



(Selon un nouveau bilan dévoilé ce mardi, le naufrage d'un bateau de migrants au large de la Libye a fait 800 morts. Deux hommes soupçonnés d'appartenir à l'équipage ont été arrêtés. L'Europe commence à prendre la mesure de la gravité.)

BURUNDI :

**Burundi: pour dissuader les manifestants, le gouvernement menace**  
Par RFI /21-04-2015

Après les heurts qui ont opposé police et manifestants contre un troisième mandat du président Pierre Nkurunziza, suivi de l'arrestation d'une centaine de manifestants puis l'inculpation de 65 parmi eux pour participation à un mouvement insurrectionnel, le gouvernement cherche à dissuader ses opposants de retourner dans la rue comme ils promettent de le faire. Lundi, le gouvernement a lancé une mise en garde à la population et aux politiciens dans une grande conférence de presse.

Le ton se voulait solennel. Et pour donner du poids à son message, le gouvernement burundais a délégué pas moins de quatre ministres pour cette conférence de presse. Défense, Sécurité publique, Intérieur et Justice, rien que de l'artillerie lourde pour lancer un sérieux avertissement à tous ceux qui seraient tentés par une nouvelle manifestation contre le troisième mandat du président Pierre Nkurunziza.

Le tout-puissant ministre de l'Intérieur, Edouard Nduwimana, s'est chargé de donner le ton : « Les forces de l'ordre et l'administration vont prendre toutes les mesures qui s'imposent pour punir et traduire devant les juridictions compétentes les auteurs, les instigateurs de ce genre d'appel au soulèvement », a-t-il prévenu.

Seule la police était intervenue vendredi contre les manifestants. Mais cette fois, le ministre de la Défense menace de faire intervenir l'armée burundaise si le président Nkurunziza le lui demande. « Sur réquisition du commandant suprême ou d'une autre autorité, je suis prêt à accompagner les

autres acteurs de la sécurité pour résister aux détracteurs de la paix », indique le général Potien Gacyubwenge.

Et pour ceux qui n'auraient pas compris, le ministre de la Sécurité publique, Gabriel Nizigama, renchérit : « Nous vous disons : les corps de défense et de sécurité sont unis et vont œuvrer pour la sécurité de tous. »

Le président Pierre Nkurunziza semble de plus en plus décidé à se représenter. L'opposition et la société civile se disent déterminées à lui faire barrage alors qu'armée et police menacent : tous les ingrédients pour une explosion prochaine semblent réunis, estiment de nombreux observateurs.

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

**Sydney doctor accused of crimes in Uganda**

[abc.net.au/21/04/2015](http://abc.net.au/21/04/2015)

A Sydney doctor who wants to become Uganda's next President is being accused of murder and funding terrorism in his birth country. Dr Aggrey Kiyingi has been branded an enemy of the state by the Ugandan government, in what he insists is a political set-up.

Transcript

STEVE CANNANE, PRESENTER: A Sydney doctor has found himself at the centre of a bizarre case, accused of murder and funding terrorism in Uganda.

Dr Aggrey Kiyingi is a successful cardiologist and wants to become Uganda's next president.

But he's been branded an enemy of the state in his country of birth in what he insists is a political setup.

Jason Om has this exclusive report.

JASON OM, REPORTER: At a Saturday night get together of Ugandan Australians in Sydney's west, the politics of their birth country is front and centre. And tonight the topic is a Sydney doctor's bid to unseat Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.

LATIGO HOPE: We young people who were born in Museveni's regime are brainwashed. We think politics is just like that, is about corruption, it's about scaring people, it's about intimidation and dictatorship.

JASON OM: Is Dr Kiyingi a killer, as the Government says so?

MAN: He is not a killer. It's a smear campaign.

JASON OM: It's a smear campaign, you're saying?

MAN: Exactly.

JASON OM: According to the Ugandan Government, this man, cardiologist Dr Aggrey Kiyingi, is a terrorist and responsible for a series of murders. But if the aspiring politician is afraid of the claims against him, he's certainly not showing it.

At his clinic in Western Sydney, Dr Kiyingi uses a musical remedy to put his patient at ease.

And in this case, he's helping a patient who's recovering from open heart surgery.

AGGREY KIYINGI, CARDIOLOGIST: That's the idea. Keep it going. Get that heart to pump!

JASON OM: Dr Kiyingi is promising Ugandans to rescue them from the nearly 30-year rule of President Museveni.

AGGREY KIYINGI: If Mr Museveni persists in trying to cut my head off, whether I'm there or not, I want to make a prediction: there will be a people's revolution.

The Museveni regime has accused Dr Kiyingi of helping organise the murder of seven people, including Muslim clerics and police officers.

The victims were said to be killed by the rebel group the Allied Democratic Forces and police say Dr Kiyingi funded their activities.

Leading the public campaign against Dr Kiyingi is the head of the Ugandan police force General Kale Kayihura.

KALE KAYIHURA, HEAD OF UGANDAN POLICE FORCE (NTV Uganda): We detected this around Christmas, towards Christmas. They actually went in to attack police stations and it was linked to Dr Kiyingi's group.

JASON OM: Ugandan police have arrested 18 suspects. Another eight, including Dr Kiyingi, are wanted.

AGGREY KIYINGI: I've never supported terrorism in any way. I've never funded any terrorist group or any terrorist.

JASON OM: Did you have any role in the killing of the seven people?

AGGREY KIYINGI: Absolute nonsense. Of course I didn't. Now Mr Museveni, we know and the Ugandans know that he's responsible for this. He is an adept of killings and framing people.

JASON OM: Dr Kiyingisays the charges against him are a political setup to stop him from challenging the President.

So the President did it and he's blaming you?

AGGREY KIYINGI: Exactly. Exactly.

JASON OM: Dr Kiyingi has been in Australia for more than 30 years and is known in Uganda as a businessman who used his charity work to help Uganda's poor.

