal city of Durban, media reports said. At least five non-South Africans, including a 14-year-old boy, have been killed in Durban since last week, and the violence has so far displaced about 5,000 foreigners in the eastern port city. Officials fear the attacks could escalate.

The Malawian government announced Thursday it would evacuate its nationals from South Africa, Agence France-Presse reported. Hundreds of Malawians are living in refugee camps in Durban after fleeing the xenophobic violence, leaving their homes and belongings behind, including their passports. “The situation is really tense as about 360 Malawians are stranded in South Africa following xenophobic attacks there,” Malawi’s Information Minister Kondwani Nankhumwa said Thursday.

A Nigerian lawmaker called for the immediate evacuation of Nigerians from South Africa on Thursday within 24 hours if the attacks on foreigners persist, the Premium Times reported. Nnenna Elendu-Ukeje, the foreign affairs committee chairman of the Nigerian House of Representatives, said the government must not wait until its nationals are killed.

“The federal government of Nigeria should rise up to the occasion by having contingency plans to evacuate Nigerians within 24 hours to avoid us losing our citizens to these attacks,” Ukeje said Thursday. “Unfortunately, there is no serious condemnation from South Africa government on these attacks, hence the need for the Nigerian government to be proactive and rescue her citizens as soon as possible.”

The Kenyan government said Thursday it too was planning to evacuate its citizens living in South Africa, following the xenophobic attacks. Foreign Minister Amina Mohamed said no Kenyans have

been killed in the attacks so far, Nation FM in Nairobi reported. “We don’t have any direct casualties. We have planned for an evacuation, but some of the Kenyans have actually voluntarily moved to a camp, but not in large numbers, but that could increase,” Mohamed said Thursday. “This is not the first time it has happened. This is the second time. We have always managed to provide protection.”

The attacks in Durban have targeted migrants from other African countries, whom impoverished locals have accused of taking away their jobs and businesses. Violence against foreigners is not unprecedented in South Africa. At least 62 people were killed in xenophobic attacks on migrants that broke out in 2008, according to BBC News.

South African President Jacob Zuma condemned the violence Thursday and said security officials were monitoring the situation, the Mail and Guardian newspaper in South Africa reported. “We appeal for calm, an end to the violence and restraint. Criminal elements should not be allowed to take advantage of the concerns of citizens to sow mayhem and destruction. Any problems or issues of concern to South African citizens must be resolved peacefully through dialogue,” Zuma said Thursday. “The police have been directed to work around the clock to protect both foreign nationals and citizens and to arrest looters and those committing acts of violence.”

### How foreigners liberated South Africa

17 April 2015/news24.com

I would like to ask the Zulu king, does he know what Alfonso Dlakama's values and principles are. If he does not he is not alone. Nobody else does.

### RENAMO

Yet Dlakama is a looming figure in Mozambican history. He was a huge factor in conflict that almost brought Mozambique to its knees. Dlakama is like a tokoloshe that was set upon the Mozambican people. The reason being they dared support the liberation of South Africa. His only source of strength, was the support he got from the apartheid regime led by PW Botha. They supplied him with the best arms, sometimes helped him with secret commandos.

He wreaked havoc. Mozambican lives were lost. Infrastructure was destroyed, roads and railways planted with land-mines. Zimbabwe was sucked into the conflict too. It had to send its army to help Mozambique survive the onslaught by this surrogate of the apartheid regime. In retaliation Matsangaise (as RENAMO rebels were called in Zimbabwe) began hit and run raids into Zimbabwe, killing and maiming many people along the long border with Mozambique.

### Samora Machel death

Mozambique's commitment to South Africans liberation was so unselfish and so un-shirking that Mozambique's first president, Samora Moises Machel died on South African soil. The theory believed by some is that his plane was diverted by a false beacon set up by agents of the apartheid regime. Instead of approaching Maputo the plane followed a beacon into the hills of Nkomati where it crashed. Some claims say Machel survived but was finished off by South African agents.

Why did this happen to Machel? Because he was an unwavering and committed supporter of South Africa's liberation. A policy he pursue at great cost to his own country, and people. That is what African brotherhood is about.

In 2008 Ernesto Nhamauve perished. Like many Africans delighted at the liberation of South Africa he had moved there, thinking he was going to live among brothers. Alas! He was mistaken. He died

at the hands of the very people his native country suffered so much to liberate. He died a painful tortured death. He was necklaced. Burnt alive. An image of him on his hands and knees engulfed in flames still haunts the memories of many.

