



(Goodwill Zwelithini is the influential king of South Africa's Zulu nation. Comments that he made last month — when he reportedly said head lice should be squashed and foreigners should pack their belongings and leave the country — have been blamed for igniting attacks on foreigners, resulting in at least seven deaths. But Zwelithini denies inciting the violence.)

BURUNDI :

Présidentielle au Burundi: deux manifestants tués, radios privées coupées
le dimanche 26 avril 2015/rtdbf.be

De nouveaux heurts ont éclaté dimanche à Bujumbura entre de petits groupes de manifestants et des policiers au lendemain de l'annonce de la candidature du président burundais sortant à un troisième mandat controversé. Deux manifestants ont été tués par balles à Bujumbura, ont rapporté des témoins. Ce dimanche en fin d'après-midi, on a appris que les émetteurs relais des trois principales radios indépendantes du Burundi, accusées d'inciter la population "au soulèvement", ont été coupés par le gouvernement.

"Depuis ce matin 11h00, les émetteurs relais des radios Bonesha, Isanganiro et RPA ont été coupés sur ordre du gouvernement", a annoncé à l'AFP Patrick Nduwimana, directeur de la Bonesha et président de l'association burundaise des radios du Burundi (ABR).

"Depuis, nos radios sont écoutées uniquement dans la capitale; personne ne peut nous capter à l'intérieur du pays", a-t-il poursuivi.

"Le gouvernement dit que nous incitons la population de Bujumbura au soulèvement en rapportant en direct les manifestations" de dimanche, a-t-il ajouté, dénonçant "une violation grave du droit à l'information".

"Le gouvernement dit qu'il va lever la mesure après une réunion qu'on aura ensemble demain (lundi)", a ajouté M. Nduwimana.

Deux manifestants tués

Deux manifestants ont été tués par balle dimanche à Bujumbura dans des heurts entre la police et des milliers d'opposants à la candidature pour un troisième mandat du président sortant Pierre Nkurunziza.

Selon des témoins, un manifestant a été tué dans le quartier de Ngagara et un autre dans celui de Musaga, où la police a fait usage de balles réelles pour disperser les manifestants.

Le corps d'une des victimes a été laissé dans la rue, tandis que la Croix-Rouge a emporté celui de la seconde, ont ajouté plusieurs autres témoins.

Selon les médias locaux, plusieurs manifestants ont été blessés, ainsi que des policiers touchés par des jets de pierres.

"Nous avons appelé à des manifestations pacifiques et c'est bien ce qui se passait, mais la police et les milices du parti au pouvoir ont tiré à balles réelles sur les manifestants", a affirmé Frodebu Leonce Ngendakumana, un dirigeant de l'opposition.

Le ministre burundais de l'Intérieur Edouard Nduwimana a condamné ce qu'il a qualifié de "soulèvement à l'appel de certains hommes politiques et responsables de la société civile".

Dans plusieurs quartiers de la capitale burundaise, où les forces de sécurité avaient été déployées en masse, des milliers de manifestants se sont rassemblés, bravant une interdiction du gouvernement qui a récemment multiplié les mises en garde contre toute tentative de "soulèvement".

Un mandat inconstitutionnel ?

L'opposition et de nombreux pans de la société civile jugent qu'un troisième mandat du président Nkurunziza serait inconstitutionnel et contraire aux accords d'Arusha, qui ont ouvert la voie à la fin de la longue guerre civile burundaise (1993-2006).

M. Nkurunziza a été désigné candidat à la présidentielle du 26 juin lors d'un congrès samedi à Bujumbura de son parti, le Cndd-FDD.

En février, des dizaines de milliers de Burundais étaient descendus dans les rues de la capitale pour accueillir le directeur de la RPA, Bob Rugurika, tout juste libéré de prison.

Surnommée la radio des "sans-voix", la RPA est en pointe dans la dénonciation des inégalités sociales, du harcèlement politique ou encore des abus de l'administration et des forces de l'ordre.

Le ministère de l'Intérieur avait alors déjà interdit toute manifestation mais des dizaines de milliers de personnes, du jamais vu de mémoire de nombreux habitants de la capitale, étaient tout de même descendues dans la rue.

Washington regrette la candidature du président Nkurunziza à un 3e mandat

Les Etats-Unis ont déclaré samedi regretter la candidature du président du Burundi Pierre

Nkurunziza à un troisième mandat au risque d'une confrontation avec l'opposition burundaise.

"Nous regrettons cette importante occasion manquée, mais le dur travail de construction des institutions et des pratiques démocratiques doit continuer", a déclaré dans un communiqué Marie Harf, porte-parole du département d'Etat américain.

Le président Nkurunziza a été désigné samedi par son parti candidat à un troisième mandat présidentiel à l'élection du 26 juin prochain. L'opposition burundaise et de nombreux pans de la société civile considèrent qu'un troisième mandat de M. Nkurunziza serait contraire à la Constitution du Burundi et aux accords d'Arusha, qui ont ouvert la voie à la fin de la longue guerre civile burundaise (1993-2006).