But in 2005, while he was in Sydney, he was accused of organising the shooting death of his first wife, Robinah, a prominent corruption-fighting lawyer. He was eventually tried and acquitted in Uganda.

The Ugandan Government has told Lateline it is now appealing the original judgment and will move to have the murder charge reinstated.

AGGREY KIYINGI: For even the courts and the (inaudible) will stand up and say, "Hey, look, we cannot do it. This man is innocent. Let him go." That is a very brave statement to make and I don't think they would that if there was any inkling of doubt that I was innocent.

JASON OM: So, were you involved in any plot to murder your wife?

AGGREY KIYINGI: No, no, definitely not. Definitely not.

JASON OM: President Museveni has a reputation for crushing any opposition. And observers such as Joseph Kikonyogo says the Australian Government should be wary of any extradition request from the Ugandans.

JOSEPH KINKOYOGO, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE (13th April, 2015): I think the Government would have to really be careful before extraditing their citizen to a government that is not democratic and a government that keeps raising charges against opposition leaders. It's something which has to be done very carefully. And I think if there is enough evidence, he could still be tried here. That wouldn't be a problem. But I think it would be a mistake if he was to be extradited.

JASON OM: Nominations for the election open later this year and while it's a dangerous move for Dr Kiyingi, he needs to be in Uganda to run.

Dr Kiyingi says some of his campaigners have been arrested, but that he's built up five million supporters through these business cards. He says there are 1.5 million of them circulating around the country.

Dr Kiyingi says he has five million supporters in Uganda. Does that sound true to you?

GERARD MAGALA: Well, that is something you can't really, really know, but the fact is Ugandans have shown on several occasions that they're tired of this government.

JASON OM: It's hard to gauge the support for Dr Kiyingi in Uganda, but here at least there seems to be some backing from Sydney's Ugandan community.

The people were spoke to, some supporters, some not, are all members of the Uganda Association of New South Wales.

LATIGO HOPE: Dr Kiyingi should be very, very courageous to stand. Let him go and face it. He's not a criminal. Criminals do not go back home.

JASON OM: We put that to Dr Kiyingi.

If you are innocent, as you say you are, why not go to Uganda and face the charges in court?

AGGREY KIYINGI: Two reasons. One, I'll be killed instantly or arrested. You're talking about Museveni. You're not talking about Australia. Two, although this has come out in the press, actually I've not received any court summons or criminal summons from Uganda.

JASON OM: You've received no letter?

AGGREY KIYINGI: No.

JASON OM: But late today, Dr Kiyingi told Lateline that he would return to Uganda in three months, whether or not he would still face charges by then.

SOUTH AFRICA :

**Immigrant in South Africa: 'I'm scared to go to town'**

By Sarah Brown/edition.cnn.com/April 20, 2015

London (CNN)Congolese immigrant Tarsis Mboma Thale has a small business selling T-shirts in Johannesburg, South Africa. Thale's job normally requires him to walk the streets of the city he has called home for the past few years.

But at the moment, he says, this is not an option. Because he is simply too afraid.

The reason is a wave of anti-immigrant violence that has swept the country in recent days, leaving several dead as authorities scrambled to detain those responsible and prevent further bloodshed.

The cause of this surge in violence is murky, with some blaming alleged inflammatory comments about foreign nationals from the Zulu king, local media reported, others saying a labor dispute between locals and foreigners back in March turned nasty. Unemployment in impoverished areas has also been a factor.

The violence has caused thousands of immigrants to seek refuge at police stations and shelters. Thale fears he'll be attacked if he goes to work.

"I'm scared to go to town because I do not know when these people can attack and it's stressful for me," he told CNN. "We're close to month end -- how am I going to pay the rent and feed my wife?"

CNN spoke to several immigrants living and working in South Africa about the crisis, which has caused South African President Jacob Zuma to postpone an overseas visit and left authorities scrambling to prevent further clashes.

Zimbabwe immigrant Stanley Ndlovu says he is so frightened he dare not venture outside, not even to go to the local mall.

He works in Johannesburg as a cleaner and gardener, and also runs a small tuck shop where workers can buy food and basic supplies at his place of work. It's a role he hears many South Africans say

should belong to them alone.

He feels the South African government has been far too slow to respond to the violence, which has erupted intermittently in various cities over the past few years.

"To stop violence they need to arrest and sentence the perpetrators," he says.

Meanwhile, Eric Kalonji left the Democratic Republic of Congo and arrived in the South African capital in 2012, working as a waiter until the restaurant he worked at closed in January. Now devoting himself to his studies in New Zealand, he feels that the situation in South Africa is more complex than a simple case of "us versus them." He believes the blame lies heavily on what he calls the government's failure to provide its people with jobs and education.

"This xenophobia thing is the result of a deeper malaise (in) South Africans" he says. "A better policy from the government should be empowering the people with wider access to education so that they will qualify for the jobs that they say they deserve."

**OPINION: Labeling South Africa turmoil 'xenophobia' scapegoats poor blacks**

Kodwo Amisah Benyi, a hotel receptionist originally from Ghana, now lives in the town of Louis Trichardt in South Africa's Limpopo province. He's far from the worst of the violence, but still close enough to follow the news with alarm.

"I fear it may spread because I don't know what may spark unrest," he said.

However he praised the government's response to the attacks.

"The government is in crisis mode and Pretoria (the South African government) is responding well by verbally condemning the attacks and showing force on the ground," he said.

**Four Ghanaians found dead in South Africa, baby included – Foreign Minister**  
[ghanabusinessnews.com/2015/04/20](http://ghanabusinessnews.com/2015/04/20)

Four Ghanaians have been found dead in Heibron, Free State, South Africa, according to a Tweet from Ghana's Foreign Minister, Hannah Tetteh.

