



(Ça y est, la Cour constitutionnelle a déclaré hier, 3 mai 2015, Faure Gnassingbé victorieux du scrutin du 25 avril avec 58% des voix. Il n'y a donc pas eu de surprise car on s'y attendait. Certes, elle a reconnu qu'il y a eu des erreurs dans le décompte des voix mais pas de nature à remettre en cause la victoire de Gnassingbé fils.)

BURUNDI :

Journée cruciale au Burundi sur fond de fracture au sein de l'armée

AFP/le lundi 04 mai 2015

Le Burundi entrait lundi dans une journée et une semaine critiques, avec la fin de la "trêve" décrétée par les opposants au 3e mandat du président Pierre Nkurunziza et l'apparition de fractures claires dans l'appareil sécuritaire et au sein de l'armée.

"Nous avons deux camps arc-boutés sur leurs positions et aucun n'est prêt à reculer", a expliqué à l'AFP un diplomate ayant requis l'anonymat.

Comme attendu, le président Nkurunziza n'a pas renoncé au cours du week-end de trêve à sa candidature à la présidentielle, ce que lui demandait le "Collectif contre le 3e mandat" qui avait expliqué que la suspension de la contestation devait notamment lui permettre de "mieux s'organiser" en vue de nouvelles protestations.

Les manifestations semblaient donc devoir reprendre lundi dans les quartiers périphériques de Bujumbura, en effervescence depuis le 26 avril et où la police cantonne les protestataires afin de les empêcher de converger vers le centre de la capitale burundaise où ils souhaitent se rassembler, provoquant des heurts.

La répression par la police, qui tire parfois à balles réelles, a déjà fait six morts et 66 blessés.

Samedi soir, le général Pontien Gacyubwenge, ministre de la Défense, s'était démarqué en termes

sibyllins de son homologue de la Sécurité publique qui avait annoncé un durcissement de la répression et qualifié la contestation d'"entreprise terroriste" après deux attentats meurtriers à la grenade visant la police, vendredi soir.

Le général Gaciyubwenge a affirmé la neutralité de l'armée et demandé que cessent "les atteintes aux droits" constitutionnels des Burundais, semblant viser notamment celui de manifester pacifiquement.

Des proches du ministre de la Défense ont expliqué à l'AFP que des hauts gradés de l'armée l'avaient pressé de refuser de faire participer l'armée à la répression, de rappeler la neutralité des militaires et de se démarquer publiquement du ministre de la Sécurité publique.

Depuis le début du mouvement, l'armée s'interpose régulièrement entre la police et les manifestants pour éviter les dérapages. Les protestataires considèrent que les soldats sont neutres et les protègent des abus des policiers, acquis selon eux au Cndd-FDD, parti du président Nkurunziza.

Mais dimanche soir, le chef d'état-major de l'armée burundaise a garanti que les militaires resteraient loyaux aux institutions et aux autorités du pays. La Force de défense nationale (FDN) "reste et restera une armée républicaine, loyaliste et respectueuse des lois et règlements du Burundi et de ceux qui la régissent", a affirmé le général Prime Niyongabo.

Il a mis "en garde tout ceux qui voudraient utiliser la FDN à des fins politiciennes qui la conduiraient à agir en dehors de la loi et du professionnalisme" et rappelé que l'armée "reste attachée à la mission confiée par la loi", appelant les soldats à rester "unis".

La mise au point du chef d'état-major entérine l'hypothèse d'une division au sein même de l'armée, partagée entre respect des institutions et fidélité à l'accord d'Arusha - qui fonde une armée "non partisane", sur fond de loyautés politiques héritées de la guerre civile (1993-2006) à laquelle cet accord historique avait permis de mettre fin.

Durant la guerre civile, qui hante toujours les esprits au Burundi, le général Niyongabo était membre du Cndd-FDD, qui était alors un groupe rebelle combattant l'armée dominée par les Tutsis, à laquelle appartenait le général Gaciyubwenge.

"Il y a des divergences assez sérieuses au sein de l'appareil sécuritaire" qui "concernent la gestion de la crise dans son ensemble", a expliqué le diplomate, soulignant que des opposants au troisième mandat existaient au sein des forces de sécurité, armée comme police.

La contestation a éclaté le 26 avril, au lendemain de la désignation de M. Nkurunziza par le Cndd-FDD pour être son candidat à la présidentielle. Les opposants à cette candidature estiment qu'un nouveau mandat du président Nkurunziza, élu en 2005 et réélu en 2010, serait inconstitutionnel et contraire à l'accord d'Arusha qui limite leur nombre à deux.

La Cour constitutionnelle doit se prononcer dans les jours à venir sur la validité d'un troisième mandat du président Nkurunziza, mais ceux qui s'y opposent ont d'ores et déjà accusé les juges d'être aux ordres et d'avoir été saisis uniquement pour valider la candidature du chef de l'Etat.

Les médias du Burundi veulent rester indépendants malgré les pressions pendant la contestation
le 04-05-2015/challenges.fr

Bujumbura (Burundi), 3 mai 2015 (AFP) - Les médias du Burundi doivent rester "neutres",

"intransigeants" et "indépendants" malgré les pressions des autorités qui tentent d'endiguer une semaine de contestation, ont déclaré dimanche des journalistes burundais à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de la liberté de la presse.