La porte-parole du département d'Etat a lancé une ferme mise en garde aux autorités de Bujumbura quant aux conditions dans lesquelles se dérouleront les élections présidentielle et législatives. Les Etats-Unis, a-t-elle dit, appellent toutes les parties à "faire en sorte que ces processus électoraux soient inclusifs, transparents, crédibles, libres et conduits dans un environnement dépourvu de menaces, d'intimidation ou de violence".

"Nous appelons en particulier les autorités du Burundi à respecter les droits de tous les partis politiques pacifiques et de leurs candidats à faire campagne, à tenir des meetings et des rassemblements et à exprimer leurs idées", a poursuivi Mme Harf. La porte-parole a clairement laissé entendre que Washington était prêt à prendre des sanctions si cela était nécessaire. "Les Etats-Unis continueront à observer la situation de près et à prendre des mesures ciblées, y compris, lorsque ce sera approprié, en décidant des refus de visas américains", a-t-elle dit. Les Etats-Unis "tiendront pour responsables les personnes qui participent, programment ou ordonnent des violences contre la population civile", a encore déclaré Mme Harf. "La violence n'a pas de place dans des élections démocratiques", a-t-elle insisté.

Que se passe-t-il exactement au Burundi?

dimanche 26 avril 2015/lalibre.be

Lors d'un congrès éclair, samedi, le parti au pouvoir au Burundi depuis 2005, le CNDD-FDD, a désigné le président sortant Pierre Nkurunziza pour le représenter à la présidentielle du 26 juin, bien qu'un troisième mandat lui soit interdit par l'Accord de paix d'Arusha (2000), qui avait mis fin à la guerre civile (voir "LLB" du 25 avril).

Le congrès de samedi a également resserré les rangs autour du chef de l'Etat en éliminant de l'organe suprême du parti, le Conseil des sages, deux "frondeurs" (cadres opposés au troisième mandat) et deux membres soupçonnés de l'être, le président de l'Assemblée nationale, Pie Ntavyohanyuma, et le deuxième vice-président de la République, Gervais Rufyikiri.

Distribution d'armes à la milice

Quelque 300 organisations de la société civile et des partis politiques d'opposition ont appelé à manifester dimanche à la fois contre le troisième mandat et contre la distribution d'armes "à une partie de la population contre une autre", nous a indiqué Léonce Ngendakumana, de la coalition d'opposition ADC-Ikibiri. Depuis des mois est dénoncé l'armement d'une milice pro-présidentielle, constituée de certains éléments de la Ligue des jeunes du parti au pouvoir, les Imbonerakure.

Selon les différentes sources que nous avons interrogées, la police a tiré des gaz lacrymogènes et à balles réelles sur les manifestants. Il y aurait deux morts et plusieurs blessés. L'opposition affirme

que des miliciens Imbonerakure étaient "mêlés à la police" pour réprimer les protestataires à Musaga (sud de la capitale) et se battaient contre des jeunes à Buterere, dans la populaire banlieue nord, dimanche après-midi.

Agathon Rwasa, principal rival du président Nkurunziza, du parti FNL, a indiqué à "La Libre Belgique" que le porte-parole de la coalition FLN-Uprona, François Nzimana, avait été "enlevé dans un cabaret et Abraham Nitunga, membre de notre bureau politique, arrêté loin de toute manifestation" .

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

Somalia: Yoweri Museveni:” Al Shabab and EU colonialists share the ideology to divide and rule African People

midnimo.com/2015/04/26

Shabaab and European colonialists share one thing in common; they consider other Africans “Kaffir” (primitive people that do not know God) Midnimo.com reported.

ON April 24, 2015 Uganda’s president Yoweri Museveni released an article on the fortunes and misfortunes of the Somalia extremist group Al-Shabaab:

THE most atrocious, criminal, cowardly and monstrous attacks by Al-Shabaab against soft and innocent targets such as shoppers in Nairobi’s Westgate Mall in September 2013; young students in northeast Kenya’s Garissa University on April 2 in which 148 were killed, or football fans watching the World Cup matches at the Rugby Club in Kampala in July 2010, may look very frightening to those that are not used to war or that are not well informed. However, those attacks, in fact, prove three things.

They prove that Al-Shabaab is sectarian which is obvious because it only targets non-Muslims. Secondly, it proves that Al-Shabaab is bankrupt both morally and ideologically. Why attack non-combatants? Why not attack soldiers if you want to fight? Why attack only non-Muslims? Thirdly, however, it also proves that Al-Shabaab is already defeated. Why do I say this?

I say this because it is that bankrupt Al-Shabaab that initiated attacks against the Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) who were part of the African Union (AU) peacekeeping force AMISOM in the month of May in the year 2009 in Mogadishu.

The UPDF had gone to Mogadishu, not to fight anybody, but, to stabilise the situation there and to guard the Port and the airforce. This was after the Somali factions had agreed to a shared

government in Djibouti and after the American mistakes of manipulating the warlords had failed. We went there under the African Union Flag. You know that flag. It consists of the conspicuously huge map of Africa. Nobody that is not blind can mistake this for anything else.

What the [Horn and East African grouping] Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and AU wanted was negotiations to include anybody that had been left out of the interim government – especially the groups that had been in Eritrea.

In any case, we were in just a small portion of Somalia, at Mogadishu port, at the airport and, later on, on the request of the Interim Somali Government, State House and Kilometre 4 (linking the different positions) was added.

