



(Ugandan authorities are waiting for a decision by Tanzania's High Court to extradite Jamil Mukulu, the founder of the rebel Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). "We had to put up our case to show that Jamil is wanted back home for criminal related offences," Ugandan Police spokesperson Fred Enanga told Anadolu Agency on Monday.)

BURUNDI :

Le président du Burundi refuse de reporter les élections

Le Monde.fr avec AFP/ Le 11.05.2015

Le président burundais ne fléchit pas. Pierre Nkurunziza s'est déclaré hostile au report des élections demandé par l'Union européenne et les Etats-Unis lundi 11 mai, estimant dans une interview à la BBC que « toutes les conditions » étaient « réunies » pour organiser les scrutins à venir.

« Lorsque l'on voit que 99 % du pays est en paix et en sécurité, cela signifie que toutes les conditions sont réunies pour organiser avec succès des élections », déclare M. Nkurunziza dans cet entretien. « Pour qu'il y ait une stabilité durable au Burundi, on ne peut pas dire qu'on ne peut pas organiser des élections », ajoute-t-il.

« Mesures d'apaisement » exigées

Ces déclarations interviennent alors que l'Union européenne, les Etats-Unis et la Suisse ont appelé lundi le gouvernement burundais à reporter les élections, au moment où le pays est en proie à des manifestations et des émeutes contre la perspective d'un troisième mandat du président Nkurunziza.

« Nous avons encouragé fortement le gouvernement burundais à prendre des mesures d'apaisement et l'idée d'un glissement du calendrier électoral serait à nos yeux une bonne chose », a déclaré lundi l'envoyé spécial de l'UE pour la région, Koen Vervaeke, s'exprimant aussi au nom de la Suisse et des Etats-Unis.

Les Pays-Bas et la Suisse ont par ailleurs annoncé la suspension de leur aide électorale au Burundi, se joignant à la Belgique, ex-puissance colonisatrice du pays. Le processus électoral est estimé par Bujumbura à quelque 60 millions de dollars. Le Burundi dit pouvoir en assumer 21 millions et a réclamé 39 millions d'aide étrangère. La Belgique a aussi interrompu sa coopération policière.

Les manifestations maintenues

Le Burundi, petit pays d'Afrique des Grands Lacs, a prévu le 26 mai des élections législatives et communales, suivies le 26 juin par une présidentielle. Pierre Nkurunziza, déjà élu en 2005 et 2010, a été désigné candidat à la présidentielle par son parti, le Cndd-FDD, mais ses opposants jugent qu'un troisième mandat serait anticonstitutionnel et surtout contraire aux accords d'Arusha qui avaient permis de clore la guerre civile. Le camp présidentiel juge de son côté la démarche parfaitement légale.

Les autorités burundaises ont sommé samedi les manifestants de cesser « immédiatement » et « sans condition » leur mouvement et demandé aux forces de sécurité de « déblayer » toutes les barricades sous 48 heures. Lundi, les manifestations se sont cependant poursuivies dans les quartiers périphériques de la capitale Bujumbura, foyers de la contestation depuis le début et où les opposants au troisième mandat ont tenté d'empêcher des habitants de rejoindre le centre-ville pour aller travailler.

Sur la BBC, M. Nkurunziza affirme que les élections seront « transparentes, mais aussi équitables ». « Nous pouvons assurer que nous accepterons le résultats des urnes », assure-t-il également.

Burundi: le CNDD-FDD, parti du chef de l'Etat, lance sa campagne

Par RFI /12-05-2015

L'Union européenne, les Etats-Unis et la Suisse appellent le gouvernement burundais à reporter les élections alors que le pays est depuis plusieurs semaines le théâtre de manifestations émaillées de violences contre un troisième mandat du président Pierre Nkurunziza. C'est dans ce contexte que le chef de l'Etat burundais a lancé, ce lundi 11 mai, à Muyinga, la campagne de son parti, le CNDD-FDD, pour les prochaines élections locales.

Le CNDD-FDD a choisi de lancer sa campagne dans la province de Muyinga, commune de Gashoho où près de 10 000 personnes étaient réunies pour assister au moment fort de la journée, le discours du président-candidat, Pierre Nkurunziza. Un discours d'un peu moins d'une heure pour surtout appeler à la tenue des élections. « Il y a la paix, embrassez-vous ; il y a la démocratie, embrassez-vous », a lancé le chef de l'Etat à la foule. Les premiers rangs - les plus militants - s'exécutent en riant, se serrant dans les bras. « La démocratie, c'est bon, non ? », s'est amusé Pierre Nkurunziza.