The four, one man, two women and a baby were found dead in a salon, the Minister wrote quoting the Ghana High Commission in South Africa, adding that the cause of deaths is not known.

The Minister indicated that the salon was locked and the police had to break in to gain access and when the bodies were found, they were all foaming at the mouth, she wrote.

The bodies have been removed for post-mortem examinations, she said, adding that the Ghana High Commission has reported no xenophobic attacks in Heibron.

In recent times there has been a rise in xenophobic attacks in South Africa, particularly in Durban and Johannesburg in which about six people have been reported killed, one of them a South African teenager.

The attacks on foreigners, mostly other Africans is said to be triggered by a statement by Zulu king, Goodwill Zwelithini, who is reported to have said all foreigners should pack and leave South

Africa.

A similar incendiary statement has been attributed to South African President, Jacob Zuma's son, Edward Zuma told the media foreigners must leave the country.

In a statement condemning the xenophobic attacks, Ghanaian President, and ECOWAS Chair, John Mahama said on Friday, "It is a pity that the very people, whose nations sacrificed to help South Africans fight, repel and defeat apartheid, will today be considered aliens and hacked to death in such barbaric manners."

Meanwhile, President Zuma has cancelled an official trip to Indonesia to attend the Afro-Asia Summit to deal with the violence, and police presence has been increased in the areas prone to the attacks.

By Emmanuel K. Dogbevi

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

**Stronger ties vital for Asia-Africa to have greater say**

Tama Salim and Yohanna Ririhena, The Jakarta Post/Tue, April 21 2015

Representatives and leaders of Asian and African nations are meeting in Jakarta and Bandung to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1955 Asian-African Conference, as well as the 10th anniversary of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP). Nigeria's Ambassador to Indonesia Muhammad L. Sulaiman, gives his insights to The Jakarta Post's Tama Salim and Yohanna Ririhena on Nigeria's vision to maintain the relevance of the cooperation for the future. The following are excerpts from the interview:

Question: Do you think that the Bandung Spirit achieved in the 1955 conference is still relevant to today's geopolitical situation?

Answer: The Bandung Spirit is still relevant to today's life. You can see Europe has the European Union and the European parliament. I would say for South-South Cooperation — especially with regard to Africa and Asia — we need to come together because we have so many things in common.

We have common problems of poverty, development and so many other challenges. And we [most of the countries in Africa and Asia] went through colonial rule, so we have that experience. We have so many similarities in terms of multiculturalism, religion and ethnicities. I think the Bandung Spirit is still relevant — we need to come together.

Why is the need to come together so important today?

Some 106 of 190 member countries in the United Nations are in the Asia and Africa continents. They are a power to be reckoned with. The more we are, the stronger [we become] when speaking with one voice; people will listen to you, because if you as an individual speak, people will tend to ignore you.

What should be highlighted to reinvigorate the Asian-African cooperation?

Looking at the theme of the conference, “strengthening South-South cooperation”, I think that’s what you have to highlight — that’s number one. We also [...] have eight areas to focus on, the New Asia-Africa Strategic Partnership [NAASP], including security, the fight against terrorism etc. So number two, it is because we cooperate that we [need to] share ideas and learn from each other.

For instance, we would like to know how Indonesia was able to [...] lift tens of millions of its people — from a population of over 200 million — out of poverty and into the middle class. We have a population of 170 million, and we’d like to know how to do that. We can only do that through South-South cooperation and we are lucky that in the Asian and African traditions, we assist one another.

Since the establishment of NAASP in 2005, it seems we haven’t reached the level of success that we had envisioned. What are the underlying obstacles?

We may not have achieved what we desired to do, but for the past 10 years [...] we’ve been making progress. We need to highlight the areas that we should concentrate on, because we have years and years to come. We now have eight areas, so let’s see how far we’ve gone. And after we achieve a certain level of satisfaction, we can look at other areas [...] Concentrate on six to eight areas of cooperation where we feel we are in immediate need. After that we can identify other areas, hopefully.

Secondly, Kadin [the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry] is hosting the Asia-African Business Summit [AABS], where it is expected that Asian and African businessmen will gather, sit and work out how to strengthen our economic cooperation. [To achieve this], there should be regular contact among Asian and African chambers of commerce. There should also be an increase in the level of visits between Asian and African leaders, because for every visit there is always a trade delegation. And at the end of it, a number of MoUs [memorandums of association] are signed.

Can the conference be used to garner support so Asia and Africa can have more of a say in the UN ?

There have been attempts to reform the UN, especially the Security Council; African and Asian countries have been asking for more representation, [...] so we hope that process will be sustained [...] through this South-South cooperation. As I said earlier, when 106 countries speak, they certainly will have to listen. The UN has 190 countries, so with 106 countries, that’s a two thirds [majority].

Besides common issues like poverty, development and infrastructure, we’re also facing challenges from radicalism and terrorism. How do you see our cooperation in these fields?



The area of radicalism and terrorism is something that has no borders. This is an international phenomenon. Asia, Africa need to cooperate, such as what Nigeria and Indonesia do. We cooperate to overcome those challenges, particularly since Indonesia has succeeded in reducing the incidents of terrorism. We send people to get training to learn from Indonesian experiences in combating terrorism. The two countries also participate in UN peacekeeping operations. So, we send our people to Sentul, Bogor to be trained at the peacekeeping center.

### AU, ECOWAS 'Concerns' Over Xenophobic Attacks in South Africa

by FPA Reporter / 21 April 2015

“Whatever the challenges we may be facing, no circumstances justify attacks on people, whether foreigners or locals. It is unacceptable,” laments Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma

The West African body described as a pity the fact that the very people, whose nations sacrificed to help South Africans fight, repel and defeat apartheid, will today be considered aliens and hacked to death in such barbaric manners.

Monrovia - The African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have condemned and expressed concerns over ongoing black-on-black killings in South Africa targeting thousands of immigrants who are being forced out of their homes into camps to avoid senseless attacks.

Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, in a statement described the attacks of foreign nationals in the province of KwaZulu Natal in South Africa as “unacceptable,” calling an immediate halt while expressing once again her deep concerns regarding the attacks on foreign nationals. “Whatever the challenges we may be facing, no circumstances justify attacks on people, whether foreigners or locals. It is unacceptable.” She lamented.

While calling for an immediate halt to the attacks, the AU Commission welcomes the interventions from the South African government, including the deployment of the Inter-Ministerial committee to KwaZulu Natal to engage with those affected and with local communities, as well as the deployment of more police to provide protection and keep law and order.

The AU Commission Chairperson decried the incidents as particularly unfortunate, as celebrations of Africa month approaches. “On 25 May we remember the founding of the Organisation of African Unity, which played such a critical role in mobilizing international solidarity for the end of Apartheid”, she added. 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. The AU Commission Chairperson appealed for dialogue in and amongst communities, to address the challenges and find peaceful solutions.

For its part, the authority of ECOWAS of Heads of State and Government condemned the barbaric, criminal and xenophobic murder of innocent Africa foreigners in South Africa, urging the government to act quickly to stop the increasing wave of attacks across the country.

### ECOWAS Eyeing 'Urgent National Plan'

An ECOWAS statement signed by the chair of the Authority, H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, also condemned the individual South Africans involved in the

act. The West African body described as a pity the fact that the very people whose nations sacrificed to help South Africans fight, repel and defeat apartheid, will today be considered aliens and hacked to death in such barbaric manners.

“We welcome the statement of our brother, President Jacob Zuma and his assurances of a peaceful resolution, but we request for an urgent national action plan, backed by a behavioral change campaign against xenophobia in South Africa, the statement added. Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini who has been widely criticized for inciting the violence fired back Monday and denied whipping up xenophobic hatred that has left at least seven people dead.

Zwelithini had made an angry speech last month blaming immigrants for rising crime and saying they must leave the country, in an outburst seen as encouraging the spate of attacks on Zimbabweans, Somalians, Malawians and other foreigners. But he told a tribal gathering of several thousand Zulus in the port city of Durban that he had been misrepresented. "My speech... was directed at the police, calling for stricter law enforcement, but that was never reported," he said. "The public was instead given another side of my speech, which had been twisted and misrepresented. "This violence directed at our brothers and sister is shameful."

At least seven people have been killed and 307 suspects arrested in the worst ethnic violence since 2008, when 62 people were killed mainly in Johannesburg's townships. Numbering 12 million people, the Zulus are the largest ethnic group in South Africa and Zwelithini, their traditional leader, retains great influence over his subjects. The issue is becoming a lightning rod for President Zuma, whose peacemaker credentials are coming under scrutiny.

Ironically, the Zuma's KwaZulu Natal province experienced mass political violence fueled by the ethnic chauvinism of the Inkhatha Freedom Party (IFP) which reportedly enjoyed support from the Apartheid-era government. Zuma's comments while visiting a temporary relocation camp for foreign nationals in Chatsworth KwaZulu Natal Saturday when he said: "We don't want you to leave, but we will help you leave" has triggered criticisms with many critics suggesting that Zuma's attempt to assure the disheartened foreigners that his government identified with their plight failing to draw support.

Under attack foreigners jeered the South African President who tried to explain that he was not trying to send foreign nationals away from the country, by his statements Saturday. "These attacks go against everything we believe in. The majority of South Africans love peace and good relations with their brothers and sisters in the continent. We are certainly going to stop the violence. Those who want to go home, when the violence stops you are welcome to return."

### **Meurtre de 28 chrétiens en Libye : 3 jours de deuil**

L'Avenir /21/04/2015

L'Éthiopie va observer trois jours de deuil national après le meurtre par l'EI d'au moins 28 chrétiens éthiopiens capturés en Libye,

Le groupe État islamique (EI) a diffusé dimanche une vidéo qui menace les chrétiens et montre l'exécution par des djihadistes en Libye d'au moins 28 hommes, présentés comme des Éthiopiens.

De nombreux Éthiopiens quittent leur pays, le deuxième d'Afrique par sa population (plus de 90 millions d'habitants), dans l'espoir de trouver un travail. Beaucoup se rendent en Libye et dans d'autres pays d'Afrique du nord pour trouver un emploi, mais aussi pour embarquer sur des bateaux de fortune et tenter de gagner les côtes européennes.

Poursuivre le combat

L'Éthiopie a vivement condamné l'annonce de cette exécution dimanche, tout en soulignant sa volonté de poursuivre son combat contre les extrémistes islamistes. Des troupes éthiopiennes sont déployées en Somalie dans le cadre de la force de l'Union africaine pour combattre les islamistes shebab affiliés à Al-Qaïda.

Près des deux-tiers des Éthiopiens sont chrétiens, pour la majorité des orthodoxes, qui disent être présents dans le pays depuis le Ier siècle. Le pays compte aussi beaucoup de protestants. Mais les musulmans sont aussi depuis longtemps en Éthiopie: des fidèles du prophète Mahomet, fuyant les persécutions de La Mecque, s'y étaient réfugiés sous la protection du roi chrétien d'Axoum.

Les trois jours de deuil débiteront mardi, une fois officiellement annoncés par le Parlement, a précisé le porte-parole, et ministre de la Communication, Redwan Hussein.

Le président français François Hollande s'est indigné après ce meurtre de chrétiens en Libye, et «condamne de la manière la plus ferme ce crime et les exactions que Daech (NDLR, un acronyme du groupe État islamique) commet chaque jour contre les populations civiles, quelle que soit leur origine ou leur religion, dans les pays où il se déploie .»