Not wise to attack Uganda, Burundi

Even if the Al-Shabaab did not want to negotiate with the Interim Government for any obscure reason, it was not wise to attack the Ugandan and Burundian troops carrying the AU flag. Why do you attack the AU flag? Do you not belong to Africa? If you do not belong to Africa, where do you belong? In any case, big chunks of Somalia, including ports and airports, were under their control. They could build capacity there if they had any ambitions to do so.

However, intoxicated with their bankrupt ideology of Islamic chauvinism (arrogance and narrow-mindedness), they attacked our troops calling them “Kaffir” (primitive people that do not know God) just like the European imperialists used to call us.

Well, the “Kaffirs” taught those idiots that we know how to defend the African soil and the African flag. Our well-trained and well-disciplined army smashed the fanatical attacks of these misled people.

This was especially so in the Ramadhan of August 2010; we smashed the mass attacks of these confused people and advanced to Barawe, Marka, Juba Hotel, Bondhere, Florencia, Telebunka, Elhindi, Santa gate Shigare, Bakara Market, National Stadium, Mogadishu University, Dayinley, Afugoye, Kilometre 50, Elsaalini and Shalambot beyond our original positions at the airport, Sea-Port, Kilometre – 4 and State House.

They, then, started sniping our troops from the built up areas. We brought in commandos that were experts in counter sniping. Between May 2011 and September 2011, at least, 320 Al-Shabaab fighters were killed by UPDF snipers. With other attacks and movements, the Al-Shabaab fled from Mogadishu on August 6, 2011.

The manipulation of the young Muslim youth by their cowardly and criminal leaders promising them heaven (janah) by dying fighting the “Kaffirs” could no longer persuade these poor children to face the might of the UPDF.

I sometimes wonder about the moral standing of these leaders. If pre-mature going to heaven is such a good thing, why don't some of these leaders set an example by blowing themselves up instead of only sending these poor children to die?

“Defeated” Al-Shabaab

After that Al-Shabaab was defeated in Baidoa, Afgooye, Marka, Beledweyne, Kismayu. Therefore, the Al-Shabaab is now attacking shopping Malls, football fans, university students and so forth, because they are already defeated. They cannot attack anything else – not even a well- guarded

Police Station let alone a battalion of the AU forces.

In their bankruptcy and ignorance of war, they miscalculate that attacking soft targets will frighten Africa and cause it to abandon the Somali people to these idiots. That will not happen.

I have not talked about the concept of the Armed Population in recent times in public. In 1980s, 1990s, when some actors were threatening to invade Uganda, we had trained a militia of 2 million men and women. All high school leavers used to get military training.

However, with increased Secondary School and University enrollment, the numbers became too big. We, therefore, suspended that generalised mass training and, instead, concentrated on the areas that had insecurity at that time. In (northeastern) Teso region we had a militia (Local Defence Units – LDUs) of 8,000 known as the Arrow Boys; in (northern) Lango we had another 8,000 and they were called Amuka.

Now that the Al-Shabaab can no longer either fight conventional or guerilla battles against the AU force and they are only relying on terrorist attacks against the soft, innocent targets, we can harden the soft targets with the concept of the Armed population, maybe, initially, in the threatened areas as defined by intelligence.

It involves the cost of feeding, clothing, equipping, transporting, training (the bullets), etc. Since we need that money for roads, electricity and other infrastructure, we had to scale down on the concept of the Armed People – Povo armada as Mozambique's Frelimo used to call the strategy. However, it is there and it can be re-activated at any time.

That is why we have Reserve Force Commanders in all the districts. That is their purpose. I have, actually, already given confidential instructions to the security forces to re-activate that strategy as guided by intelligence.

When the idiots in Mogadishu were calling us "Kaffir", they, probably (in their ignorance), did not know that the UPDF has got thousands of Muslims and that, under the NRM revolution, we pour scorn and contempt sectarianism. It is the ideology of the traitors who hope to weaken the African People by that scheme of dividing us so as to dominate us (divide and rule).

Somalis ancient Africans

The Somali People are part of the ancient Cushitic people of Africa. Some of these people live in Ethiopia, Sudan, Southern Egypt, East Africa, to name a few areas.

Some of them are Muslims and others belong to other religions. What right do these sectarian elements have to seek to separate them from the other Cushitic peoples and, indeed, from the other Africans? To hell with the sectarianists.

The sectarian chauvinists are, first and foremost, the enemies of the Muslim people even before they become enemies of the generality of Africans.

Why? Take a look at the map of East Africa, including the Horn of Africa. The Muslims live, mainly, near the coast (Pwani). Even in the pre-colonial times, not to mention the present capitalist world, the coast (Pwani) depended for prosperity on the mainland (Bara) and vice-versa. The pre-colonial peoples of the Great Lakes depended for textiles, glass beads, guns, et al on the Coast, including Zanzibar.

The coast depended on the hinterland for ivory, especially and, unfortunately, for slaves also (a responsibility of the criminal chiefs in many cases).

In modern times, by our coastal people providing services at the sea ports (Djibouti, Mogadishu, Kismayu, Mombasa, Tanga, Dar-es-Salaam), even if they did not do anything else (and there are many things they are better positioned to do e.g. manufacturing using imported inputs), they would be very prosperous on account of the huge volumes of merchandise from and to the interior of the continent.