C'est depuis une estrade fixée sur une camionnette que le chef de l'Etat burundais s'est adressé aux milliers de personnes réunies par cercles concentriques. Les cadres d'abord, des imbonerakure en cordon de sécurité, et puis les militants auxquels se sont mêlés de simples sympathisants ou curieux venus écouter le chef de l'Etat.

Des élections nécessaires

Pierre Nkurunziza leur a expliqué, en substance, que la démocratie au Burundi « s'est ancrée depuis 2005 grâce au CNDD-FDD » et que « seules les élections permettront d'éviter de nouvelles violences dans le pays, voire même une nouvelle guerre », a-t-il renchéri. « Les élections, c'est la démocratie », a-t-il scandé à plusieurs reprises. « Tout ce qui est nécessaire pour qu'il y ait de bonnes élections est là, du moins à 99 % », a expliqué le chef de l'Etat burundais. Comme une réponse aux pays qui ont décidé de suspendre leur aide au processus électoral.

Pierre Nkurunziza a rappelé, comme il le fait souvent, que les élections se sont tenues en 2005 et

2010 malgré des troubles. Il a également interpellé ses militants. « Vous qui êtes ici, vous pouvez accepter un gouvernement de transition ? Ceux qui n'acceptent pas, levez les mains », leur demande-t-il avant de marquer une pause. Des mains se lèvent alors à perte de vue. « Mettez les mains bien haut pour que les journalistes les voient... et que demain, ils ne disent pas que c'est ce que nous vous avons dicté », précise-t-il.

Retenue pour les Imbonerakure

Un message a également été adressé aux Imbonerakure, cette jeunesse du parti au pouvoir qui est tant critiquée, accusée d'actes d'intimidation et de violences politiques. A la tribune, le patron du parti au pouvoir a félicité les Imbonerakure pour leur retenue et notamment d'avoir su éviter ce qu'il qualifie de piège. « Le piège était la provocation, les manifestants voulaient provoquer surtout les Imbonerakure. Alors nous leur avons conseillé de se retenir. C'est très important parce que c'est là où se trouve notre victoire. Maintenant, le pays est calme parce que nous nous sommes retenus », affirme Pascal Nyabenda, le président du CNDD-FDD.

Quand les militants ont tabassé des militants du parti et en ont même tué un, les Imbonerakure auraient pu se venger note un cadre. Dans son discours, le chef de l'Etat burundais, Pierre Nkurunziza renchérit sur les propos du président CNDD-FDD : « Continuez de vous abstenir d'intervenir, continuez de vous abstenir jusqu'à la victoire, continuez de vous abstenir c'est le conseil que je vous donne. »

Du côté de la communauté internationale, on s'inquiète toujours d'une confrontation entre pro et anti-troisième mandat. Une confrontation qui pourrait replonger le pays dans la guerre civile. Les manifestants eux continuent de dénoncer une collusion entre les Imbonerakure et les forces de l'ordre.

BURUNDI : Demande de REPORT DES ELECTIONS

Virginie Robert /lesechos.fr/Le 12/05

L'Union européenne, les Etats-Unis et la Suisse ont appelé lundi le gouvernement burundais à reporter les élections. Le pays subit depuis fin avril des manifestations émaillées de violences contre un troisième mandat du président, Pierre Nkurunziza. Après la Belgique, les Pays-Bas et la Suisse ont annoncé la suspension de leur aide électorale au Burundi. La Communauté d'Afrique de l'Est tient mercredi à Dar es Salam un sommet extraordinaire sur la crise burundaise.

50 000 flee Burundi, fearing for their lives

Kizito Makoye/rdm.co.za/12 mai 2015

Camps in Tanzania overwhelmed as violent protests continue over president's plan for a third term

Kigoma, Tanzania — When heavily pregnant Hadija Mchume saw everyone in her Burundian village packing up to flee political violence, she knew she had to join them.

"It was a terrible moment for me, but I was strong enough to run away because I wanted to spare the life of my unborn baby," Mchume told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Just days from her due date, the 23-year-old fled the violence that had engulfed her neighbourhood equipped with gauze and a razor blade — in case she had to give birth on the move.

She made it to Kagunga on Lake Tanganyika, where she gave birth to a healthy baby boy just hours before boarding a boat to Kigoma in western Tanzania.

Mchume was among thousands of Burundian refugees flocking to Kagunga in Tanzania to board the MV Liemba — an aging ferry hired by the UN refugee agency UNHCR to transport those fleeing across the lake.