#### World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings end with hope for Ebola affected countries

April 21, 2015/sierraexpressmedia.com

The Headquarters of the World Bank Group in Washington DC, USA was the centre of attention on Friday April 17th, 2015 as Presidents of the three West African countries most affected by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak participated in an economic recovery roundtable. (Photo: Mr. Ban (centre) greets Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, at the meeting. Credit UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe)

Chaired by the Bank's President, Jim Yong Kim, and attended by the International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde and other international partners, the meeting culminated in the announcement of a new support of USD 650million to the three affected countries during the next 12 to 18 months.

Kim announced the new funding from the International Development Association (IDA), the Bank's fund for the poorest countries.

This follows a presentation of a recovery plan by the Presidents of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone; countries most hit by the Ebola epidemic.

The new funding is on top of the nearly US\$1 billion that the Bank previously committed for the Ebola emergency response and early recovery efforts from the IDA US\$518 million and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) US\$450 million.

This assistance further comes on top of US\$2.17 billion in debt relief during 2015-17. This debt cancellation will save the three countries about US\$75 million annually in debt repayments.

“Even as we work relentlessly to get to zero new Ebola cases, the international community must help Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone jumpstart their recovery and build a safer, more prosperous and resilient future for their people,” said Kim.

He went on to state that the world has acknowledged that the international community was slow to react to the Ebola outbreak and by showing that they have learnt their lesson they should support an effective and sustainable recovery that also prepares these countries (and the rest of the world) for the next pandemic.

“I will want to commend the three Presidents of the affected countries for their show of leadership during such a challenging time and will as well assure them that we will continue to give our support in ending Ebola and the recovery stage,” he added.

Liberia’s President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, on behalf of her colleagues, commended the World Bank Group, IMF, UN and other partners for what she described as “their continued show of solidarity and unprecedented support to the three affected countries”.

She stated that each of the countries faced significant economic challenges in 2014 and continues to do so due to the decline in global prices of iron ore, adding that the challenge quickly became a national and regional crisis when the Ebola virus broke out.

President Sirleaf lamented the impact of Ebola on the economy of the three countries saying that it has been profound and has caused decline in growth- lowering agriculture production and revenue generation thereby increasing job losses.

“On the road to recovery, we have formulated a sub-regional economic recovery program that will ensure the three affected countries return to stability and prosperity,” she said.

The Liberian President also articulated the Marshall Plan that they have developed stating that it requires the commitment of the World Bank President and other leaders to ensure that the goals and objectives are achieved in two years period of implementation.

“Even though we are aware that the resources required are significant, we believe that with the support of international partners this plan is achievable,” she said.

Within the Marshall Plan the indicative cost to bring the three countries to full recovery is US\$8 billion of which US\$ 4 billion will largely focus on building a sub-regional recovery program within a two year period.

Therefore President Sirleaf appealed for the cancellation of the external debts of the three affected.

As the cases of new Ebola infection continue to subside in the region, Sierra Leone’s President Ernest Bai Koroma however warned against complacency at the international level and thus called for a more co-ordinated plan by the partners so that they will not get anything wrong.

“We must not be over excited and allow complacency take over,” said President Koroma. “We must co-ordinate well and work together to ensure that we get to zero and stay there because until we achieve that we are still not yet out of the woods.”

Whilst calling for timely support to address some of the issues, President Koroma said more attention should be paid to the vulnerable groups like women, orphans, survivors and youths who have been hardly hit by the epidemic.

In line with the three countries’ recovery plans, the five priority areas for the additional IDA funds include: strengthening health systems and frontline care; agriculture; education; cash transfers and

other social protection programs; and lifesaving infrastructure such as electricity, water, sanitation and roads.

The funds will also be used to develop a regional disease surveillance system across West Africa that will help prevent or contain future pandemics.

According to WBG's, latest economic update on January 20, 2015, important differences among the three countries are emerging. The new report finds that Sierra Leone is now facing a severe recession with the potential for an unprecedented -23.5% growth rate in 2015, resulting from financial issues that led to the closure of iron ore mining. Liberia is gradually returning to normalcy, with a projected GDP growth rate of 3% in 2015, higher than in 2014 though still well below pre-Ebola estimates of 6.8%. Guinea's economy continues to stagnate, with a projected growth of -0.2% for 2015 compared to pre-Ebola rate of 4.3%.

As a result, the WBG says additional international financing is urgently needed to help the three countries recover fully and reclaim the positive development and growth paths that prevailed before the Ebola epidemic struck West Africa. The pace of recovery in these countries will also depend on how effectively their recovery plans can be carried out.

By Amadu Lamrana Bah, Reporting from the Spring Meetings in Washington DC

Credit: Development and Economic Journalists Association-Sierra Leone (DEJA-SL).

### Africa — The long-time neglected business opportunity

Tue, April 21 2015/ thejakartapost.com

Like many Indonesian businessmen — or any Indonesian for that matter — there is precious little that helps me relate to Africa or make me think of Africa in terms of doing business. It seems so far away, although distance-wise, it is actually as near as Europe, unlike the Americas, which really require an effort to get to.

Nonetheless, when I found out that trade volume between Indonesia and the African continent came out to a measly US\$11 billion, it registered as a shock.

To compare, bilateral trade volume between Indonesia and Australia amounts to \$14 billion and with China almost \$60 billion. These are individual countries, not whole continents. Australia is arguably a continent, but it is made up of a single country.

Of course, China is the world's second-largest economy, but \$11 billion for a continent of 1 billion people spread across 54 independent nations does not look right. China's trade volume with Africa is a whopping \$200 billion, and India's, while much lower, is still a respectable \$70 billion a year.

What is it that causes Indonesia to compare so poorly to the two other great nations in Asia? Surely, one factor is the well-known reluctance of Indonesians to do business outside the nation's borders. The standard answer to questions of doing business overseas is, "it is too complicated to do business overseas, and besides, we have a huge market at home, so why bother?"