Fondateur et directeur du groupe de presse indépendant Iwacu, Antoine Kabuhare a appelé médias et journalistes à "rester neutres et indépendants", lors d'une cérémonie organisée dans ses locaux, la maison de la Presse, lieu de rencontre des journalistes à Bujumbura, ayant été fermée le 27 avril par les autorités.

"C'est un jour triste pour la presse burundaise parce qu'on ferme les radios, on emprisonne les journalistes", a-t-il déclaré, "c'est un jour triste (...) aussi pour tout ceux qui croient en la démocratie et la liberté d'expression, c'est un jour triste aussi parce qu'on entend des messages de haine" dans certains médias.

"Mais nous avons aussi la joie aujourd'hui de voir que les médias burundais restent unis" et que "nous n'avons pas sombré dans le radicalisme malgré les provocations", a-t-il ajouté.

Depuis lundi, les autorités ont coupé les émetteurs en province de trois radios indépendantes, fait fermer la radio privée RPA, la plus écoutée du pays, perturbé l'accès aux réseaux sociaux et interdit aux médias de couvrir en direct les manifestations quasi-quotidiennes contre un troisième mandat du président Pierre Nkurunziza.

"Continuons à respecter les règles de ce métier" et "restons intransigeants sur les principes des droits de la personne humaine quelle qu'elle soit", a lancé Innocent Muhozi, président de l'Observatoire de la Presse du Burundi, appelant les journalistes à être "prêts à défendre demain les droits de ceux qui nous tuent aujourd'hui".

Au début des années 1990 la presse burundaise, fortement marquée par une identité hutu ou tutsi, a souvent exacerbé les divisions déjà fortes entre les deux communautés, qui allaient déboucher sur la guerre civile (1993-2006). Depuis les accords d'Arusha, qui en 2000 ont ouvert la voie à la fin du conflit, s'est créée une presse dynamique, professionnelle, libre de ton et refusant toute identification communautaire.

"En l'espace de même pas une semaine tout ce qui aura pris une décennie à construire s'est effondré brutalement", a déploré Alexandre Niyungeko, président de l'Union burundaise des Journalistes (UBJ).

"La presse burundaise est malmenée, bafouée de ses droits, voire même interdite (...) Le droit à l'information est-il encore un droit inaliénable au Burundi?", a-t-il demandé. "Menaces de morts, attaques, bastonnades sont le lot quotidien de beaucoup d'entre nous".

Le directeur d'Iwacu s'est voulu, lui, optimiste: "nous allons entrer dans l'histoire comme ceux n'ayant pas sombré dans le radicalisme".

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

Etihad launches new services to Uganda

3 May 2015/arabianaerospace.aero

Etihad Airways strengthened its presence in East Africa today with the launch of new services between Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Entebbe, in central Uganda. Inaugural flight EY645 departed Abu Dhabi at 7.50am and touched down at Entebbe International Airport on schedule at 12.50pm, where it was welcomed by a delegation consisting of senior representatives from the airport, government officials and local dignitaries.

Operated by a two-class Airbus A320 aircraft with 16 Business Class and 120 Economy Class seats, the new service is designed to provide business and leisure travellers with a direct four-times-per-week service between Entebbe and Abu Dhabi, with convenient onward connections to key destinations in the GCC region, Europe, Indian Subcontinent, North Asia, Southeast Asia and Australia.

The new service also provides convenient access to the nearby Ugandan capital of Kampala, one of the fastest growing cities on the African continent and the centre of trade and commerce in the country. Uganda has a total population of nearly 40 million, and is the world's second most populous landlocked country after Ethiopia.

James Hogan, President and Chief Executive Officer of Etihad Airways, said: "Uganda is one of the continent's fastest-growing business and tourism destinations, and the launch of services to Uganda is consistent with our strategy of targeting areas of strong growth in emerging markets.

"The UAE is a major trading partner with Uganda and our new point-to-point services strengthen the two-way flow of trade and commerce between the two countries. The flights are also scheduled to offer convenient onward connections, catering to strong traffic flows between Uganda and key destinations across our global network, such as Ahmedabad and Mumbai in India or Beijing and Shanghai in China."

"Not only does this service provide our guests with direct access to an exciting new business and tourism destination, it also further strengthens our presence in East Africa and across the African continent" he added.

Etihad Airways currently operates scheduled services to eight other destinations in Africa and the Indian Ocean, including: Cairo, Casablanca, Dar es Salaam (Dec 2015), Johannesburg, Khartoum, Lagos, Nairobi, and Mahé in the Seychelles.

SOUTH AFRICA :

Fear, Distrust As Victims Regroup In South Africa

Aljazeera/May 4, 2015

There is a lot of confusion here. No one in the camps for internally displaced people understands how they pose a threat to South Africans – nor why they 're being killed for trying to make a living.

Foreigners living in the cramped camps are ordinary barbers, cashiers, security guards, and corner-store owners unaccustomed to being targets of hatred and violence. "We are just creating so when

they say we are taking (jobs) from them, they are totally wrong,” said Amuri Djuma, 32, from the Democratic Republic of Congo. “Even if we leave there still won’t be jobs in South Africa.

They will still be asking for jobs. “More than 5,000 people were displaced after deadly violence against foreign nationals erupted on March 30 in the country’s coastal province of KwaZulu-Natal, whose capital is Durban. Attacks soon spread to the country’s financial hub, Johannesburg, in Gauteng province.