Whose enemy are you when you interfere with this mutually beneficial arrangement? Certainly, the non-Muslims would lose but so would the Muslims of both the interior and the coast. The whole of Africa would lose.

Muslims and Shabaab

Finally, the criminals in Kenya have been killing non-Muslims and sparing Muslims. Does it mean that all Muslims support these criminals? Certainly not. How do I know this? There are 2.5m Somali Muslims in Mogadishu who selected to stay with the AU force instead of going with the Al-Shabaab terrorists.

That is the same story in Baidoa, Kisimayu, Afgooye, Beledweyne, Marka. How many Somalis are with the terrorists out of the total population of Somalis of 10.5 million? According to the 2002 census of Uganda, the Muslim population of Uganda was 12% of the whole population.

How many joined the criminal (Uganda Islamist rebel leader Jamil) Mukulu (of the Allied Democratic Front)? Very few. During the war in Uganda against military dictator Idi Amin, although Amin was pretending to use Islam while he was an alcohol drinker, (as a rebel leader) I was always harboured in Kampala by my Muslim comrades. Therefore, anybody who suspects all Muslims because a few Muslim criminals are involved in atrocities is wrong.

It is like saying that since (Uganda fundamentalist Christian rebel leader Joseph) Kony (of the Lord's Resistance Army) was pretending to be a Christian in his crimes, we should suspect all Christians.

I wish to inform those that have a propensity to get confused, that the African populations are always symbiotic. When I was growing up in Ntungamo (a district in western Uganda), I would see this symbiosis.

We were cattle keepers in my family. We would exchange products with the cultivators (okucurika-barter trade). However, the few Muslims in the area would also provide a service which the non-Muslim Banyankore people of the area were not doing at that time – running butcheries and eating houses.

They were providing services that were vital to the other Banyankore (mainly non-Muslim) but which the latter were not providing. Who was the loser in this partnership? Long live the partnership of the wealth creators and down with the parasites.

As for the security issue that we started with, be informed, again, that Al-Shabaab is already defeated. They can no longer attack the army or even the Police, they cannot fight conventional warfare or guerrilla warfare and, being ideologically bankrupt, they go for terrorism (attacking soft targets). This is curable as already pointed out by the concept of "Povo Armada" the Armed People.

The Al-Shabaab are in a very vulnerable situation.

On account of the defeats, they can no longer move in big groups – platoon size (30-40) or more because they will be detected and destroyed by the Army. They can only move, by concealment, in small groups (4 or 5).

These can easily be dealt with by the LDUs (Local Defence Units) with potential for re-enforcement by the Police and Army. The one factor that we must emphasize is intelligence – tactical (in a locality) and strategic (in the whole country and the region).

Disciplined violence

This will simplify the work. The Al-Shabaab is already defeated. The brutality they exhibit may scare people but it is defeatable and it is the last desperate card.

If I were in their position, I would not have played that card having been defeated in conventional and guerilla battles because terrorism stigmatises and delegitimises you forever. I would have negotiated with the other stake holders if I had any legitimate concerns.

In any case, even before you start a war, you must be sure that you intend to fight a just war – a war that is for justice and not for aggression or oppression. Also, you should be sure that there is no other peaceful way of solving that problem other than war.

Otherwise, if you start a war for purposes of aggression or oppression or you start a just war before you have exhausted peaceful means, you are a criminal.

Then having started a just war on account of having no other option for having justice, you must fight a war where violence is used in a disciplined way. The main element here is to target combatants, especially the armed combatants. Killing non-combatants (shoppers, students, football fans, bar-goers like the ones of Kabalagala) or kidnapping people like Kony and Boko Haram do, are war crimes.

Also fighting a war on a sectarian basis is a mistake even if you consider a section of the population to be oppressed. South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) guided the black people, through the Freedom charter of 1955, not to wage a racist struggle against the whites who were oppressing the blacks. This was because, among the whites, there were people who did not support Apartheid. I saw many of them with my own eyes – Ben Turok, Joe Slovo, Ruth First. The Indians, the Coloureds all joined.

It was a national struggle – not a sectarian one – although the oppressors were targeting blacks.

The author is president of Uganda. The article has been edited to make it easier for audiences beyond Uganda to understand, but some “local fingerprints” peculiar to Museveni's style of writing have been maintained to preserve its original flavour.

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa's Xenophobic Attacks 'Vile,' Says Zulu King Accused Of Inciting Them
April 26, 2015/npr.org

Goodwill Zwelithini is the influential king of South Africa's Zulu nation. Comments that he made last month — when he reportedly said head lice should be squashed and foreigners should pack their belongings and leave the country — have been blamed for igniting attacks on foreigners, resulting in at least seven deaths. But Zwelithini denies inciting the violence.

The king has no official power in modern South Africa, but he commands the loyalty of about 10 million Zulu people, the country's largest ethnic group. It took him almost a month after making his initial comments to call for an end to attacks on immigrants living in South Africa.

At a mass rally he called last Monday at a stadium in Durban, in KwaZulu province — where the king holds sway and where the attacks began — Zwelithini called the xenophobic violence "vile." He insisted that his remarks last month were taken out of context by the media. Zwelithini told the several thousand people who gathered at the stadium for the imbizo — a traditional meeting — that if he had really called for foreigners to be killed, South Africa "would have been reduced to ashes."