More than 50 000 Burundians have fled to neighbouring countries in recent weeks amid violent protests triggered by President Pierre Nkurunziza's plan to run for a third term.

Opponents of Nkurunziza say his bid for another term violates the constitution and a peace deal that ended Burundi's ethnically-charged civil war in 2005.

According to Tanzania's ministry of home affairs, 11 000 Burundian refugees, including more than 8 000 women and children, have streamed into western Tanzania, overwhelming the capacity of local and international humanitarian organisations.

The refugees face the risk of diseases such as diarrhoea and cholera due to poor sanitation, overcrowding and a lack of food, said James Rusana, chairman of Lusolo village in Kagunga.

Winnie Nabatanzi, who arrived at Lusolo on Saturday with her family from the Burundian capital Bujumbura, said she feared for the health of her young children.

"The water is dirty and there are no toilets here and you can see human faeces are all over the place," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in the village.

Tanzania is already home to one of the largest refugee populations in Africa, sheltering hundreds of thousands of Burundians and Congolese, and last year unveiled plans to grant citizenship to 200 000 Burundi refugees.

The fresh violence has plunged Burundi into its worst crisis since the 12-year war, which pitted rebels from the ethnic Hutu majority against the then Tutsi-led army and killed about 300 000 people. The military is now a mixed force.

The US government has said it is worried about reports that Imbonerakure, the youth wing of Nkurunziza's CNDD-FDD party, had been armed, an allegation the government denies. Many of those who have fled say they were threatened by Imbonerakure and fear violence.

Local residents in western Tanzania said this was the greatest single influx of people in several decades of volatility in the central African region.

"There is only one dispensary in this village with only one health professional. Most areas surrounding the village are littered with garbage," said Juma Hamisi, a resident of Lusolo.

Tony Laiser, the coordinator of refugee services in Kigoma region said the government was doing everything possible to screen and provide shelter for Burundian refugees.

He said that the Nyarugusu camp in Kasulu district — one of the largest camps in the world — was overwhelmed with almost 60 000 refugees already at the camp.

"We don't have the capacity to accommodate more refugees at Nyarugusu but ... the government is working out to find alternative accommodation for the arriving asylum seekers," Laiser told the

RWANDA :

Rwanda best place for mothers – report

Posted by: APA/date : May 11, 2015

Rwanda is best the place in the East African region for mothers, and children, according to a new report by Save the Children. Save the Children is an international organization that promotes children's rights and helps support them in developing countries.

According to the report entitled 'The Urban Disadvantage', which was released officially on Sunday in Kenya, Rwanda is ranked 121 out of 179 countries around the world while Tanzania is ranked 136 and Kenya, 138.

Uganda and Burundi come last in the region ranked 141 and 147 respectively.

Save the Children, Kenya Country Director Duncan Harvey said that one of the worst places in EAC to be a mother is in urban slums.

“Unfortunately, rapid urbanisation in the region which is fueled by high economic growth rates has led to the expansion of slums,” he said.

According to Rwanda Health Minister, Agnes Binagwaho, 84 percent of men accompany their pregnant wives in antenatal consultations, especially for HIV test.

The report also notes that only Rwanda and Tanzania in EAC are likely to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on maternal and child health.

According to the UN, Rwanda has witnessed impressive progress over the past decade and has put in place crucial policies for pro-poor growth.

RDC CONGO :

Renvoi en RDC du premier suspect acquitté par la CPI

le mardi 12 mai 2015/rtbf.be

Le premier suspect à avoir été acquitté par la Cour pénale internationale (CPI), Mathieu Ngudjolo, a été expulsé lundi vers Kinshasa en République démocratique du Congo, a fait savoir lundi l'organisation de défense des droits de l'Homme Human Rights Watch (HRW), sur base de déclarations des avocats de M. Ngudjolo. En décembre 2012, la chambre de première instance de la CPI avait acquitté ce dernier, qui était poursuivi pour crimes de guerre et crimes contre l'humanité. L'acquittement avait été confirmé en appel le 27 février 2015.