At least eight people were killed by machete-wielding mobs also armed with bricks and sticks who roamed the streets attacking anyone thought to be non-South African. Some victims were beaten and set ablaze. Hundreds have fled to the relative safety of camps on the outskirts of Durban, a city of about 3.5 million people. Security at the Phoenix and Chatsworth camps was tight with police and private guards on 24-hour surveillance, closely watching over the green-and-white tents encircled by metal fencing. The banked rage and disappointment in the faces of the 2,500 people living in the Chatsworth camp was immediately discernible.

It is a struggle for camp officials to handle the high number of new arrivals. Lacking space for tents, dozens of displaced people are forced to sleep out in the open.

Mattresses lay strewn across a dirt field, wet clothes hang to dry on surrounding fences, and garbage blows along the ground. Camp officials have organised football matches to help traumatised young men forget their ordeal and boredom.

Medical staff have had their hands full with at least three young women giving birth here in the past three weeks. Anti-immigrant sentiment Foreigners are widely perceived by South Africans to be usurping the country’s resources and engaging in criminal activities.

“They are greedy and if they went away spaces for business would open up,” Bongekile Dladla, 28, a hawker from Durban, said when asked about foreigners. Djuma, however, said the perception of immigrants as criminals is ludicrous. “When we came here, the country was full of crime so I don’t know where they get the idea that foreigners are the one doing the crime, being criminal,” said Djuma.

While the South African government has condemned the violence meted out against foreigners, President Jacob Zuma’s administration is held with much contempt.

Few here at the camp believe the outbreak of violence was spontaneous, and some have accused police officers of doing nothing to help. “They stood by and watched and then took us to hospital,” Djuma said of the police. Foreign nationals here remain unsure of their safety. Rumours abound of the imminent closure of the camps, but few are ready to reintegrate into their communities in Durban.

Few believe the reassurances given by government officials Mavis Kandulu’s husband Francois died on Sunday.

Police told her he stepped in front of a train – his body split into three pieces. No one here, however, believes his death was an accident. Another man, in an argument with authorities at the Isipingo camp on Friday, said he was hit on the back of the head with a gun by a police officer, and he’s now in hospital. One resident at the camp, requesting anonymity for security reasons, said when police entered with riot gear to quell the argument that night, foreigners in the camp panicked and tried to climb the fence to escape.

“We thought they were coming to shoot all of us,” she said. Attempts to reach KwaZulu-Natal’s police spokesman Jay Naicker for comment were unsuccessful.

Celebrating freedom In scenes reminiscent of April 27, 1994, when millions of South Africans queued up to vote for the first time, thousands of foreigners on Monday lined up to receive food in a camp for displaced persons. In commemoration of Freedom Day, the displaced foreign nationals were entertained with a series of cultural activities, including a concert and dancing. The event began with immigrant children singing the South African national anthem for the crowd. “They are singing and dancing and what not, but we are bleeding inside,” said Blessing Shire from Zimbabwe.

For most Malawians at Chatsworth and Isipingo, the violence and damage to property mean their stay in South Africa is over. They said they’d rather earn pitiful wages back home in Blantyre than fear for their lives in the purported land of opportunity.

“I came here almost two years ago seeking greener pastures, but I am going back and never returning,” said Peter Palume, 28, who received almost 40 stitches in his head when he was attacked in the township Umlazi.

For others from Burundi and DR Congo, it is not possible to return home. Burundi is currently struggling through political instability with an election looming, and eastern DRC remains overrun by militias. “We are in a dilemma now. Where do we go? I don’t know,” said Djuma from DRC.

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

Kerry arrives in Kenya to end years of frosty relations

Agence France-Presse/May 04, 2015

The visit comes after years of tensions surrounding Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta being charged by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity

NAIROBI, Kenya – US Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Kenya on Sunday, May 3, for talks on security cooperation and ahead of US President Barack Obama's visit to his late father's home country.

The trip to the east African nation is the first high-level visit since 2012, and comes after years of tensions surrounding Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta being charged by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity.

The ICC has since abandoned the case against Kenyatta over his alleged role in the 2007-2008 post-election violence, citing a lack of evidence and Kenya's failure to cooperate – somewhat removing Kenyatta's pariah status.

"We've had a long relationship with Kenya that goes back more than 50 years, and we have had continuous economic and cultural ties with the Kenyans, and this has never ended. So this trip is not

about making amends," a State Department official said.

"It's about reinforcing and deepening the relationship that we have had with Kenya, and it's also partially in preparation for President Obama's trip that's going to take place at the end of July."

Kerry arrived from Sri Lanka on Sunday afternoon, and leaves on Tuesday, May 5. He is lined up for talks with Kenyatta and other senior officials.

The fight against Somalia's Al-Qaeda-linked Shebab militants will feature high on the agenda, with Kenya struggling to stop increased cross-border attacks by the militants even though it has thousands of troops in southern Somalia.

Last month Shebab gunmen massacred close to 150 people, mostly students, in a raid on Garissa University in Kenya's northeast.

The raid followed a string of other massacres in the northeast and Muslim-majority coastal areas, and after the September 2013 siege of the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi which left at least 67 dead.