But Mondli Makhanya, a columnist and editor-at-large for South Africa's City Press newspaper, says there is no way the king's comments could have been misunderstood.

"There can be no misinterpreting what he meant when he likened foreigners, foreign nationals, to parasitic fleas," says Makhanya. "Anybody who speaks Zulu ... understood exactly what he was saying. And those are very, very dangerous things to be saying about human beings."

Coming from a revered traditional leader, Makhanya says, such utterances were potentially explosive in South Africa. Twenty-one years after the end of apartheid and white minority rule, the country faces entrenched poverty and high unemployment.

"There is a saying in Zulu which means 'the mouth that speaks no lies,' " says Makhanya. "That is what kings are normally referred to in Zulu. ... The king can never be wrong. And a lot of people who were running around doing the destruction over the past couple of weeks were saying exactly that: '[He] has told us to go and do this — he cannot be defied.' "

The Zulu king's reported choice of comments has been denounced by neighboring countries, including Zimbabwe. Many Zimbabweans live and work in South Africa. Zimbabwe's president, Robert Mugabe, said in an Independence Day speech on April 18 that he was appalled by the attacks, which are the second sustained round of xenophobic violence in South Africa in seven years.

"I want to express our sense of shock and disgust ... The act of treating other Africans in that horrible way can never be condoned by anyone," Mugabe said. "And whether these are followers of the Zulu king Zwelithini or the followers of some other misled members of the South African community ... that must never happen again, never happen again in South Africa or any other country."

South Africa's home affairs minister, Malusi Gigaba, acknowledges that his country must mend fences with neighbors and Africans beyond the immediate region. "The international community must not view South Africa as a xenophobic and Afro-phobic country," he says. "And Africa in particular must not think that we hate fellow Africans so much that we are prepared to do the worst to cause them harm. We are taking steps to address this."

It's not the first time the 67-year-old king — who has six wives and stands accused of an extravagant lifestyle at the cost of the South African taxpayer, since traditional leaders are all

supported by the government — has made controversial remarks. In 2012, he was quoted as saying gay people were "rotten," going against the spirit of South Africa's liberal and much-heralded constitution.

Despite the problems, Makhanya says the king not been penalized by the governing African National Congress party, which needs his support — and Zulu votes.

He says the ANC has been dancing around the subject, "saying that the Zulu [comment] was taken out of context. No such [thing]. The politicians have hidden behind that."

President Jacob Zuma is Zulu.

For now, Makhanya says, "The biggest challenge for King Goodwill Zwelithini is to restore his place in the society ... his reputation and his standing. He has been attacked, lampooned and castigated. So his moral authority has diminished greatly in the eyes of greater South Africa ... and he's going to have to do something quite major to restore that. I'm not sure he will ever be able to."

But Makhanya believes the loyalty of many of the King's Zulu subjects in rural areas, and others who cling to tradition, remains intact.

Africa 2.0 initiates Africa Freedom Day to Commemorate the End of Apartheid in South Africa and to Stand with its Citizens Against Xenophobia

PRWeb/benzinga.com/April 26, 2015

Through its We Are 1ne campaign, Africa 2.0 launches Africa Freedom Day. The initiative both celebrates the end of apartheid in South Africa, while working to create awareness and a display of global unity against recent atrocities within the country connected to Xenophobia.

Los Angeles, CA (PRWEB) April 26, 2015

On Monday, April 27, 2015, Africa 2.0 is unveiling their inaugural Africa Freedom Day celebration. The event commemorates South Africa's first non-racial democratic elections of 1994, thus ending over three hundred years of Apartheid, and establishing a new democratic government led by Nelson Mandela. In honor of this historic occasion, Africa 2.0 is asking citizens worldwide to stand with them against the horrific trend of Xenophobia that is sweeping through South Africa by signing a petition to be presented to the South African President and government, participating in events sponsored by your local Africa 2.0 chapter, and using your social media to participate in the #FreedomDay initiative.

On April 27th, using the social media hashtag #FreedomDay, participants are asked to display their solidarity by sharing Tweets, as well as, video and picture posts on Facebook and Instagram that answers the question, "What does freedom mean to you?" Leading up to Africa Freedom Day, there are a few ways to show support of the cause. Supporters can also sign the online petition at <http://www.werafrican1st.org> requesting that The Republic South Africa's President, The Honourable Jacob Zuma, call for an urgent inquiry into all violent attacks against Non-South Africans.

"Petitions are being circulated and night vigils are being held at Constitution Hill currently in Johannesburg in hopes of illustrating how the world is willing to stand in solidarity against such heinous xenophobic attacks," states Matsi Modise, Africa 2.0 South Africa Chapter head. "I challenge you to put your voice to action and register your signature as we stand in unity and call on

President Jacob Zuma to do more," she continues.

More than just a celebration of freedom, Africa Freedom Day recognizes the solidarity of efforts shown by all African nations to free South Africa. Africa 2.0 wants to use the celebration as a reminder to Africans globally of the power of this model of unity.