He was necklaced in a street full of people. Journalists' cameras were busy clicking away at the spectacle of his death. The police were there. An image of one of them using an industrial fire extinguisher, belatedly smothering the flames that took his life, also haunts many memories. The people who necklaced him were photographed. Many bystanders from the area were also photographed. To any competent police force, there were hundreds of leads that could have led to the arrest of his killers.

To this day, seven long years later, not single person has been brought to trial for his murder. This day, Ernesto's people, and other Africans, are again targets of the very same people they suffered so much to help liberate.

When you listen South African leaders speak, they sound like they are more worried about apologising to South Africans for the presence of foreigners than condemning the violence. They often repeat anti-foreigner hearsay, as if trying to offer a context to xenophobia. That is if they admit xenophobia is taking place right now. In most cases they offer the hollow excuse of it being 'only a few criminal elements'.

#### Assassinations and bombings

When ANC offices and safe-houses in Harare were infiltrated and bombed by PW Botha's agents on 19 May 1986, Robert Mugabe was at the scene the very following morning. His declaration of commitment to South Africa's liberation was not laboured, punctuated by excuses or tongue-chewing statements.

"Zimbabwe will not be deterred from rendering assistance to the liberation movement of South Africa", he clearly declared. In Zambia, also attacked on the same day, Kenneth Kaunda immediately promised revenge for the attacks on the ANC.

Contrast that with the doddering response to xenophobia. Zuma has to be cajoled into saying anything at all, let alone show concern by visiting victims.

Yet today, people who are enjoying the fruits of that liberation, chew their tongues when Mozambicans, Zimbabweans and Zambians are attacked for absolutely no reason. They show more sympathy for criminal activity than they show for human rights.

Zambia and Malawi were liberated. Mozambique and Angola were liberated. Then Zimbabwe was liberated. As each of these countries got freedom, they immediately picked up the task of helping the next country. The frontline of liberation slowly marched southward, until only South Africa was left.

Cornered, the apartheid regime thought the best way to halt the steady march of liberation, was to take the battle to those countries that were already liberated. At first they used surrogates like RENAMO and Super Zupu (not Zupu). Then they send in their commandos and army into the places that troubled them the most.

#### Cuito Cuanavale

The biggest modern military battle ever fought on African soil, was at Cuito Cuanavale. Angola was the main host and trainer of Umkhonto weSizwe and SWAPO fighters. PW Botha had decided to send in his army to deal with the growing problems of MK and SWAPO once and for all.



It was when their army lost the battle of Cuito Cuanavale in Angola, that the apartheid regime came to the realisation that their only way out was to negotiate. If they didn't they would eventually be driven into the sea.

One hand does not wash itself. It was when the two hands of South Africans struggling internally, and the frontline states fighting the apartheid military where they could, washed each other, that the filth of apartheid and racist idiocy was finally washed away from our continent. Now if one hand is cutting off the other one, one day it will be unable to wash itself.

I would like to ask Goodwill, did Samora Machel die so that his people could be necklaced on Johannesburg streets? Were ANC safe-houses bombed killing Zimbabweans so that Zimbabwean toddlers and their mothers could be burnt on Durban streets?

TANZANIA :

### **Tanzania: Attacks On Elderly Tanzania Women Sparks Plan Against Witch Hunters**

By Thomson Reuters Foundation/16 April 2015

Dar es Salaam — A rising number of attacks on elderly women in Tanzania accused of witchcraft has prompted the launch of a campaign to protect older women in the impoverished east African nation.

Human rights groups say deep seated cultural beliefs, the low status of women, and the need to hold someone responsible when misfortune strikes have created a culture where allegations against older women and subsequent violence is tolerated.

Vigilante gangs blaming witches for deaths or crop failures have killed rising numbers of women in recent years and a ban on witchdoctors by the government this year has led to more attacks, said Mary Mutoni, the executive secretary of Saidia Wazee, a non-profit group promoting older women's rights.

The Dar es Salaam-based Legal and Human Rights Centre estimates 765 people accused of being witches were killed in Tanzania in 2013, up from 640 in 2012, with over 500 women.

Most of the women attacked were in their late middle age or older and many were said to have red eyes, perceived by many Tanzanians as a sign of being a witch, the group said.

HelpAge International, a non-profit organization that works to help older people, has launched a two-year project this month to improve community awareness about older women's rights while also providing legal advice and counselling to any victims.

Joseph Mbasha, a HelpAge programme manager, said it also aimed to protect women from witchcraft related violence.