"We think the Kenyans are doing their best. Fighting terrorism is tough, and particularly fighting it in this region is very tough," the State Department official said.

"Kenya has been the victims of multiple attacks – the Garissa attack starkly illustrated the extent to which al-Shebab can have an impact on innocent civilians. And so we will be looking at additional ways that we may be able to support the Kenyan efforts to fight al-Shebab."

Diplomats said Kerry would nevertheless raise human rights issues with Kenyatta, whose government has been accused of clamping down on civil society groups and the press.

The top US diplomat will also meet Kenyan opposition leaders and rights activists.

"We continue to express our concerns to the Kenyan government. The ICC case against President Kenyatta has ended, but we have also continued to say that the issues that came out of that election must be addressed," the US official said.

"We will be meeting with civil society organizations. We will be encouraging the Kenyans to look at their civil society laws and to ensure that their laws are not putting undue pressure on civil society... We will be encouraging the government to respect civil society, to also respect the rights of the press," the official added. – Nicolas Revise, AFP / Rappler.com

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

REELECTION DE FAURE : Le Togo va-t-il se mettre en ébullition ?
lepays.bf/04/05/2015

Ça y est, la Cour constitutionnelle a déclaré hier, 3 mai 2015, Faure Gnassingbé victorieux du scrutin du 25 avril avec 58% des voix. Il n'y a donc pas eu de surprise car on s'y attendait. Certes, elle a reconnu qu'il y a eu des erreurs dans le décompte des voix mais pas de nature à remettre en cause la victoire de Gnassingbé fils. L'opposant Jean-Pierre Fabre qui s'était auto-proclamé président du Togo, quant à lui, appelle ses militants à descendre dans la rue pour contester la victoire de Faure. Le Togo va-t-il se mettre en ébullition? En tout cas, il y a des craintes que ce petit pays bascule dans la violence dans les jours à venir, si rien n'est fait. Le moins que l'on puisse dire est que la victoire de Faure se dessinait depuis la publication des résultats par la CENI. En effet, si l'on s'en tient aux déclarations du vice-président de cette institution, Francis Pedro Amouzou, les résultats n'avaient pas été calculés sur la base de l'examen de l'ensemble des procès-verbaux et ce, conformément à ce qui avait été convenu par la CENI.

Les résultats ont été annoncés alors que sur l'ensemble des 42 procès-verbaux, la CENI n'en avait entérinés en plénière que 15

Ce dernier, en effet, avait affirmé, furieux, que le président de la CENI avait proclamé les résultats sans attendre que soit examiné l'ensemble des 42 procès-verbaux des Commissions locales. Il estimait, par ailleurs, qu'il avait été mis devant le fait accompli. C'est pourquoi, avait-il conclu, il a pris la décision de claquer la porte de la CENI. Dans la même veine, un membre du comité de suivi avait apporté la précision selon laquelle les résultats avaient été annoncés alors que sur l'ensemble des 42 procès-verbaux des commissions locales, la CENI n'en avait entérinés en plénière que 15. Si tous ces reproches sont avérés, le moins que l'on puisse dire est que les choses n'ont pas été faites selon les règles de l'art. Bien au contraire, elles semblent avoir été agencées de manière à empêcher l'alternance démocratique au Togo et à permettre de ce fait à la dynastie Gnassingbé de se perpétuer.

A l'appui de cette hypothèse, l'on peut relever les faits troublants suivants. Il y a d'abord, en amont de la tenue du scrutin, le refus catégorique du pouvoir de prendre en compte les propositions de l'opposition de relire les textes de manière à limiter le mandat présidentiel et à ce que la présidentielle ne se fasse pas en un tour. Ce refus pouvait déjà être décrypté comme un élément précurseur du complot qui se tramait contre l'alternance démocratique au Togo. Joseph Kabila, en RDC, on se rappelle, était aussi passé par là. Et les raisons sont simples. Un éventuel second tour pourrait ouvrir la voie à tous les possibles. Et cela n'est pas de nature à rassurer les satrapes et autres pouvoiristes du continent.

Le deuxième fait troublant qui rend plausible l'hypothèse selon laquelle tout avait été mis en œuvre pour maintenir Faure à son poste est lié au caractère précipité qui avait entouré l'annonce des résultats. En effet, le président de la CENI, Taïfa Tabiou, avait pris la liberté de prendre de court tout le monde, y compris son vice-président, pour proclamer les résultats alors que sur l'ensemble des 42 procès-verbaux des commissions locales, seuls 15 avaient été examinés en plénière. Cette façon de faire est, on ne plus, suspecte. Et l'explication qu'il avait donnée pour justifier son acte ne résistait à aucune analyse sérieuse. Le président de la CENI, en effet, s'était retranché derrière les recommandations des présidents Ghanéen et ivoirien, John Dramani Mahama et Alassane Ouattara, venus à Lomé le 28 avril dernier, pour exhorter la CENI à se dépêcher afin de rester dans les délais légaux. Mais respecter les délais légaux, peut-on objecter au président de la CENI, ne signifie pas, comme il l'a fait, accélérer le processus d'annonce des résultats au point de brûler l'étape décisive de l'examen minutieux de l'ensemble des 42 procès-verbaux des commissions locales en plénière.