Another reason may be prejudice. We call Africa Benua Hitam or "Black Continent", and in Indonesian the term has a negative connotation. We also refer to the underworld as Dunia Hitam, or literally, "Black World". In the early 2000s, following the Asian financial crisis, businesspeople with questionable ethics or morals were referred to as Konglomerat Hitam or "Black Conglomerates".

As the first step toward eliminating prejudice, we may well start by getting rid of the pejorative name. It is true that most of the publicity about Africa has negative overtones, like the outbreak of Ebola (which followed AIDS a few decades prior), for which there is no cure at the moment. And then we have Boko Haram and the pirates of Somalia. Combined with the pejorative “Black Continent” term, all these factors do not make for a strong appeal of the African continent to the average Indonesian.

There must be a concerted effort to set the image straight. No news is good news, so we rarely hear anything about South Africa. Or take Ghana, which was called Gold Coast when it was a British colony. These are countries with high gross domestic products (GDPs) and economic growth. Even Nigeria, the site of Boko Haram, is a land of great opportunity. It is the largest economy in Africa, with a GDP of more than \$500 billion in nominal terms, growing at 6 percent per annum, and a population of 175 million.

That China and India can do such good business with Africa should open our eyes to the potential of this “Ivory Continent”. Yes, let’s call this land mass just to the South of Europe the Ivory Continent, so that it has a more positive connotation than the one we are used to hearing in Indonesia. True, the magnificent creatures whose tusks are so sought after are threatened because humans like them for their ornamental purposes — and it may be a bit late to save the African elephant from extinction — but for us in Indonesia it is important to create a positive image in order to change our perception of this neglected continent. The more so because of our penchant to find nicknames by which we remember something or somebody.

The previous administration was keen to explore “alternative markets” to boost exports; the current one is also as keen to find ways and means to get out of the current account deficit — obviously, trading partners must be expanded. Here is one continent of a billion people whose potential many of our neighbors have recognized. For whatever reason, apart from a small number of conglomerates that reportedly have been doing good business in Africa, many of us have been blind for so long to the tremendous opportunities that are on offer there.

As part of the 60th commemoration, the Asian African Business Summit will be hosted by Indonesian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Kadin) as an official side event. This may help provide the momentum to increase our awareness about the Ivory Continent and the potential it offers.

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The writer is chairman of the organizing committee for the Asian-African Business Summit 2015, hosted by the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Kadin).

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

**Xenophobia: US tells SA to take a stand**

April 21 2015/By AFP

Washington - The United States on Monday condemned a wave of xenophobic violence in South Africa, calling on all the country's leaders to take a stand against it.

South African authorities have struggled to contain mobs in Johannesburg and Durban who have been hunting down foreigners.

Seven people have been killed and 307 suspects arrested in three weeks of unrest, the worst ethnic violence since 2008, when 62 people died, mainly in Johannesburg's townships.

"We have joined the South African government and civil society leaders in strongly condemning the violence against foreigners that's been taking place," said State Department acting spokeswoman Marie Harf.

She said the US was "deeply concerned" about the loss of lives and the impact on communities.

President Jacob Zuma on Saturday pleaded with foreigners to stay in South Africa as he cancelled a state visit to Indonesia.

And Harf welcomed his statements.

"We have appealed to all South African leaders to take a stand and make very clear how they condemn these kinds of sentiments and violence," she told reporters.

Zulu king Goodwill Zwelithini denied whipping up the wave of xenophobia in an angry speech last month blaming immigrants for rising crime and saying they must leave the country.

The US ambassador to Pretoria, Patrick Gaspard, also condemned the violence last week.

"The US 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," Gaspard said.

"As an immigrant to my own country, my heart goes out to those who have been attacked for being different."

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

800 morts dans un naufrage en Méditerranée : "Nous ne pouvons pas continuer comme cela"  
avec AFP/le 21 avril 2015

Selon un nouveau bilan dévoilé ce mardi, le naufrage d'un bateau de migrants au large de la Libye a fait 800 morts. Deux hommes soupçonnés d'appartenir à l'équipage ont été arrêtés. L'Europe commence à prendre la mesure de la gravité.

C'est plus de deux fois plus que la tragédie de Lampedusa. Le naufrage d'un chalutier dimanche au large de la Libye a fait 800 morts, selon un nouveau bilan dévoilé tôt ce mardi à Catane, en Sicile, par des représentants d'ONG, quelques heures après l'annonce d'un plan d'action européen pour répondre au drame des migrants en Méditerranée.

"On peut dire que 800 personnes sont mortes", a déclaré Carlotta Sami, porte-parole du Haut commissariat des Nations unies aux réfugiés (HCR) en Italie, avant que le porte-parole de l'Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM), Flavio Di Giacomo, ne vienne confirmer cette estimation. Des représentants du HCR et de l'OIM ont pu interroger la plupart des 27 survivants arrivés dans le port sicilien vers minuit et qui ont débarqué environ deux heures plus tard.

La police italienne a annoncé dans la nuit que deux des survivants, un Tunisien et un Syrien soupçonnés d'avoir été le capitaine et un membre d'équipage du chalutier, avaient été arrêtés à bord du bateau des garde-côtes. Un 28e survivant avait été transporté d'urgence dimanche en raison de son état de santé et était déjà hospitalisé à Catane.

Des enfants parmi les victimes

"Nous avons confronté les témoignages, il y avait un peu plus de 800 personnes à bord, dont des enfants de 10, 12 ans. Il y avait des Syriens, environ 150 Erythréens, des Somaliens... Ils étaient partis samedi à 08H00 de Tripoli", en Libye, a expliqué Carlotta Sami. Selon le récit des survivants, le chalutier qui les transportait a chaviré sous l'effet d'un mouvement de foule alors qu'approchait un cargo portugais appelé à son secours.