Mathieu Ngudjolo était l'ancien chef d'état-major du Front nationaliste et intégrationniste (FNI), un groupe armé impliqué dans le conflit qui a secoué au début des années 2000 la province de l'Ituri

dans l'est de la République démocratique du Congo. Il avait été arrêté en 2008 à Kinshasa sur mandat d'arrêt de la CPI pour des faits commis en 2003 dans le village de Bogoro (Ituri). "A la suite de son acquittement par la CPI, Ngudjolo avait dit craindre pour sa sécurité s'il était renvoyé en RD Congo. Toutefois, les autorités de l'immigration des Pays-Bas ont estimé qu'il ne remplissait pas les exigences nécessaires pour accepter sa demande d'asile dans ce pays", explique Human Rights Watch dans un communiqué.

"Nous attendons, tout comme d'autres observateurs, des autorités congolaises qu'elles garantissent le bien-être et la sécurité de Mathieu Ngudjolo une fois qu'il sera de retour en RD Congo", a déclaré à ce sujet Géraldine Mattioli-Zeltner, directrice de plaidoyer auprès du Programme Justice internationale à Human Rights Watch. "La CPI, qui dispose d'un bureau à Kinshasa, et l'ambassade des Pays-Bas devraient également surveiller de près sa situation, aussi longtemps que nécessaire", a-t-elle encore ajouté.

UGANDA :

Lack of output places Uganda's oil-boom town in slow lane

May 12 2015/By Reuters

Elias Biryabarema Hoima, Uganda

BEFORE the discovery of large amounts of oil in Lake Albert, Hoima was a forlorn and remote town in western Uganda, whose main sources of income were farming and the trickle of tourists heading to nearby national parks.

A decade later, an oil-fuelled boom is transforming the town nearest the lake, with smart new office blocks and hotels drawing scores of new businesses and people from engineers to prostitutes to bankers.

But with the east African nation yet to pump a single drop of oil, this rapid development may be premature. Oil executives say production will start in 2018 at the earliest.

"Everybody in the country and the region is looking at Hoima," said Betty Tibesigwa, the manager of Rosaline Suites, a new hotel and office complex that is home to Chinese oil company Cnooc's operations in Uganda.

"People from all over the world will be visiting Hoima," she said. "We're coming in to offer services at the standard one would expect of a town with such promising and booming business."

Oil

Cnooc, Britain's Tullow Oil and France's Total are among companies exploring for oil beneath Lake Albert, a pristine body of water in the heart of the Rift Valley estimated to contain crude reserves of 6.5 billion barrels.

The discovery of oil there about 10 years ago unleashed dreams of an economic windfall that would lift Uganda's 38 million people out of poverty but development has proceeded at a snail's pace, stymied by spats over planning and taxes.

“Oil comes with its own hype. This investment seems to be way ahead of its time,” said Stephen Kaboyo, the managing director at Ugandan fund manager Alpha Capital Partners. “These investors won’t find enough business activity to support them right away. We’ll have idle capacity.”

Officials are now eyeing 2018 as the start of production, but Kaboyo believes this is too optimistic, pointing to infrastructure delays such as a \$4.5 billion (R53.6bn), 1 300km export pipeline to the Kenyan coast that has not yet been started.

The tender to build a \$2.5bn domestic refinery was awarded only early this year, to Russia’s RT-Global Resources, and construction is not expected to start before 2016.

Government economists estimate that developing the oil fields will cost \$15 to R22bn, against \$50bn that Tullow says the country could earn from crude sales during the lifetime of the Lake Albert fields.

Investors

Such sums are exciting investors around Hoima, where a new tarmac highway shimmers westwards through marshes and forests before plunging over an escarpment to the Albertine basin and the border with Democratic Republic of Congo.

Alongside the road, warehouses are springing up in fields, next to banks, motor showrooms, office blocks and shopping malls.

Estate agents estimate that land prices have gone up 50 percent in the last four years as speculators have snapped up plots. They anticipate huge demand from a population that has quadrupled since 2002 to 100 000, according to census data.

But the delays in oil production are pushing back the expected payday for investors who have banked on the arrival of oil men ready to splash out on everything from burgers and beer, fancy clothes and electronics, to schooling for their children.

For 40-year-old Godfrey Muleke, who sells and services Renault and Mitsubishi trucks and water pumps and generators, business in the last two years has not been brisk.

Since opening he has sold only 10 Renault trucks and has about 25 off-roader vehicles under management on both lease and rental arrangements.

But he still believes he made the right choice by getting his foot in the door before anybody else.

“Moving in now is good,” Muleke said. “You invest less when you move in early. And you’re given a bird’s eye view of the scene.” – Reuters

Uganda awaits decision on extradition of rebel leader

12 May 2015/turkishweekly.net

Ugandan authorities are waiting for a decision by Tanzania's High Court to extradite Jamil Mukulu, the founder of the rebel Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

"We had to put up our case to show that Jamil is wanted back home for criminal related offences," Ugandan Police spokesperson Fred Enanga told Anadolu Agency on Monday.