"April 27th is not just an important day for South Africa, but for Africa and Africans as a whole," explains Mamadou Toure. "Africa Freedom Day is a call to all nations to come together and celebrate our freedom, celebrate our forefathers struggle, celebrate Africanism, but most importantly to celebrate when each and every African country stood side by side and won freedom" he exclaims.

Founded by Africa 2.0 (<http://Africa2point0.org>), We Are 1ne continues to be a vehicle for international engagement around social and economic issues. We Are 1ne not only stands for solidarity, unity and empathy against victims of attacks across Africa, and globally, but also Ubuntu for all humankind regardless of race and religion. As the organization works to promote the emergence of a world where access to nutrition, security, healthcare, education, knowledge, and freedom is recognized as a universal right, Africa Freedom Day looks to be on par with its goals.

Our Pains, Tears, Fear In South Africa – Nigerian Immigrants

Matthew Dike/leadership.ng/Apr 27, 2015

Nigerians who travelled to South Africa in search of greener pastures are biting their fingers after the xenophobic attacks began in that country about two weeks ago.

The lucky Nigerians who have not been attacked said they are still suffering because their freedom has been restricted.

They said they could neither work nor walk along the streets of Johannesburg and Durban.

They also told pathetic stories of how some Nigerians were either tortured or killed during such xenophobic attacks.

Nnamdi Onyekachi, who hails from Orlu in Imo State but resides in Johannesburg, South Africa, told LEADERSHIP on phone that the South Africa of today is different from what he saw when he arrived the country in 1997.

Onyekachi said the country was a home for all before and the people displayed great measure of hospitality until the Swazulu king made the 'satanic' utterances.

The king was reported to have incited South Africans against their black African brothers who were visitors to the country.

The king wondered why other African nationals should come to their country and take over the jobs his subjects should have been doing.

He also accused the foreign nationals of involving in different forms of criminality or dastardly acts.

Onyekachi said, "My brother, please tell the Nigerian government to act now. They should sent jets or naval ships to take us away from South Africa.

“So many other nationals have been evacuated, so why is Nigerian government wasting time? Are they waiting until they kill all Nigerians in South Africa before they would evacuate our dead bodies if they did not set us ablaze? I cannot come out to buy food. I thank God I’m married to a South African. We have two lovely children, one boy and one girl. So, my wife would go out to purchase whatever we want to buy and eat. As for my buying and selling business in South Africa, I could not proceed because I have to move on the way and communicate with South Africans.

“Let our government know that the South Africans have killed and maimed many of its citizens. They would kill some people and set them ablaze so that you will not know where he or she comes from. Enough is enough. I want to return home but could not take the risk of leaving my apartment. They stoned a man called Nnamdi to death in Johannesburg. His close friend, David called me on phone that he was ambushed and attacked when he was looking for somewhere to buy food. Another man, Ayodele escaped death by the whiskers as he was stabbed in the back and he managed to escape from his attackers. Ayodele said he ran like the famous Ben Johnson. How long should we continue to run? Now, I’m fed up with this country and I want to return home. The streets are not safe to move. That’s the problem!”

Andrew Isuman who hails from Edo State said he lives in Durban.

He disclosed that many foreigners have been killed including Nigerians.

He showered encomiums on his South African lover who hid him in her room. “If not for my girlfriend who comes from Soweto in South Africa, I would have been killed by now. Angel hid me in her apartment. We live close to each other in Durban. I don’t have to tell you any address because talking to the media is a risk. They could trail somebody, using information they got from the media. I want to tell you that Nigerians are living in fear in South Africa. Tell our government that we are even sick and tired of South Africa and we are ready to return to our country. We don’t want to die in another man’s land. South Africans are ingrates. Nigerian government had helped the blacks and today, they are paying us with torture and death penalty.

I’m a businessman in South Africa. We’ve heard how Nigerian government supported the blacks in South Africa with scores of billions of naira in the 1960s. We heard of how the first Nigerian president, Nnamdi Azikiwe assisted Nelson Mandela and even gave him accommodation. We know that the South African government did not accord President Goodluck Jonathan the respect he deserved as the president of my country during the burial of Nelson Mandela. They failed to recall what Nigeria did for them during the apartheid era. Our government should protect us in South Africa or sever whatever relationship with this country that hates aliens.”

Moses Ogamba who also lives in Durban also spoke on phone with LEADERSHIP: “I want to return home to my country, Nigeria. My family is worried. They want me to return and I also want to return but there is no way to escape from my street. They have killed so many people including Nigerians. So far you are not from South Africa, you are an enemy. So, where do we go from here? How do I escape? I cried when I heard of how they slaughtered one Jude from Niger Delta. I was crying over my safety. I was crying over my family in Nigeria. I was crying over the assistance Nigerian government rendered to South Africa during the apartheid era. If one makes the mistake of walking on the streets, they could kill the person. So, I’m still hiding.”

TANZANIA :

Coffee production slipping in Tanzania as temperatures rise

By Kizito Makoye /uk.reuters.com/Mon Apr 27, 2015

DAR ES SALAAM (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Warmer weather means that Tanzania is producing less coffee as higher temperatures affect yields, hurting both the nation's producers and coffee drinkers who may pay more per cup, a South African university has found.