"There's a nationwide outcry due to the physical torture and murder of innocent older women for the allegations that they are practicing witchcraft," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

ELDERLY WOMEN MOST AT RISK

The widespread belief in witchcraft in Tanzania has hit the headlines this year due to a rise in the number of attacks on albinos whose body parts are used in spells said to bring luck.

United Nations officials have voiced fears of more attacks ahead of an election this year as politicians seek good fortune.

Mbasha said this belief in witchcraft coupled with other traditions that legitimize gender-based violence and the erosion of traditional respect for the elderly put older women at risk.

For example widows have a legal right to inherit their husbands' property in Tanzania but often they are denied this.

"The relatives of the deceased will do whatever possible to grab everything from the widow while accusing her of killing her husband," Mbasha said, stressing that more popular knowledge of widows' legal rights was needed and legal aid to support them.

Campaigners said it was important to address the issues faced by elderly women with Tanzania's population ageing.

Tanzania has 1.3 million people aged 65 plus, or about 2.9 percent of its 50 million population, according the CIA World Factbook. This figure is forecast to climb to 8.3 million by the year 2050 with 4.5 million of these women.

The 300,000 euro (US\$320,000) HelpAge project, supported by the European Union, is being rolled out in 10 villages in Magu District of north-western Mwanza region.

Programme managers will work with the relevant government authorities and lawmakers to better apply policies and laws that protect and uphold the rights of older women.

Leah Makubi, 68, who was attacked by an unknown gang at her house at Kahangala village in Magu last year, hopes the project will change her community's attitude towards older women.

"It is sad that women are targeted in these attacks. The only sin we seem to have committed is to grow old," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from Magu.

- Editing by Belinda Goldsmith

KENYA :

**Kenya too important to abandon**

By Geoffrey Johnston/[thewhig.com](http://thewhig.com)/Thursday, April 16, 2015

After the horrific massacre of scores of its best and brightest young people earlier this month, Kenya remains on edge, anticipating yet another in a long series of jihadist strikes.

Terrorists from the Somali-based al-Shabab Islamist militia stormed a college campus in the northern university town of Garissa the day before Good Friday, catching students off guard, many of whom were attending a morning prayer service.

The terrorists quickly identified the Muslim students, allowing them to leave unharmed. But the killers showed no mercy to the Christian students. When the shooting was over, 148 people had been martyred.

Foreshadowing the holy week massacre, terrorists attacked churches in Garissa in July 2012, reportedly killing dozens of worshippers.

Is it racism or indifference?

Many Kenyans must be feeling a dizzying mix of emotions, including fear, sadness and despair. But can the West hear Kenya crying over the loss of so many of its children in a single attack?

From the bombing of the Boston Marathon, to the massacres at the offices of Charlie Hebdo and a Jewish supermarket in Paris, to the siege of the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa, the world tends to pay close attention to jihadist strikes in the industrialized world.

However, when jihadists carry out mass casualty attacks in Africa, international interest seems to be less intense and the response of the community of nations tends to be perfunctory.

For example, when Paris was rocked by jihadist violence earlier this year, social media was flooded with messages of support. And many world leaders marched in the streets of the city of lights in an impressive show of solidarity.

However, world leaders haven't flocked to Kenya to march in solidarity with East Africa's most important nation. And the reaction to the massacre on social media was underwhelming, prompting a backlash from Kenyans, who rightly pointed out that Kenyan lives matter, too.

U.S. President Barack Obama did not even mention that most of the victims were killed simply because they were Christian, or that their killers committed mass murder in the name of radical Islam.

In fairness, Canada was quick to denounce the massacre. "Canada is appalled by today's terrorist attack at Garissa University College in Kenya, which has claimed the lives of many innocent students," Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson said in a public statement.

Nicholson declared that Canada "stands by the people of Kenya in these difficult times and will continue to support international efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms." His declaration was consistent with Canada's Kenyan strategy, which aims to bolster peace, prosperity and good governance in the developing nation.

Does the world care less about terrorism in Africa because the victims are black? Racism is a plausible explanation.

However, the world did pay close attention to events in Kenya when jihadists laid siege to the upscale Westgate Mall in Nairobi in September 2013. The riveting spectacle unfolded in real time on Twitter.

Another explanation for the world's lack of engagement is that Kenya has been victimized so many times in recent years that the West has become indifferent to seemingly routine jihadist strikes.

Without a doubt, Kenyans have suffered greatly at the bloody hands of al-Shabab. And most of the

time, traditional and/or social media aren't around to cover the carnage.