He said Mukulu is wanted on several counts of terrorism, murder and crimes against humanity.

"We needed to package this information and come up with a record of cases which has to be presented before the High Court Judge," he said.

Last week, Tanzanian police confirmed the arrest of Mukulu, who has been on the run since the 1990s.

The Tanzanian High Court reportedly started hearing on Friday into a possible extradition of the rebel leader to Uganda.

Neighboring Uganda and Tanzania do not have an extradition treaty.

International law requires that an extradited suspect must get a fair trial and should not be tortured during the extradition or detention.

Uganda must present credible evidence that proves or suggests Mukulu committed the alleged crimes against him.

The law also requires that the alleged crimes must not be political or religious in nature.

-Paper works-

But Tanzania's Interpol chief Gustavus Balil said that the two governments were still doing paper works on Mukulu's extradition.

"There is no any case in the court concerning Mukulu's extradition process," Balil told Anadolu Agency by phone.

"We still doing paper works after receiving official request from Ugandan government to hand over the suspect who is on the list of top wanted terrorist in Uganda," he said.

Balil promised to release full and detailed information on the issue after they both Tanzanian and Ugandan authorities are done with their early stage investigations.

"I can also confirm the arrival of our Ugandan counterparts to officiate Mukulu's extradition," he said.

Mukulu is wanted by Uganda for attacks such as the 1998 Kicwamba massacre in which scores of sleeping students were burned to death in their dormitories in a town near the Congo border.

The ADF, which originally said it opposed what it called the marginalization of Ugandan Muslims, is also accused of launching deadly bomb blasts in capital Kampala in the late 1990s before a military operation forced the rebels to set up camp in eastern Congo.

The rebels have since largely been quiet, though they would stage sporadic attacks on towns in eastern Congo and against Congolese military units.

This year, Uganda authorities linked ADF to several murders in the country.

A number of Islamic religious schools were also closed down on allegations that they recruited

children to join the ADF.

By Halima Athumani

Jailbreak convict arrested in Uganda

By Peace Loise Mbae/standardmedia.co.ke/Tuesday, May 12th 2015

A convict who escaped from Kamiti Maximum Prison has been arrested at a motel in Kampala, Uganda.

Samuel Munene, who is serving a life imprisonment for robbery with violence, is alleged to have faked illness and was admitted at the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH), from where he escaped. Speaking to the Press, Commissioner of Prisons Isaiah Osugo said the inmate had faked an illness for eight years to stage the escape. He said since 2007, Munene had been feigning complications in his legs that made him unable to walk. "He had been confined to a wheelchair for eight years since he could not walk. We did not know he was faking it to find a way out of the prison," Osugo said. Munene is alleged to have stolen clothes from another patient to disguise himself and sneaked out of the hospital without any suspicion. The prison boss said the officers were shocked to find the inmate was not lame and had escaped.

"Our officers are expected to be watchful of prisoners at all times. The officers who were in charge have been charged in court for negligence," he said. Osugo noted that it is difficult to monitor over 3,000 inmates in the facility, saying escape of prisoners happens all over the world. It is believed prisoners sneak in hacksaws, knives, phones to work their way out of the prison.

SOUTH AFRICA :

First black leader heads South Africa's opposition party

Helen Nyambura-Mwaura/independent.ie/10/05/2015

South Africa's main opposition party has voted Mmusi Maimane to be the first black person ever to head the traditionally white party.

The Democratic Alliance said it hoped the move will widen its appeal in a country deeply divided along racial lines despite the fall of apartheid more than two decades ago, with most of the black population living in poverty.

Mr Maimane (34), who begun his victory speech in his native Xhosa language, told delegates his priorities would be fighting for a fairer society with equal opportunities for all.

"We can transcend racial inequality, but this can only happen if every South African acknowledges the injustices of apartheid and if we all recognise that racial inequality of the past still remains with us today," Maimane, who was born in the black township of Soweto in Johannesburg, said.

The DA's leader of eight years, Helen Zille (62), stepped down after leading the party to win 22 pc of the vote in the 2014 national election, its best performance.

Ruling party and former liberation movement African National Congress won that poll by more than 60 pc.

Some critics accuse the DA of being "lily white" and not fully committed to addressing inequalities, including not supporting an affirmative action law that requires companies and institutions to increase the number of blacks in their ranks.