L'on peut comprendre que Jean-Pierre Fabre soit monté au créneau

Le troisième fait troublant est lié à la présence du président ivoirien, ADO, aux côtés de John Dramani Mahama. Autant l'on peut comprendre que le Ghanéen, au regard du fait qu'il est président en exercice de la CEDEAO, puisse assister le Togo pour lui éviter le chaos, autant l'on

peut avoir du mal à s'expliquer pourquoi ADO s'était auto-mandaté pour jouer au monsieur bons offices au Togo, lui qui, au demeurant, compte parmi les amis de Faure. Et quand Alassane Ouattara se joint à John Dramani Mahama pour suggérer à l'opposition togolaise de recourir uniquement à la Cour constitutionnelle pour régler les contentieux, l'on avait envie de lui faire observer ceci : êtes-vous sûr que cette institution n'est pas à l'image du Conseil constitutionnel de votre pays à l'époque où il était dirigé par le désormais célèbre Paul Yao N'Dré ? Le Togo de la dynastie des Gnassingbé a de toute évidence son Paul Yao N'Dré. A preuve, la Cour constitutionnelle n'a fait que confirmer la victoire de Faure comme on le présageait.

Au regard des résultats proclamés donc par l'institution, l'on peut être tenté d'affirmer que le déplacement d'ADO à Lomé répondait beaucoup plus à sa volonté de sauver son ami Faure, qu'à celle de sauver la démocratie au Togo. Ce faisant, le président ivoirien, ADO, semble rouler pour l'ensemble de tous ceux qui ont intérêt à ce que l'Afrique demeure une naine démocratique. La France, en premier lieu, ne verrait pas cela d'un mauvais œil. Et, en cela, elle est restée en phase avec la philosophie de la France-Afrique initiée dans les années 60 par le sulfureux Jacques Foccart. Pour toutes ces raisons, l'on peut affirmer que la réélection de Faure au Togo s'apparente à un crucifiement de l'alternance démocratique. L'on peut donc comprendre que Jean-Pierre Fabre soit monté au créneau pour la dénoncer, même si dans le même temps, l'on ne doit pas manquer de reconnaître que dans cette situation, l'opposition a aussi sa part de responsabilité. Et cette responsabilité est non seulement liée à la guerre des ego qui fait rage en son sein, mais aussi au fait qu'elle a pris la décision de prendre part à la présidentielle alors que les choses étaient pipées dès le départ.

Une manifestation de juifs éthiopiens dérape à Tel Aviv

le 04 mai 2015/europe1.fr

Environ 70 personnes ont été blessées après une manifestation de Falachas, des Israéliens originaires d'Ethiopie.

Avec l'aube, le calme est progressivement de retour lundi à Tel Aviv en Israël, alors qu'une violente manifestation a été réprimée par la police dimanche soir. Plusieurs centaines de Falachas, des juifs originaires d'Ethiopie, étaient venus protester contre les discriminations dont ils se disent victimes.

Un soldat noir passé à tabac. Une vidéo montrant des policiers bousculant et frappant à coups de poings un soldat noir a mis le feu aux poudres. Les deux officiers ont été suspendus. Le Premier ministre Benjamin Netanyahu a lancé un appel au calme et rencontrera lundi Demas Fekadeh, le soldat, ainsi que des représentants de la communauté.

Une quarantaine d'arrestations. Dimanche, une voiture de police a été retournée, des vitrines brisées, des biens détruits. Les agents en tenue anti-émeute ont essuyé des jets de pierres et de bouteilles. La police a eu recours aux canons à eau et des grenades assourdissantes disperser la foule. Selon les chaînes de télévision israéliennes, des gaz lacrymogènes ont également été utilisés, ce que la police n'a pas voulu confirmer. Jeudi dernier déjà, une manifestation avait été durement réprimée.

Les autorités font état de 56 policiers et de 12 manifestants blessés ainsi que de 43 interpellations.

Les Falachas, qui sont 135.500 en Israël, se plaignent depuis longtemps d'être victimes de discriminations et de racisme. "Nos parents ont été humiliés pendant des années. Nous ne sommes pas prêts à attendre plus longtemps pour être reconnus comme des citoyens égaux. Cela pourra prendre quelques mois, mais cela va arriver", a déclaré un manifestant à la télévision. "Toutes les revendications seront étudiées, mais la violence et de tels troubles n'ont pas leur place", a déclaré le Premier ministre.

EAC countries completely safe for tourists

Sunday, May 03, 2015/busiweek.com

Three East African Community Countries (Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda) which are in the Northern Corridor Integration Projects Initiative are regarded as safe countries for tourists as against statements from the foreign media that outplay and overhyped the negative incidences more than the positive ones that come from the region.

This was said by Edwin Muzahura, Marketing and PR Manager at the Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) in a joint tourism promotion meeting held in Kigali last week.

Muzahura said, “Within the region there is a lot of tourism happening across the borders but quite often a lot of negative publicity is out there especially from the foreign press due to sometimes instances which are not isolated to the East African region such a terrorism which is a global event and therefore happens all over the world”.

“Sometimes regardless of our rich products, we are completely misunderstood and the media out there postures a situation that puts them out of tune,” Muzahura said.

“Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda are completely countries safe to travel and therefore we want to completely condemn over-exercised negative advisories especially from our development partners,” he said.

“We need to work together to resolve such challenges instead of issuing very harsh travel advisories. What we need in that time is support to be able to put issues that are out of hand in terms of security in order, but not completely even make the situation worse,” Muzahura said.

Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda are a region that is very special and put apart in terms of culture.

The three countries have a unique and diversified culture and as a region they have a lot to offer to the world.

Muzahura said, “The region is easily accessible and well connected to the rest of the world by RwandAir and Kenya Airways”.

“We want to reassure our domestic, regional and international visitors that they will be safe and secure. We are open for business and we therefore encourage all to come and sample the diversity of our tourism products,” Fiona Ngesa, Assistant Regional Marketing Manager at the Kenya Tourism Board said.

Ngesa said, “The region remains a very safe destination for every tourist and Kenya was addressing the security situation.

The focus of the meeting was to continue to position the East African region as a single tourism destination, drawing on the depth and diversity of the attractions within the region and offering an estimated 141 million people as an attractive market for investment.

“Partner states collectively considered issues like security, infrastructure and ease of access as central to ensuring domestic, regional and international visitors ‘confidence in their personal safety and comfort when touring East Africa,” Ambassador Yamina Karitanyi, the Chief Tourism Officer at

the Rwanda Development Boards said.

“We have pledged to continuously and actively promote the Northern Corridor states as a joint destination. Security, ease of access and tourist confidence remains a top priority for this destination,” she said.

In addition to the East Africa Tourism Visa launched last year which has already had an impact, the three countries are organizing joint events at fairs, travel trade and travel media trips for the groups to familiarize them with the offering.

Joint tourism marketing brought together the government and private sector agencies in charge of tourism marketing including Rwanda Development Board’s Department of Tourism and Conservation, Kenya Tourism Board and Uganda Tourism Board under the Northern Corridor Integration Projects Initiative.

Nigeria must develop her people against Africa

By MajiriOghene Etemiku /nrguardiannews.com/May 4, 2015

IN June 2014 before Nigeria rebased her economy, South Africa was the undisputed economic giant of Africa. It had had an economy developed on the same theories and practices that were used by European economies for their development. A lot of my friends who had visited South Africa told me the incredible stories of a country, South Africa, which is physically and economically more developed than Sweden or Norway or Finland. These kinds of stories made me remember sometime ago when I visited a sister African country, Ghana. My visit came after the Ghanaians had knocked off all of those zeroes on their currency that made a Nigerian carry a bag of Ghana Must Go bag if he exchanges 10,000 of our currency into the Ghanaian Cedi.

I didn’t know about this zero-knocking off, so I got there with an ego which was immediately knocked off my shoulders when I realised that our sister country now had a currency somewhat comparable in strength and value with the American Dollar, the European Euro and the British Pound. As a matter of fact, after that day, I no longer had the cockiness that most of us carry around at our being the supposed giant or big brother of Africa. Not only that, I found out that even though we had helped our Sierra Leonean and Liberian brother with a military expedition aka ECOMOG, we turned out to be so hated to the extent that ECOMOG as an acronym was no longer ECOMOG, but it stood for Every-Cargo-and-Moveable-Good in the eyes and ears of the people we thought we did a good turn.

Therefore, after we rebased and overtook South Africa as the largest economy in Africa, I didn’t expect South Africa, in the spirit of our contribution to free them from the oppression of the Boers, to clap for and egg us on. As a matter of fact, I was appalled at the epithets with which the respected Madiba, God rest his soul; once used in describing us after he got out of Robben Island, and this appalling feeling is what establishes the suspicions and subsequent suggestions in this discourse. Most South Africans, and indeed a lot of the people we see as our African brothers and sisters, see us as ‘big for nothing’, and would go out of their way to prove it. I sensed something was brewing and the currency of bad blood growing after about 67 South African died at the Synagogue Church of All Nations, Lagos, Nigeria. The South African government was bitter, and even though they tried their very best to hide this bitterness, and came short of accusing the Nigerian government of complicity in the unfortunate deaths of her citizens, my gut feeling was that they would take a pound of flesh, first for our surprise overtaking of their position as the largest economy in Africa, and second, for the unfortunate deaths of South Africans in Nigeria.

The opportunity came, aided and abetted with the naivety of our government. In a secret arms deal that was supposed to stay secret and brokered at that level of international diplomacy, the South Africans took that opportunity to rubbish whatever international reputation we had left after Boko Haram, as a giant or a big African brother. A colleague here looking over my shoulder and sensing my train of thought from my title, is adamant that we served up ourselves on a platter for the South Africans to hack to pieces on the altar of mediocrity. That may be so, but most of us are adamant as well that we must look us in the face and tell us some home truths.

Following reports in the local and international press of xenophobic attacks on Nigerians and several other African immigrants in South Africa, I have no choice, but to join others in calling on government to take immediate action against these attacks to forestall the backlash against Nigerians in other African countries. Coming at a time when Nigeria has conducted an election, hailed internationally as credible and free, this attack is an embarrassment that seeks to present Nigeria as incapable of defending her citizens in the face of unprovoked and unwarranted attack by citizens of a country which Nigeria spent human and material resources to emancipate from apartheid.

Irrespective of the fact that we have recently recalled our ambassador from South Africa, most Nigerians would be happy that our government takes immediate evacuation of Nigerians from South Africa. If the avowed responsibility of government is the protection of lives and property of her citizens wherever they may be, our government must do the needful and put its foot down by dealing decisively with the situation in South Africa as a deterrent to all such attacks from other Africans in the near or far future. This attack on Nigerians comes as one too many, particularly as South Africa, and indeed many African countries, have a disposition of belligerence towards Nigerians.