The terrorist militia has carried out many other ruthless terrorist attacks in Kenya, often targeting Christians. For example, late last year, Canada condemned a terrorist attack that "targeted non-Muslim workers at a quarry in northeast Kenya," killing at least 36 civilians. That attack capped a particularly bloody year in Kenya.

In November 2014, al-Shabaab attacked a bus in northern Kenya, murdering 28 innocent civilians. And last June, terrorists slaughtered nearly 50 civilians and wounded many others at Mpeketoni.

The month before the Mpeketoni attack, terrorists executed strikes on Mombasa and Nairobi, reportedly killing seven people and wounding 60 people, prompting Ottawa to declare its support for Kenya's "fight against terror." And in March, Andrew Bennett, Canada's Ambassador for Religious Freedom, publicly condemned a "terrible attack near Mombasa, Kenya, which has killed six people attending a church service."

Why Kenya matters

Al-Shabab is an offshoot of the radical Union of Islamic Courts that ruled Somalia briefly in the mid-2000s. In 2012, al-Shabab became an affiliate of the al-Qaida terror network.

Four years ago, the terrorist militia kidnapped two foreign nationals working for Medecins Sans Frontiers in Kenya. In response, Kenya launched a military operation in Somali, a failed state, to secure the shared border.

Kenya's military incursion, which was sanctioned by Somalia's transitional government, weakened al-Shabab. However, the militia still has a strong presence in rural parts of Somalia and even in Kenya.

The community of nations should start paying attention to and caring about Kenya's national security, because Kenya matters.

"Kenya is an economic and strategic hub for East Africa, so what happens there matters not just to Kenyans," wrote Hillary Clinton, a former U.S. secretary of state and the frontrunner for the Democratic Party's 2016 presidential nomination, in her memoir *Hard Choices*.

Canada agrees with Clinton about Kenya's importance. According to the website of the Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development (DFATD), "Kenya is the economic engine and key driver of stability in East Africa. Its strong private sector, infrastructure, and financial services contribute significantly to growth in the region."

In addition, DFATD praises Kenya for its diplomatic leadership and major contribution to peacekeeping, which "reinforce its role as a regional stabilizer."

From the Realpolitik perspective, the Islamist assault on Kenya should be of great concern to the international community. Kenya is a bulwark against the spread of the violent and destructive transnational religious ideology of Islamism.

Al-Shabab draws recruits from western nations, including Canada. That makes Kenya's fight against the terrorist militia our fight. Jihadists returning to Canada from East Africa pose a clear and present danger to public safety in this country.

Kenya is simply too important to be allowed to face al-Shabbab alone. If the terrorists succeed in destabilizing Kenya and force Kenyan forces to adopt an isolationist foreign policy, Kenya would be diminished as a nation, and that would be very bad for the stability of the region.

Meanwhile, the West should find a way to belatedly demonstrate solidarity with Kenya in the wake of the Garissa massacre.

Nothing can justify the slaughter of Kenyans. And no twisted religious doctrine can legitimize mass murder. Kenyan lives matter, too.

### The massacre of varsity students in Kenya

April 17, 2015/sunnewsonline.com

A group of Islamic terrorists unleashed explosives and gunfire on students of the Garissa University in Eastern Kenya on April 2, leaving 142 of them dead. Four terrorists, three policemen and three soldiers also died in the incident, bringing the total casualty figure to 152. The targets of the terrorist attack were Christian students, whose religious affiliation became a death sentence. The Somali jihadist group, Al-Shabaab, which is an affiliate of Al-Qaeda, promptly took responsibility for the killings. The terrorists, made up of four Somali-Kenyans and one Tanzanian, had arrived the university at dawn. They carefully separated the Christian students who were subsequently murdered. The carnage lasted 15 hours before the last terrorist was gunned down by Kenyan forces.

Somali-based Al Shabaab is one of the world's most bloodthirsty terrorist groups. Kenya has practically been its hunting ground for some years now. On September 21, 2013, it executed a similar attack on Westgate Shopping Mall in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, in which 67 shoppers were killed and hundreds injured. Last December, the terrorists launched the so-called quarry attack, in which 36 Kenyans were slaughtered. Al Shabaab is known to have trained Nigerian jihadist terrorist group, Boko Haram, in bomb-making.

The whole world is expectedly outraged at this senseless massacre. But, a stronger resolve is required to confront and stop the outrageous onslaught of terrorists on humanity. The Al-Shabaab demand that Kenya should withdraw from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is an insult not only to Kenya but the African continent as a whole.