One in every four South Africans is jobless.

Some analysts said Maimane's selection would not automatically rope in the young, urban working-class black voters that it has been targeting, unless they see the party addressing their concerns.

"They have chosen him because they think that having a black leader will be more attractive to black voters. That way of thinking is not the most productive," said Steven Friedman, director of the Centre for the Study of Democracy at the University of Johannesburg.

"If it doesn't change anything, if it is still saying the same things and taking the same policy positions, then many black people will say this is a white party led by a black person."

DA's position as the leading opposition party is challenged by hard-left Economic Freedom Fighters that won six pc of national elections last year.

Maimane's rise to prominence began in 2011, when he became the party's national spokesman.

Last year, he lost his bid to lead the provincial government of South Africa's richest province, Gauteng, but shortly afterwards became his party's parliamentary leader.

"I simply don't agree with those that say they don't see colour, because if you don't see that I am black, then you don't see me at all," Maimane said.

Can South Africa's male hostels survive?

11 May 2015/bbc.com

The traditional male hostel in South Africa could soon be a thing of the past.

After weeks of recent xenophobic attacks, South African soldiers and police have conducted a series of raids on these hostels in an effort to curb attacks on foreign nationals.

Police believe those who carried out these attacks live in hostels around Johannesburg and Durban as Nomsa Maseko reports.

'West still treats Africa as former vassals' – South Africa's Zuma to RT

May 12, 2015/rt.com

Western "colonial" states are not interested in S. Africa's development, but rather want to take its natural resources and never give anything back, Jacob Zuma, S. African president, told RT. It's China's investment that Zuma sees as a way to prosperity.

"The Western world or the European countries, in particular, came to Africa [in the 19th century] to colonize and they had been taking the resources of Africa," Zuma said.

But even after the continent decolonized itself in the mid-20th century, its relationship with the US, UK, France and other Western countries "remained the same," he stressed.

“They still regard us as the Third World, as a kind of people, who must be related to as the former subject [state], etc. That talks also to the economics... Their intention has never been to make the former colonial countries develop,” the president explained.

Zuma believes things “would never be the same” with China, which has been heavily investing in Africa since the early 2000s, as it came to the continent “as equals.”

“The Chinese come differently. They come to do business with us. They are ready to help... The results would be that African countries will be empowered,” he said.

China is educating African students and building highways in many countries, while the Western states “only built roads from mining areas to harbors,” the president added.

China is currently South Africa’s top trading partner, and Zuma expressed confidence that recent attacks on foreigners, in which Chinese citizens were affected, won’t lead to a cool down in relations between Pretoria and Beijing.

“The issue of xenophobia was exaggerated in South Africa,” he said, adding that the true reasons for the attacks lay outside racial issues.

The South African leader pointed out that thousands across the country had taken to the streets to protest xenophobia after five people died in violence in Durban in mid-April.

Despite “some things here and there,” South Africa was one of only two African nations approved as one of the 57 founding members of the Chinese-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Beijing and Pretoria will also join efforts to establish the BRICS bank (New Development Bank), with South Africa set to host the new financial institution’s regional center. The countries comprising the BRICS group are Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Zuma criticized existing international financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, saying that “it’s very difficult to pinpoint the real exemplary kind of delivery by these institutions,” and that African countries “got into more difficulties” by relying on their assistance.

The idea of the New Development Bank has “brought the fresh breath in the system,” he said.

“BRICS has brought the bank, which is a developer; which is going to operate differently... It’s focusing on the Third World, not just on the Third World, but whomever else. And it’s actually aimed at helping to uplift countries that need help,” the president said.

Meeting with Zuma, Russian President Vladimir Putin advocated BRICS development as a vehicle for improving the economies of Russia and South Africa.

Zuma arrived in Moscow on Vladimir Putin’s invitation as guest at the May 9 military parade dedicated to the 70th anniversary of Victory over Nazi Germany.

He stressed the importance of the occasion as “at times, people have got short memories. They might be forgetting that we came from a very serious situation, which led to many deaths.”

The South African president observed that the Soviet Union had “suffered a great deal” during World War II, noting that “the turning point of the defeat of fascism was done by the Russians.”

TANZANIA :

Vodacom Tanzania CEO resigns

Tuesday, 12 May 2015/Written by DAILY NEWS

THE Managing Director of Vodacom Tanzania, Rene Meza, has resigned to pursue other opportunities.

Meza, who joined Vodacom Tanzania in 2011, will leave the wireless carrier in September, the Johannesburg-based company said in a statement.