Les garde-côtes italiens qui ont repêché 24 corps, débarqués lundi matin à Malte, et 28 survivants n'ont pas confirmé le bilan. L'Union européenne a décidé lundi de tenir jeudi un sommet extraordinaire pour répondre en urgence au drame des migrants en Méditerranée, après une série noire de naufrages qui ont fait des centaines de morts depuis le début de l'année.

Le dernier a eu lieu près de l'île grecque de Rhodes, où un voilier s'est échoué lundi sur des rochers. Trois migrants, dont un enfant, ont péri, et 93 personnes ont pu être sauvées au cours d'une impressionnante opération de secours à quelques mètres du rivage.

Des solutions rapides sont-elles possibles ?

"Nous ne pouvons pas continuer comme cela, nous ne pouvons accepter que des centaines de personnes meurent en essayant de traverser la mer pour venir en Europe", a affirmé le président du Conseil européen, Donald Tusk, en annonçant la réunion extraordinaire des chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement jeudi.

Elle avait été demandée par le Premier ministre italien, Matteo Renzi, après le naufrage de dimanche. Mais Donald Tusk a prévenu "ne pas attendre de solutions rapides aux causes profondes des migrations, parce qu'il n'y en a pas". "S'il y en avait, nous les aurions mises en oeuvre depuis longtemps", a-t-il insisté. "Si nous n'agissons pas maintenant la crise va prendre des proportions dangereuses dans les mois qui viennent", a prévenu le commissaire européen en charge du dossier, Dimitris Avramopoulos.

"Nous n'avons plus d'alibi", a lancé de son côté, la chef de la diplomatie européenne, Federica Mogherini. "Les tragédies de ces derniers jours, de ces derniers mois, de ces dernières années, c'en



est trop". L'organisation humanitaire Save the Children a critiqué l'UE pour ne pas s'être mise d'accord sur une "action immédiate" à sa réunion de lundi.

### Hundreds of migrant deaths at sea: What is Europe going to do?

By Jethro Mullen and Ashley Fantz, CNN/April 21, 2015

(CNN)After a weekend shipwreck off the coast of Italy that may have killed hundreds of migrants, the International Organization for Migration said Monday that there may be three more migrant boats in distress in international waters.

Authorities still don't know the fate of many of the passengers, including children, who were on the large ship bound from Libya to Europe that capsized Saturday night in the frigid waters of the Mediterranean Sea. That sinking may be the worst in a series of disasters in which migrants have lost their lives on vessels that are too rickety to survive long voyages.

"Gangs of criminals are putting people on a boat, sometimes even at gunpoint," Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said. "They're putting them on the road to death, really, and nothing else."

A rescue operation is still underway for people who were on the ship from Libya, and the number of potential victims is not clear. A Bangladeshi survivor told investigators there were 950 people on board. Previous estimates put the number around 700.

Maltese authorities, who are working with Italian rescuers, said around 50 people had been saved. But the Italian Coast Guard said 28 people had been rescued and 24 bodies recovered.

Two of the survivors were arrested on suspicion of human trafficking upon arriving in Sicily, according to Italian police officer Maria Guia Federico.

On Monday, European Union ministers met in Luxembourg and proposed a 10-point plan to help address the crisis.

"We are not yet working on numbers, but what we have agreed on today is, for sure, the need to increase significantly the resources at sea, and the level of the operation, doing more search and rescue and doing it more together," Federica Mogherini told CNN's "The World Right Now with Hala Gorani."

The EU high representative for foreign affairs and security policy said the European Union must fight human traffickers, strengthen Europeans' duty to save lives at sea and share responsibility when it comes to the resettlement and relocation of refugees.

"We need to fight the organizations that are trafficking and smuggling people, so that we can prevent desperate people from leaving in desperate conditions," Mogherini said. "My pain is that it was a reaction coming too late after so many people died."

Migrants have been attempting the perilous journey across the Mediterranean to southern Europe for years, but authorities have reported a sudden surge in the past 10 days, along with a grim spike in the number of those who are killed en route.

Already this year, more than 900 migrants are believed to have died while crossing the Mediterranean, far more than during the same period in 2014, the International Organization for Migration said last week.

Since the beginning of 2015, more than 35,000 refugees and migrants have crossed the Mediterranean Sea -- 23,500 have landed in Italy and more than 12,000 in Greece, according to the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights. While those numbers sound high, they were even higher the previous year. In 2014, approximately 219,000 refugees and migrants sailed across the Mediterranean, with most having to be rescued by the Italian Navy, Coast Guard or merchant ships, the UNCHR said. It is estimated that 3,500 people in 2014 died at sea.

On Monday, yet another boat sank off the Greek island of Rhodes, killing at least three people, the Greek Merchant Marine Ministry said. Of the 83 people reported on board, at least 57 survived. Those confirmed dead were a man, a woman and a child.

The latest disaster: 'Nothing less than a genocide'

The capsizing of the ship that departed from Libya marked the worst such disaster so far.

As rescuers approached the boat in response to a distress call Saturday night, authorities say, migrants moved to one side, hoping to be saved. Their movement caused the large, multilevel boat to capsize about 110 kilometers (70 miles) north of Libya, sending many passengers plunging into the sea.

According to one Bangladeshi survivor, large numbers of people remained trapped inside the boat as it sank. Smugglers -- human traffickers organizing the voyages -- had locked the doors to the lower levels of the vessel, the survivor told Italian authorities.

"Our troops, together with the Italian navy, are literally looking through the bodies to try to find someone who's still alive," Muscat said.

While the shipwreck was an accident, Muscat slammed the human traffickers whom he accused of risking people's lives by putting them on rickety ships in unpredictable waters.

It's "genocide -- nothing less than genocide, really," Muscat told CNN.

The wider picture: 'A mass grave ... in the Mediterranean'

"A mass grave is being created in the Mediterranean Sea and European policies are responsible," said Loris De Filippi, the president of the international aid group Doctors Without Borders. He compared the high number of deaths to "figures from a war zone."