I call on the framers and formulators of our foreign policy to review the Africa-our-centre-piece policy and focus more on developing Nigeria and look inwards to strengthen the economy, build strong and virile institutions, empower our people and forge alliances that promote our national interests globally rather than being a big brother whose citizens travel to lesser endowed countries seeking greener pastures. Our economy is in tatters because we have allowed corruption to eat so deep into our political and economic fabric so much so that countries that have no business challenging us do so now at whim. If our economy were to be in shape, why would our people be thronging to other seemingly less endowed countries to eke a living and ending up with brain splattered over the streets and ending up on death row for smuggling hard drugs?

While the citizens condemn these unwarranted attacks on Nigerians, they abhor a situation where a government apparently decides to tow the path of docility in the face of these unprovoked attacks. Nigerians are not interested in our government telling her citizens in South Africa to stay at home. Based on this, the Nigerian government must demand an apology from the South African government and ask for compensation for the families of the Nigerians caught up in these dastardly acts. A failure to do so and a failure for South Africa to make arrangements to guarantee the safety and protection of Nigerians in South Africa, the Nigerian government must hand down stiffer policies that would affect vital South African interests in Nigeria.

In 1944, an America President, Franklin Roosevelt; forgot his dog, Fala, when he was visiting the Aleutian Islands. So he sent back warships to go back there to fetch the dog. He was ridiculed and accused of spending tax payers' money on a Scottish terrier. 'You can criticize me, my wife and my family, but you can't criticize my little dog. He's Scotch and all these allegations about spending all this money have just made his little soul furious', he told his traducers. He told his fellow Americans as well that if he could send a warship to go get a Scottish terrier, a lost dog, they should imagine what he would do as President if it turned out that it was an American life that was at stake.

I think part of the philosophy in Americans, expecting to lay down their lives for their country, is in realizing what more their country would do for them in a moment of their adversity. I think Nigeria can look inwards more by developing her people than expect to be respected in being a big brother.

Is there hope for Africa?

Monday, May 4, 2015/by John Cassar White/timesofmalta.com

The international media rarely gets very excited by what happens in Africa. The pictures about Africa that are projected on our TV screens normally relate to the exodus of almost biblical proportions of sub-Saharan African people trying to flee to Europe from war-torn countries. But much more is happening in Africa.

Admittedly, Africa has arguably been the continent that benefitted the least from globalisation. But things are changing. African economies are still hugely dependant on the sale of commodities. The African continent is home to a third of the planet's mineral reserves, a tenth of oil and it produces two-thirds of the diamonds. This wealth brings about its own problems. When prices of natural resources and export crops rise, African countries usually do well, but the opposite happens when prices fall.

The Economist recently confirmed that "over the past decade Africa was among the world's fastest-growing continents – its average annual rate more than 5 per cent – buoyed in part by improved governance and economic reforms". This may come as a surprise to those who only take a superficial interest in what is going on in this continent that is so near to us. The political turmoil that is affecting some African countries like Somalia, Kenya, Libya and Nigeria often project an image of political and economic distress in this continent.

In 2014, most African countries suffered as the price of oil fell by half and many metals such as copper and iron ore also dropped sharply. Some African countries had to devalue their currency to cope with this sudden fall in demand for their natural resources. But many African countries are making good progress in the diversification of their economies.

Investment in various economic activities is flowing to Africa mainly from China. China has become by far Africa's biggest trading partner, exchanging about \$160 billion worth of goods a year. More than one million Chinese, most of them labourers and traders, have moved to the continent in the past decade. The Chinese import commodities for their resources-hungry manufacturing industries, while the Chinese help African countries build their infrastructure.

Relatively little investment in Africa comes from America. India is steadily becoming the keenest investor in Africa. China, on the other hand, is now more interested in investing its trade surplus dollars in Western Europe and South America.

Africa's dependence on the sale of natural resources is being helped by major investment in manufacturing and the services industries. Telecommunications, transportation and finance are stimulating economic growth in countries like Nigeria, which is increasingly becoming less dependent on oil and gas exports. Countries like Kenya, Tunisia and Egypt are making important inroads in tourism services even if political turmoil often causes serious setbacks to the growth of these trust-dependent industries.

There is, of course, a long way to go. Political instability, civil wars, deadly diseases like Ebola and Aids, terrorism and corruption still make some African countries failed states.

The growth rate of foreign direct investment in Africa may seem impressive but the starting point is indeed a low one. Africa remains the continent that is still most dependent on the export of commodities. The infrastructure in most countries remains mostly inadequate and massive investment is needed to improve the quality of life the great majority of African people.

Europe needs to compete with China if it is to build a more fruitful relationship with African countries. Many fast-growing African countries like Nigeria prefer to work closer to Western free-market systems. But major efforts are needed to start a more effective dialogue between Europe and African countries.

Some Western private equity firms are beginning to show interest in investing in niche economic activities in Africa. They see opportunities and are prepared to take on a higher risk to reap the hidden benefits of doing business in an undeveloped and tough market. Africa needs more capital to expand and there is plenty of this capital in the Western world waiting for the right opportunities.