He previously worked for Bharti Airtel Ltd in Kenya and for Millicom International Cellular SA.

“During his time with Vodacom, he doubled the network to 3,200 sites, increased the number of customers to over 12 million and led Tanzania to have the second biggest M-Pesa customer base in the Vodacom Group,” Vodacom said in the statement.

M-Pesa is a mobile banking service. Tanzanian carriers are developing more sophisticated mobile banking products, such as interest-bearing accounts and loans, to boost sales as well as seeking more spectrum to improve their networks.

Meanwhile, Qatari telecommunications firm, Ooredoo said yesterday that Meza would become the new chief executive of its Myanmar unit.

Meza will replace Ross Cormack, “who has taken the decision to leave his position later this year,” after he led the Myanmar unit since its creation as a greenfield operation two years ago, Ooredoo said in a statement.

KENYA :

Tabloid joins politician, bishops in targeting LGBTI Kenyans

May 11, 2015/by Colin Stewart/76crimes.com

In the wake of last month’s High Court decision in favor of a Kenyan organization seeking human rights for LGBTI people, some anti-gay Kenyans have opened the door to even more intense persecution of LGBTI Kenyans.

The latest step in that direction was today’s publication by Kenya’s tabloid Weekly Citizen of a list of the country’s “top” 14 gays and lesbians, with 10 front-page photos. LGBTI activists weren’t alone in criticizing the article; so did ordinary readers of the newspaper’s online blog. None of the early online remarks was positive; comments included “Shame on you,” “This is totally useless and uncalled for,” and “You must be proud for spreading hate.”

The tabloid listed several LGBTI activists but also, Gay Star News reported, some people who had not disclosed their sexual orientation.

Many people compared the Kenyan weekly to the Ugandan tabloid Red Pepper, which frequently targets homosexuals and lists “Top Homos,” as well as to the now-defunct Ugandan tabloid Rolling Stone, which in October 2010 published “100 Pictures of Uganda’s Top Homos” with the heading “Hang Them.” That list featured Ugandan LGBTI rights activist David Kato, who was murdered three months later, in January 2011.

Gay Star News reported about the Kenyan list:

“If homophobes were looking to target people, if the police were looking to arrest people, if anti-gay youths were looking to attack some teen they assume is gay, they now have a face and a name,” Denis Nzioka, one of the names mentioned, told Gay Star News.

“We are now walking targets. While some of the people on the list are open about being gay, some are not. It is putting every person’s career, life and family at risk.”

Working together with fellow Kenyan LGBTI activist Eric Gitari [executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (NGLHRC)], Nzioka is reaching out to every person mentioned in order to ensure they are out of danger.

They are currently considering a class action lawsuit against the newspaper for endangering the lives of the people listed in the article.

The article came eight days after William Ruto, Kenya’s deputy president, told a church gathering on May 3 that Kenya has “no room for gays.” His remarks were a response to the High Court ruling of April 24. Ruto’s spokesman added that “The government believes that homosexual relations are unnatural and unAfrican.”

An existing Kenyan law, rarely enforced, provides for up to 14 years in prison for same-sex intimacy. The High Court ruled that that law was not a valid reason for refusing official recognition for the NGLHRC, which seeks to “advance the full participation, equality and inclusion of LGBTIQ individuals in the Kenyan democratic state.”

A similar ruling last year in Botswana requiring official recognition of the LGBTI rights group Legabibo was appealed by the Botswanan government. A similar appeal is expected in Kenya.

Ruto’s remarks drew criticism from Binyavanga Wainana, a well-known Kenyan writer who acknowledged last year that he is gay.

“Kenya’s deputy president joins an important tradition by Africans in power to spread hate in church on a Sunday,” he said on his Twitter account.

“Our Deputy President Ruto is building himself to be the most dangerous man in Africa. If his strategy works much will burn.”

Leaders of the Catholic Church in Kenya joined in the backlash to the High Court ruling. Although Pope Francis has urged tolerance for LGBTI people, Kenya’s Catholic bishops issued a statement on May 8 that took aim at the April 24 ruling. In their statement, the bishops repeated the frequent claims that LGBTI people somehow pose a threat to families and that, even if they are born in Africa, they have adopted an “un-African” ideology. The bishops also implied that, although

LGBTI people in Africa are harassed, stigmatized and persecuted, they chose to be gay and did so for economic reasons:

“Fellow Kenyans, we are deeply disturbed by the recent High Court ruling allowing the registration of an Association of Gays and Lesbians. This is a deliberate attempt by certain individuals and institutions to push dangerous agendas and ideologies that are unnatural, un-African and un-Christian. It is a threat to the family.