De Filippi called on European states to immediately launch large-scale search and rescue operations with proactive patrolling as close as possible to Libyan shores. "Faced with thousands of desperate people fleeing wars and crises, Europe has closed borders, forcing people in search of protection to risk their lives and die at sea," he said. "This tragedy is only just beginning, but it can and should be stopped."

Save the Children similarly called on European officials to do more.

"What we needed from EU foreign ministers today was life-saving action, but they dithered," the group's CEO Justin Forsyth said in a statement.

"With each day we delay we lose more innocent lives and Europe slips further into an immoral abyss. Right now, people desperately seeking a better life are drowning in politics."

Cause of the crisis: 'Get to Europe at all costs'

Many of the migrants who board ships to cross the Mediterranean come from sub-Saharan Africa, often traveling for weeks or months just to get to the ships. They're seeking a better life, but many are exploited by the ruthless smugglers who organize the voyages.

"There is a well-oiled machine with the human traffickers, first by land and then by sea, and they feel the need for these desperate people who just want to get to Europe at all costs," said Rome-based journalist Barbie Nadeau.

The situation on board the boat that sank over the weekend isn't unusual, based on accounts of previous voyages.

On old fishing boats, "people are crammed into what used to be the frozen live tank compartments in the bottom of the ship," Nadeau said. "Those are the cheaper tickets. People that want to be out on the upper deck, which is the prime space, pay a little more for that service."

Traffickers are believed to charge anywhere from 6,000 euros to 8,000 euros (\$6,450 to \$8,600) per person for the dangerous voyage, she said.

Italy's response: 'Not even enough space in ... cemeteries'

Italy's proximity to the North African coast puts it on the front line of tackling the continent's migration crisis.

"We're swamped," Sandro Gozi, the Italian minister for European affairs, told French daily *Le Monde*. "There's not even enough space in Sicily's cemeteries to bury the dead."

An Italian search and rescue program, *Mare Nostrum*, was credited with rescuing more than 160,000 migrants in the space of a year. But it ended in October because of budget constraints and criticism from the European Union that the program itself was encouraging migrants to head across the Mediterranean.

The European Union's border control agency, Frontex, started its own mission in November, known as *Triton*, with a budget of less than a third of that of *Mare Nostrum*. Frontex has no vessels or surveillance equipment of its own, so has to rely on European member states to lend it ships.

Europe's response: 'A total absence' of policy

As anti-immigrant parties thrive across the continent, European nations are collectively struggling to cope with the migration crisis on their doorstep.

"We can't act as if each tragedy is the last while crossing our fingers that another one doesn't happen," Gozi told *Le Monde*, lamenting "a total absence" of European Union policy on how to deal with refugees arriving in Europe.

The European Commission, the executive branch of the EU, said Sunday it was consulting member states, European agencies and international organizations to prepare what it called a European Migration Strategy to be adopted in mid-May.

"These are human lives at stake, and the European Union as a whole has a moral and humanitarian

obligation to act," it said.

But international groups say European governments are failing to do enough.

Doctors Without Borders will begin its own rescue effort, De Filippi said, because "as a medical, humanitarian organization, we simply cannot wait any longer."

CHINA/AFRICA :

**China and Japan 'will both look to extend influence at Asian-African Conference'**

Tuesday, 21 April, 2015/scmp.com

President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will be in Indonesia to commemorate 60th anniversary since emerging nations vowed to oppose colonialism

China and Japan will be seen as jockeying to extend their influence in Asia and as far as Africa at this week's gathering of leaders for the Asian-African Conference marking the 60 years since the emerging nations vowed to oppose colonialism, according to analysts.

President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe – along with representatives from about 80 nations – will be in Indonesia commemorating the anniversary of the conference that formed the basis for the Non-Aligned Movement diplomatic norm.

Xi will go to Indonesia after ending his tour in Pakistan on Tuesday.

The first Asian-African Conference was held in the city of Bandung, on Java island, in 1955 with the attendance of about 30 nations that were newly independent.

Refusing to take sides during the Cold War either with the United States or the Soviet Union, the nations vowed that they would not be aligned with or against any major power bloc.

The leaders attending the commemoration, which starts from Tuesday until Friday, will be there to back the non-alignment principle and reiterate that it is still valid in post-Cold War international order.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not attend the conference, even though India was a major player at the 1955 meeting, while South African President Jacob Zuma has cancelled his planned visiting because of the spread of violence at home.

The focus at the six-day conference is likely to be on how China and Japan flex their muscle to extend influence and how Xi and Abe interact amid the strained ties between the two countries.

On Monday Abe said he was ready to meet Xi during the conference.

"There will be feeling that China and Japan will competing for influence [ at the conference]," said Xu Liping, a professor studying diplomacy in southeast Asia at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

"But such competition will not be beneficial to the region if it is not properly managed."

Xu said Xi would continue to push forward with the “One Belt One Road” initiative to bolster links between China and nations stretching from Asia to Africa, and the recently established Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Xi might also use the occasion to call for leaders to reflect on history and the 70th anniversary of the end of the second world war – one of the grievances that was facing the bilateral ties between China and Japan, Xu added.

In his speech at the conference Abe was expected to explain Japan’s postwar path as a pacifist nation, and his “proactive pacifism” policy that has called for Japan to have a more active role in world stability, Japan’s Jiji news agency reported, adding that Japan would also announce measures for the development of Asia and Africa.

Oh Ei Sun, an analyst at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore, said the competing sentiment between China and Japan was obvious, but the Southeast Asian nations would be cautious about letting it overshadow the conference.

“There are still other players, such as Indonesia, and they do not want their agenda to be overridden by those of China and Japan,” he said.

With the attendance of Middle Eastern countries leaders, such as Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, the ongoing conflict in Yemen will be on the agenda.

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation has called on Indonesia to mediate at talks on Yemen during the conference.

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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