We understand the anxiety of the Kenyan government and the pressure from the country's opposition parties that are pushing the government to succumb. But, this is not the time for Kenya to cower before terrorists who represent everything that humanity abhors and condemns. The African Union (AU) should put the issue of the Garissa attack on its agenda when it meets to discuss Boko Haram in the coming weeks. The danger posed by these jihadist organisations is real and must be tackled head on by the entire continent. The AU should learn from the Nigerian experience: after the security alliance of Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger and Chad, Boko Haram found that it could no longer operate its former cross-border havens and sanctuaries, which had been the source of its strength and the frustration of Nigerian security forces.

A high level continental security council should be urgently set up to work on terrorism, with emphasis on intelligence gathering and sharing, to pre-empt these attacks before they mature into mass murders. Other nations should also learn from the Kenyan experience that no matter how innocuous terrorist alerts and warnings may seem, and irrespective of where they come from, they should always be taken seriously and appropriate precautions taken. The United States of America has learnt to raise its vigilance and alert levels whenever such warnings are received. Had Kenya taken this precaution, the Garissa massacre would probably have been averted.

We agree that this incident is not so much a reflection of Al-Shabaab's strength as Kenya's internal security weakness. The Kenyan government must go the whole hog not only by cutting off the funding of the terrorists but also by devoting adequate resources to intelligence gathering. The AU forces have practically deprived Al Shabaab of the control of territories in Somalia and it is understandable that the group would occasionally lash out in frustration.

We think it is time for a truly global response to jihadist terrorism. The United Nations Security Council should hold a special session and a comprehensive debate on this latest threat to international peace and security. It is no longer enough to issue condemnatory statements after each mass murder.

The world needs to wake up to the dangers posed by organisations like Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram, Al Qaeda and Islamic State (IS). Global leaders have played the ostrich game on the problem of terrorism for too long. This is the time for the world to rise as one against the onslaught of terrorists.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

**West Africa Seeks \$5-6 Billion Aid, Debts Canceled: Sierra Leone's Koroma**

By Reuters/April 16 2015

WASHINGTON (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - The Ebola-stricken nations of West Africa are asking international donors to cancel their debts and give them \$5-6 billion over two years to rebuild their economies, devastated by the deadly disease, Sierra Leone's president said on Thursday.

"Our social services are ruined, our economies have halted, and we need a real Marshall Plan to take us out of the woods," President Ernest Bai Koroma said in an interview with the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The leaders of Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia will unveil their regional reconstruction program at a meeting on Friday with the heads of the World Bank, the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund.

Koroma said he wants World Bank President Jim Yong Kim to deliver on his promise last year of regional reconstruction on the scale of the Marshall Plan that rebuilt Europe after World War II. The three nations also need about \$4 billion in debt forgiveness over and above the relief already provided, he said.

"If that (debt) is canceled and support is provided to our regional program, it will take us a long way forward in our transformation agenda," Koroma said.

The request is sizable. Already the international community has pledged \$5.6 billion to tackle Ebola and the damage it has wrought. More than 10,000 people have died since the virus struck West

Africa a year ago and 25,791 people have been diagnosed with the disease, rocking a region still recovering from civil wars.

The number of new Ebola infections has fallen sharply recently, raising prospects for zero infections soon. The World Health Organisation reported 37 confirmed cases in the week to April 12, down from 150 four weeks earlier.

But the social and economic toll has been immense. The healthcare systems collapsed, schools closed, flights were canceled, workers left and unemployment has soared.

Economic output this year is forecast to contract 13 percent in Sierra Leone, 1.4 percent in Liberia and growth to stall in Guinea. The global collapse in commodity prices has ruined their export sectors.

## FOOD INSECURITY

Food shortages are worsening. As the disease cut huge swathes through families and villages, farmers were unable to tend their crops. The World Food Programme is providing supplies.

Koroma said he was concerned about the planting season for rice, a staple for his country, and said farmers urgently needed seedlings, equipment and fertilizer within the next few weeks.

"This is very critical," he said. "We have to move quickly and cut through the bureaucracy."

The World Food Programme forecasts the number of food insecure people in Sierra Leone, meaning they cannot get enough to eat, will increase by one third to 610,000 this year.

Koroma said the number will be much lower if the country's farmers do not miss the April-May rice planting season.

The international community already has provided support through healthcare program and IMF credit facilities. But Koroma said that now that the health crisis is ebbing, a regional reconstruction plan led by the World Bank and supported by bilateral and multilateral donors is crucial to put the three countries' economies onto a secure path.