According to a study conducted by the University of Witwatersrand, researchers have established that higher night-time temperatures are the main factor behind a significant decline in Tanzania's Arabica coffee yields.

Coffee is Tanzania's largest export crop; on average the country produces around 50,000 metric tons each year of which approximately 70 percent is Arabica. Sales generate over \$100 million per year, according to data from Tanzania's Coffee Board.

The East African nation produces less than 1 percent of the world's Arabic coffee, but the industry employs about 2.4 million people in Tanzania and several millions in neighboring countries.

Since 1966, however, coffee production has dropped by 46 percent in Tanzania – a trend research predicts is likely to continue. Over that period, Tanzania's night-time average temperature has risen by 1.4 degrees Celsius.

1 DEGREE RISE, HALF THE COFFEE

According to the study, published in the journal *Agricultural and Forests Meteorology*, for each 1-degree Celsius rise in mean minimum (night-time) temperature, farmers in Tanzania are likely to see a loss of approximately 137 kilograms of coffee per hectare. That is almost half the average small producer's production, which is currently 225 kilograms per hectare.

Negotiators at U.N. climate talks are working toward a global agreement to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius – but the world is currently on a path toward at least 4 degrees Celsius of warming by the turn of the century, scientists say.

"Our forecast indicates that if the trend continues as has been observed during recent decades, then Arabica coffee production in Tanzania will drop to 145 kg per hectare by the year 2060," the University of Witwatersrand study said.

Researchers say the threat to Tanzania's coffee production should spur the country's authorities to design climate-smart practices that might help cushion farmers from worsening losses.

The study, which looked at the impact of climate change on Tanzania's Arabica coffee production over the past five decades, warned that dwindling coffee yields will affect incomes and jobs not only in Tanzania but in other coffee producing countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia, Brazil, Colombia and Costa Rica, which could also see temperature rises.

In Tanzania, Arabica coffee is cultivated in the southern and northern highlands along the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro and in the Mbeya region, where the majority of small producers are based.

Alessandro Craparo, the study's author, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that if temperature increases follow the trend of the past few decades, coffee yields in Tanzania's highlands will likely to drop to around 200 kg per hectare by the year 2030.

“Coffee yields have declined to their lowest point in years, with many farmers in Tanzania giving up on coffee completely,” Craparo said.

Temperature changes are unlikely to affect other coffee species such as Robusta, which is grown at lower altitude and is more climate-resilient than Arabica, he said.

Godsteven Maro, a soil scientist with the Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TACRI), said falling coffee yields in Tanzania may also be related to problems such as aging coffee trees, something the Witwatersrand study acknowledges.

“To attribute the trend solely to the change in minimum temperature carries some subjectivity,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in an email.

JOBS RISK

According to the study, although governments in coffee producing countries have invested heavily in the coffee sector, most have not put in place strategies to adapt to climate change, putting at risk the lucrative industry and the jobs of millions of small-scale farmers who depend on coffee.

James Teri, the head of TACRI, said Tanzania’s government has taken some measure to deal with the changing conditions, including advising farmer to relocate to higher altitudes in order to sustain coffee quality and quantity.

“We have also introduced new climate-tolerant coffee varieties which have been introduced to farmers in various coffee growing areas,” he said.

Haji Semboja, an economics professor from the University of Dar es Salaam, warned that if adaptation to changing conditions is not effective, “the effects to livelihoods and jobs will be huge.”

(Reporting by Kizito Makyoe; editing by Laurie Goering)

Tigo unveils new 4G LTE technology for Tanzania

April 27, 2015/itnewsafrika.com

Tigo Tanzania has unveiled brand new 4G LTE technology, which according to the telecom operator, will make it the largest and fastest Internet network provider in the country.

Speaking at the launch, Tigo Interim General Manager Cecile Tiano said: “This once again demonstrates our company’s commitment to the digital lifestyle transformation and its leadership in delivering cutting edge technology and innovation in this market.”

According to the operator, the 4G LTE network is set to provide faster speeds to surf and download content from the Internet as well as make video calls. The new technology is, according to Tigo, about 5 times faster than the 3G technology.

4G LTE technology is a standard for wireless communication of high-speed data. It has the capacity to efficiently transfer large amounts of data at an unparalleled speed. It can also accommodate more applications such as video conferencing, high definition content, video blogs, interactive games and video downloads on social networking sites.

As smartphone use is growing in Africa, 4G technology enables users to experience increased speed

and quality of internet access.

“Today’s launch covers Masaki and Mlimani City areas within Dar es Salaam but our plan is to fully cover the city by end of July, ensuring quality coverage in Kinondoni, Ilala and Temeke in places such as Upanga, Posta, Tegeta, Mbagala, Tabata, Kimara, Mbezi, Ukonga, Salasala, Mikocheni, Msasani, Sinza and so on,” Tiano explained.

“We will also launch 4G in Arusha, Dodoma, Morogoro, Moshi, Mwanza and Tanga by end of August. This will make us by far the biggest 4G network in Tanzania,” Tiano added.

According to the mobile operator, it is committed to improving the quality and coverage of its network in Tanzania.

Tigo recently announced plans to invest US \$120 million in 2015 on its network expansion and improvement. The investment includes scaling up its 3G sites and fibre network countrywide to make the internet accessible to more users.