Consumer demand is growing and slowly but surely industries are being liberalised in most African countries. On the other hand threats also persist. Private equity investors will face “bullets, corruption, and disease” and they will struggle to find deals that will make it their while to take high risks in the hope of high returns.

It is no surprise that despite the growing interest in investing in Africa, only about 1.0 per cent of global private equity goes to Africa.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

La Libye arrête 500 migrants vers l'Europe

Par Lefigaro.fr avec AFP/le 03/05/2015

Les gardes-côtes libyens ont intercepté dimanche cinq bateaux à bord desquels se trouvaient environ 500 migrants qui tentaient de traverser la Méditerranée pour rejoindre l'Europe, selon des responsables. La plupart des migrants sont originaires d'Afrique, a affirmé à l'AFP le colonel Reda Issa, ajoutant que les embarcations avaient été interceptées à 8 miles nautiques des côtes libyennes.

En soirée, les migrants sont arrivés à bord d'un bateau des autorités à Misrata, à l'est de la capitale Tripoli, et ils ont été conduits en bus vers divers centres de détention. "Nous allons essayer à nouveau, une deuxième fois, une troisième fois. Soit on atteint l'Europe, soit on meurt", a déclaré à une femme à son arrivée.

La Libye, en proie au chaos depuis la chute en 2011 du régime de Mouammar Kadhafi, n'a pas de véritable politique quant aux milliers de migrants clandestins qui se retrouvent sur son sol dans l'attente d'une traversée. De nombreux étrangers essayent de trouver du travail à Tripoli pour payer la traversée - souvent extrêmement onéreuse. Dans des conditions de vie très précaires, ils travaillent en majorité dans la construction.

Selon l'ONU, plus de 110.000 migrants sont passés en 2014 par la Libye, qui compte 1.770 km de côtes et 5.000 km de frontières terrestres poreuses. Les passeurs ont profité du chaos né de la chute du régime Kadhafi en 2011 pour intensifier leurs activités. Ces arrestations interviennent alors que le week-end a été marqué par une multitude d'opérations de secours en Méditerranée.

Près de 3.700 personnes ont été secourues samedi, et plusieurs centaines dimanche. Une dizaine de migrants ont été retrouvés morts. Chaque jour, des centaines de migrants embarquent depuis les côtes libyennes sur des radeaux de fortune en espérant rejoindre l'Europe. Ils sont en grande majorité originaire de pays d'Afrique, mais certains fuient aussi la Syrie en guerre.

La traversée de la Méditerranée est extrêmement périlleuse. En avril seulement, plus de 1.200 migrants sont morts, dont 750 dans l'une des pires tragédies maritimes depuis des décennies. Depuis, l'Union européenne a décidé de renforcer sa présence en mer en triplant le budget alloué à son opération en Méditerranée.

Italy says 5,800 migrants rescued

May 4, 2015/By Steve Scherer / Reuters

ROME — Nearly 5,800 migrants were plucked from boats off the coast of Libya and 10 bodies were recovered in less than 48 hours, Italy's coast guard said, in one of the biggest rescue operations this year.

Two weeks after nearly 900 boat people drowned in the worst Mediterranean shipwreck in living memory, the flow of people desperate to reach a better life in Europe has accelerated as people smugglers take advantage of calmer seas.

Seven bodies were found on two large rubber boats packed with migrants and rescuers plucked from the sea the corpses of three others who had jumped into the water when they saw a merchant ship approaching, the coast guard said.

Separately, authorities in Egypt said that three people died when a migrant boat attempting to reach Greece sank off its coast. Thirty-one people were rescued.

Italy's coast guard has coordinated the rescues by its own navy and coast guard, a French ship

acting on behalf of the European border control agency, merchant ships, and one vessel run by the privately funded Migrant Offshore Aid Station.

Growing lawlessness and anarchy in Libya — the last point on one of the main transit routes to Europe — is giving free hand to people smugglers who make an average of 80,000 euros, or \$90,000, from each boatload, according to an ongoing investigation by an Italian court.

Libyan state news agency Lana said on Sunday authorities there detained 500 migrants in five boats off Tripoli and a further 480 migrants — from Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia — were caught in a farm near the central town of Jufra, and another 170 were detained nearby.

Those rescued in the Italian operation were being brought to Italian shores, some already arriving at Lampedusa, Italy's southernmost island, and others at Trapani, Sicily. More were to be brought ashore overnight and today.

Shocked by last month's record disaster, European Union leaders agreed to triple funding for the EU sea patrol mission Triton, but there is still disagreement on what to do with the people fleeing conflict and poverty in various parts of Africa and the Middle East.

Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann said in a newspaper interview on Sunday that the EU should set up a quota system whereby member countries agree to take in more refugees in order to relieve some of the pressure on Italy, Greece and Malta.

But Austria's proposal is likely to face tough opposition from some members states, including Britain and Hungary.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on Friday that EU states should be allowed to set their own rules on migrants, and that Hungary did not want any of them.

Mild spring weather and calm summer seas are expected to push total arrivals in Italy for 2015 to 200,000, an increase of 30,000 on last year, according to an Interior Ministry projection.

About 1,800 are estimated to have perished during the crossing already this year, the UN refugee agency said, while some 51,000 have entered Europe by sea, with 30,500 coming via Italy.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 04 Mai 2015... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 04/05/2015