## AU condemns xenophobic attacks taking place in South Africa

Apr 16, 2015/Source: Xinhua

The African Union (AU) has condemned attacks on foreigners in South Africa and has since called for an immediate end to the xenophobic attacks, a statement emailed to Xinhua on Thursday said. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the chairperson of the AU, described the attacks as unacceptable and called for an immediate halt.

Whatever the challenges we may be facing, no circumstances justify attacks on people whether foreigners or locals. It is unacceptable, the AU chief, who is also former wife to current South African President Jacob Zuma, said in the statement.

Attacks on foreigners living in South Africa have escalated with foreign-owned shops looted and torched while some foreigners have been burnt alive and others brutally assaulted.

While welcoming current efforts by the South African government to engage those affected as well as the deployment of more police officers to provide protection and keep law and order, the AU chief decried the incident as particularly unfortunate as the continent approaches the celebration of the African Freedom Day on May 25.

“On 25 May we remember the founding of the Organization of African Unity, which played such a critical role in mobilizing international solidarity for the end of apartheid,” she said.

The challenges faced by South Africa, poverty and unemployment, are challenges faced by all countries on the continent and we must work together to address these, and build a better future for all Africans, she added.

At least five foreigners, including a 14-year-old boy, have been killed in attacks in South Africa’s coastal city of Durban. The attacks have since spread to other cities. Enditem

UN/AFRICA :

### **Africa: Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism Must Go Hand-in-Hand, Say UN Experts**

UN News Service/16 April 2015

Only through a strict adherence to international human rights standards can the world's counter-terrorism strategies ultimately succeed, two United Nations human rights experts have declared.

"Just as much as we condemn terrorism, particularly at a time when the international community reaffirms its unreserved commitment to combat it, we must demand that human rights be respected in the context of such a challenge," said Ben Emmerson, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, and the UN Special Rapporteur on religious freedom, Heiner Bielefeldt, in a press release issued today.

Pointing to the recent terrorist attack against Kenya's Garissa University College in which at least 147 students and lecturers were killed, the two experts said the incident once again showed the "urgent need to re-think counter-terrorism responses based on law enforcement and military force," adding that Member States needed to confront the non-religious driving forces of terrorism "more seriously."

"This is particularly true when confronting challenges such as armed conflict, poor governance, environmental degradation, endemic corruptions, intricate historic legacies of a country, extreme poverty, social, cultural, economic and political discrimination, as well as marginalisation of large sections of the population, or prolonged periods of State collapse."

These circumstances, the experts continued, provide "a fertile soil for recruitment" for extremist movements that promise a prospect for change from the status quo but then resort to "unacceptable means" of acts of terrorism to achieve their goals.

"By actively promoting and protecting human rights, States contribute to preventing terrorism in an effort to address its root causes and risk factors," Mr. Emmerson and Mr. Bielefeldt added. "This is not solely a question of legitimacy; it is also a question of effective prevention."

In the press release, the UN experts also suggested that Member States recognize the suffering of victims of terrorist acts and accept "a special obligation" to victims of terrorism occurring on their territory. However, they warned, the suffering of victims should never be misused as a pretext to deny the human rights of those suspected of terrorism.

"This adds to the vicious circle of terrorism by contributing to the dehumanization of victims of terrorism," the independent experts concluded. "Genuine respect for the humanity of the victims



requires that the protection of human rights is not invoked to curtail human rights."

To that point, they said, Member States should move towards the adoption of a specific international instrument setting out the rights of victims of terrorism and the corresponding obligations on States.

US/AFRICA :

### **Nigeria, U.S. Decry Violence Against Foreigners in S' Africa**

By Terhemba Daka and Segun Olaniyi with Agency Report/The Guardian (Lagos)/17 April 2015

THE United States has joined the South African government and other civil society leaders in condemning the violence against foreigners taking place in KwaZulu-Natal and other parts of the former apartheid enclave that has led to the killing of some migrants.

They stated their concern at the loss of innocent lives, destruction of property, and impact on families and communities, and urge those involved to refrain from all forms of violence, exercise restraint, and rely on peaceful dialogue to resolve any differences.

Likewise, the House of Representatives in Nigeria has urged President Goodluck Jonathan to recall the country's High Commissioner from South Africa as a result of the recent xenophobic attacks targeted at Nigerians and other African nationals.

The parliament at its plenary session yesterday said the action was necessary to pave way for urgent diplomatic consultations with the government of South Africa. The House also called the country's President, Jacob Zuma to immediately commence an investigation into the matter with a view to adequately addressing the situation.