Hashim Mbita is no more

Monday, 27 April 2015/Written by DAILY NEWS Reporter

RETIRED Brigadier General Hashim Mbita died yesterday morning at Lugalo Military Hospital in Dar es Salaam where he was receiving treatment.

According to the Director of Tanzania Information Services, Mr Asa Mwambene, mourners have gathered at the deceased’s residence at Chang’ombe in Temeke.

During his lifetime, the late Mbita served the government in different positions including Publicity Secretary, and National Executive Secretary of TANU, Army Officer, Government Chief Press Officer and Chief Executive of the OAU Coordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa.

The late Mbita will be remembered for the great contribution he gave in pursuit of the Southern Africa independence where his initiative helped to remove the colonial rule in South Africa, Zimbabwe and even the release of Nelson Mandela.

Due to his contribution on liberation struggles for Southern African Countries, last year he was one of the leaders who were honoured with the AU’s first ‘Son of Africa’ Award by Zimbabwe’s President Robert Mugabe.

Others included the Late Julius Kambarage Nyerere, Keneth Kaunda of Zambia, Sir Seretse Khama of Botswana, Samora Moises Machel of Mozambique and Augustino Neto of Angola.

Meanwhile, President Jakaya Kikwete has expressed his condolences to the family and the TPDF for the loss of one of the most important figures who played a great role for security and development of the country and the surrounding regional integrations.

“Only a few in our country can be compared to the late Brig. Gen Mbita as he served in the government for many years with no defeats, served as a journalist, Head of the Department of Information, president’s Journalist and later as Tanzania Ambassador to Zimbabwe,” said the president.

He added that the late Mbita was a true nationalist who dedicated his life and wisdom to the

sustainability of the nation as after retirement from the TPDF he initiated and led the activities of Hashim Mbita Project of preserving the records of liberation movements in Southern Africa and the heads of state.

Brig. Gen Mbita was born in Tabora and grew up in that region. Upon leaving school in 1957 he joined the Co-operative Department from where he moved to Public Relations, the military and politics. Burial arrangements are underway. The burial date is yet to be announced.

KENYA :

Thailand Seizes 3 Tons of Elephant Tusks Smuggled From Kenya

Apr 27, 2015/Associated Press

Thailand seized 3 tons of ivory hidden in tea leaf sacks from Kenya in the second-biggest bust in the country's history, one week after the biggest seizure, customs officials said Monday.

The 511 elephant tusks worth \$6 million, bound for Laos, were seized upon arrival Saturday at a major port in Chonburi province in eastern Thailand. The bust came after customs officials received a tip-off in Laos and Thailand and tracked the containers from Kenya, Customs Department Director-General Somchai Sujjapongse told reporters.

The ivory, hidden among tea leaves, was shipped out of Kenya on March 24 and went through ports in Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Singapore before coming to Thailand, he said.

The bust came one week after Thai customs officials seized 4 tons of tusks that were smuggled from Congo and also destined for Laos in what they said was the nation's biggest seizure.

Somchai said that the tusks seized Saturday were "more beautiful and complete than the previous lot," and that they would likely have been distributed to buyers in China, Vietnam and Thailand had the shipment reached Laos.

Thailand is one of the top destinations for African ivory smuggling in Asia and could face international sanctions soon if it doesn't show progress in combatting the problem.

"After these two consecutive big busts ... the transnational crime networks must realize it is getting increasingly difficult to send their shipment past Thailand, but I think they will try to come up with the more complicated means, so we will have already prepared the measures to (tackle the issue)," Somchai said.

Poachers have killed tens of thousands of African elephants for their tusks in recent years to meet demand for ivory in Asia. China has imposed a one-year ban on ivory imports amid criticism that its citizens' huge appetite for ivory threatens the existence of Africa's elephants.

Outgoing Somalia ambassador grateful to Kenya

By Geoffrey Mosoku/standardmedia.co.ke/Monday, April 27th 2015

NAIROBI: Somalia's longest serving ambassador to Kenya, Mohamed Nur, has wound up his duty in the country with a call to Kenyans to stop profiling Somalis as terrorists. Ambassador Nur said

both the governments of Kenya and Somalia were united in fighting Al-Shabaab and any terror attacks should be treated as criminal acts by individuals, not a whole community. "...Sometimes I see in the media that whenever attacks happen they (Kenyans) say these Somalis did this, Somalis did that. These Al-Shabaab are not Somalis but criminals. Somali refugees are in this country because of these criminals. Whenever things happen, it is not right to profile Somalis. Kenya and Somalia have a common enemy and we must be united to fight them," he said. Mr Nur, who bid President Uhuru Kenyatta goodbye last week, praised Kenya and the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) for helping his country to fight Al-Shabaab. He said he was grateful to Kenya for sheltering over half a million refugees over the last 21 years. "I want to thank Kenya for hosting our refugees here for over 21 years and KDF, which is part of Amisom, for joining the Somalia National Army in fighting Al-Shabaab," he said. The ambassador, who is returning to Mogadishu after serving in Kenya since 2007, said he was yet to decide on his next assignment. There are reports that he is eyeing the presidency in Somalia's elections next year. He said he would be meeting his countrymen and women both at home and in the diaspora to preach reconciliation.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

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EU/AFRICA :

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