Foreign Affairs Minister, Aminu Wali, has assured that the Federal Government is prepared to bring Nigerians back home if they are found to be under threat from South Africans in the recent attacks. But he confirmed that so far no Nigerian citizen has been affected.

U.S. Ambassador to South Africa, Patrick H. Gaspard said: "The U.S. government has long recognised the challenges posed by an influx of migrants and refugees throughout southern Africa and provides various forms of assistance in South Africa," noting "that as an immigrant to my own country, my heart goes out to those who have been attacked for being different."

Gaspard noted that the United States government is ready to help, stressing that it is the largest single donor to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC), directly funding approximately 40% of these organisations' budgets in the Africa region.

Also in the House of Representatives resolution over a motion of urgent public importance moved by Chairman of the Committee on Nigerians in the Diaspora, Abike Dabiri-Erewa, on the floor yesterday, the House said Nigeria should apply diplomatic reciprocity if South Africa continues to frustrate Nigerian businesses in the country by doing same to her interests in Nigeria.

As members took turns to condemn the recent attacks, which, according to them was not the first specifically targeted at Nigerians, the House called on the President of the African Union (AU),

Mrs. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, who incidentally is a South African, to decisively intervene, as it described the incident as "cruelty being meted out to fellow black migrants."

Leading debate on the motion, Dabiri-Erewa recalled that there have been constant, unwarranted xenophobic attacks against African migrants in South Africa, whereby Africans in South Africa are being slaughtered like animals, adding that the recent attacks, which has left many dead, businesses and shops vandalised, many beaten up mercilessly, was incited by a statement allegedly made by South African Zulu King, Goodwill Zwelithini, who told African migrants to go home as they are no longer welcome in South Africa.

President Jacob Zuma, in his remark to the South African Parliament said: "Let us work together to provide support to all foreign nationals who have been affected by this violence."

"Son of President Zuma, Edward, allegedly echoed the same statement. This ignited a strong debate, and worse still, immediate backlash of violent reactions among the Zulus in Kwazulu, who unleashed terror on foreign immigrants including Nigerians in Jo-bourg, Durban and Pretoria. They steal, break into their homes, businesses, take their properties, killing them. At least five have been killed in Durban, hundreds stranded and unable to return home," the lawmaker stated.

Speaking to State House correspondents, Wali said: "With the discussions I have been having with Nigeria's Head of Mission in Pretoria, no Nigeria has so far been affected. They informed me that they have called the Nigerian community and told them to close their shops, stay home and keep out of trouble and obey the laws of South Africa."

He added: "We are not being reactionary, because this is happening to all foreigners, not Nigerians alone. We are monitoring the situation and will now take action according to how the situation develops, but you can be rest assured that government will not shirk in its responsibilities."

Meanwhile, President of the Nigerian Union in South Africa (NUSA), Ikechukwu Anyene, has urged the Federal Government to help halt the xenophobic attacks on Nigerians in that country.

According to News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) Anyene, who spoke on phone from Pretoria, South Africa, said that the latest spate of xenophobic attacks began three weeks ago.

Already, unconfirmed reports indicate that no fewer than 10 Nigerians may have been killed since angry South Africans launched attacks on African migrants in Johannesburg on Friday.

There are more than 800,000 Nigerians living in South Africa.

Anyene said Nigerians resident in some South African cities had gone into hiding to avoid being attacked.

"The Nigerian government should urgently intervene and save our people from the attacks. They should prevail on the South African government to stop such attacks against Nigerians. It appears nothing is being done to stop the attacks and Nigerians are worried about the situation," he said.

Anyene said during the attacks in Johannesburg last week, shops owned by Nigerians were looted and their owners seriously injured by the attackers.

He said the Nigerian Union in South Africa had been in touch with local chapters in some provinces and had urged them to take precautionary measures to save themselves.

Anyone said that since Nigeria and South Africa established diplomatic relations, there had not been a single incident of xenophobic attack against South Africans living in Nigeria.

"The Nigerian government protects the lives and property of South Africans living in Nigeria. We do not understand why from time to time, South Africans attack Nigerians in their country. The Federal Government should take the issue of xenophobic attacks in South Africa very seriously because Nigerians do not carry out xenophobic attacks against fellow Africans," he said.

Nigerians living in Durban, he said, had planned a protest march against the xenophobic attacks.

He, however, said they were denied permit by the South African police.

### South Africa Aims to Reach U.S. Poultry-Exports Accord Soon

April 16, 2015/bloomberg.com

South African chicken producers aim to reach an agreement with U.S. counterparts on American exports of the meat in the next few days when they make a new offer early next week, the head of the country's poultry group said.

The two countries are discussing the amount of chicken products that can be exported from the U.S., Kevin Lovell, the chief executive officer of the South African Poultry Association, said by phone from Rome on Thursday. The group will present American counterparts a new number which they feel is reasonable and fair for them to consider.

The countries have been at loggerheads on whether South Africa should lift the 2000 anti-dumping duties imposed on the U.S. It may lose out on preferential access to the U.S. market through the African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA, if an agreement isn't reached.

"We will be ready to actually draw up a written agreement to sign" in a few days, Lovell said. "We feel then that the matter should be completely resolved as long as they are prepared to be reasonable themselves."

The nations agreed on principles for settling the dispute, though agreement on the amount that the U.S. can send to the African country remained a problem, Johannesburg-based Business Day reported, citing South Africa's Trade Minister Rob Davies.

"What we are going to offer is reasonable and there should be no grounds to say that a dispute in poultry will be a cause for AGOA not to be renewed," Lovell said.

In 2000, the International Trade Administration Commission requested imposing provisional duties on U.S. frozen whole chickens, frozen bone-in cuts such as drumsticks, leg quarters, breasts and thighs going to South Africa. Taxes were at 27 percent and 2.20 rand (19 U.S. cents) a kilogram (2.2 pounds) then.

"We cannot see how the American producers will honestly think that what we are about to offer is unreasonable," Lovell said.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

### Italian police: Muslim migrants threw Christians overboard

By Hada Messia, Livia Borghese and Jason Hanna, CNN/April 16, 2015

Rome (CNN)Muslims who were among migrants trying to get from Libya to Italy in a boat this week threw 12 fellow passengers overboard -- killing them -- because the 12 were Christians, Italian police said Thursday.

Italian authorities have arrested 15 people on suspicion of murdering the Christians at sea, police in Palermo, Sicily, said.

Why migrants are dying to get to Italy

The original group of 105 people left Libya on Tuesday in a rubber boat. Sometime during the trip north across the Mediterranean Sea, the alleged assailants -- Muslims from the Ivory Coast, Mali and Senegal -- threw the 12 overboard, police said.

Other people on the voyage told police that they themselves were spared "because they strongly opposed the drowning attempt and formed a human chain," Palermo police said.

The boat was intercepted by an Italian navy vessel, which transferred the passengers to a Panamanian-flagged ship. That ship docked in Palermo on Wednesday, after which the arrests were made, police said.

'I enter Europe or I die': Desperate migrants rescued this week off Italy

The 12 who died were from Nigeria and Ghana, police said.

Thousands of people each year make the dangerous sea journey from North Africa to Europe's Mediterranean coast, often aboard vessels poorly equipped for the trip. Many of them attempt the voyage to flee war and poverty in Africa and the Middle East.

More than 10,000 people have arrived on Italian shores from Libya since last weekend alone, according to the Italian coast guard.

Many die each year while attempting the voyage, often when boats capsized. Last year at least 3,200 died trying to make the trip. Since 2000, according to the International Organization for Migration, almost 22,000 people have died fleeing across the Mediterranean.

The IOM reported Thursday the latest boat to sink in trying to make the journey. Only four people survived from the original 45 on board, bringing the estimated death toll so far this year close to a thousand.

CHINA/AFRICA :

**China complains to South Africa over xenophobic attacks**

2015-04-17/(Xinhua)

BEIJING - A Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Thursday that China has already made formal complaints to South Africa over xenophobic attacks against Chinese nationals.

Scores of shops owned by Chinese nationals have been looted during the latest spate of violence, which was sparked by growing complaints by locals that foreigners have entered the country illegally, engaged in illegal trade and committed crimes.

At least six people have reportedly been killed in the violence that erupted on March 25, most of them foreigners. More than 100 foreign-owned shops have been burned and thousands of foreigners displaced.

The Chinese Embassy and Consulates in South Africa have expressed sympathy for Chinese nationals ransacked by disgruntled locals and filed complaints to local police, urging them to take immediate and effective measures to protect the personal safety and property of Chinese nationals, said spokesperson Hong Lei.

The Chinese Embassy and Consulates in South Africa have also issued risk alerts through a variety of channels to remind Chinese citizens and enterprises to strengthen safety precautions, he said.

Hong said the Chinese Foreign Ministry as well as the Chinese Embassy and Consulates in South Africa will continue to pay close attention to the situation and safeguard the security and lawful rights and interests of China's citizens.

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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