“What happened to the assurance by the Attorney General to the country and religious groups that the constitution would not legalise same sex unions?”

“Furthermore Kenyan law outlaws gay sex and sodomy, how then does the same law allow gays and homosexuals to register their organisation? Is this not a legal contradiction?”

“Our stand as the Catholic Church on this issue is clear; that these unions go against nature and the teachings of the Bible – ‘He created them, male and female, and He blessed them.’ (Genesis 5: 2).

“We will not allow our country to be a sowing ground for strange ideologies in pursuit of narrow economic interests. We categorically reject any agenda fronting this kind of unnatural ideologies.”

That statement came shortly after a Vatican visit in April by Kenyan bishops.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Présidentielle guinéenne: en exil au Burkina, l'ex-chef de la junte se porte candidat

AFP / 11 mai 2015

Ouagadougou - L'ex-chef de junte de Guinée, le capitaine Moussa Dadis Camara a annoncé lundi à Ouagadougou où il vit en exil depuis 2010, son intention de se porter candidat à l'élection présidentielle prévue en octobre dans son pays, a constaté un journaliste de l'AFP.

J'accepte volontiers d'être candidat (à l'élection présidentielle d'octobre 2015)(...) dans notre chère patrie commune à nous tous: la Guinée, a déclaré le capitaine Moussa Dadis Camara qui a dirigé la junte en Guinée de 2008 à 2009.

Je suis guinéen avant tout et rien ne m'interdit de rentrer dans mon pays, a lancé l'ancien chef de l'Etat vêtu d'un costume gris et portant des lunettes noires, refusant toutefois de donner une date précise sur son éventuel retour.

L'ancien putschiste guinéen s'exprimait lors d'une rencontre avec des membres de la nouvelle formation politique, le Parti des forces patriotiques pour la démocratie et le développement (FPDD), venue à Ouagadougou pour lui demander d'en être le président et le candidat pour le prochain scrutin.

Je prends aujourd'hui la destinée de ce parti qui se veut national, rassembleur (...). Ce parti ne doit être ni ethnique, ni discriminatoire, a déclaré l'ex-président guinéen.

Appelant au rassemblement autour de sa nouvelle formation pour en faire un véritable parti national sans étiquette communautaire ni religieuse, le capitaine Camara a annoncé qu'il quittait les forces armées guinéennes pour éviter des conflits d'autorité.

Moussa Dadis Camara était à la tête de la junte qui a pris le pouvoir en Guinée fin 2008, à la mort du président Lansana Conté, avant d'être président de transition du 23 décembre 2008 au décembre 2009.

Il est notamment cité dans l'assassinat d'au moins 157 opposants, tués le 28 septembre 2009 par des soldats lors d'un rassemblement pacifique à Conakry, contre sa candidature à la présidentielle de l'année suivante.

M. Dadis Camara, blessé par balle en décembre 2009 par son aide de camp Aboubacar Sidiki Diakité dit Toumba, à Conakry, s'était installé pour sa convalescence au Burkina Faso où il vit depuis.

Un cargo turc bombardé au large de la Libye

Par RFI /11-05-2015

L'attaque s'est produite dimanche soir, mais on ne l'a apprise que ce lundi 11 mai au matin : un cargo turc a été bombardé au large du port de Tobrouk, depuis la Libye, faisant un mort et plusieurs blessés parmi les membres de l'équipage. Le ministère turc des Affaires étrangères a dénoncé cette attaque sans pouvoir immédiatement identifier son responsable, mais à la mi-journée le gouvernement reconnu par la communauté internationale a justifié le bombardement en indiquant que le navire était entré sans permission dans les eaux libyennes.

Avec notre correspondant à Istanbul, Jérôme Bastion

L'attaque est survenue au large de Tobrouk, dans l'est du pays, non loin de la frontière égyptienne, mais selon Ankara, à quelque 13 milles nautiques de la côte donc dans les eaux internationales, et, selon la version locale, à une dizaine de milles de distance, donc dans la zone de souveraineté libyenne.

Le navire, qui livrait des panneaux de construction en provenance d'Espagne, a d'abord été touché par des tirs d'artillerie, puis il a de nouveau été frappé cette fois par une série de bombardements aériens, parce que le navire ignorait les injonctions de faire demi-tour, disent les autorités locales qui affirment qu'il était indésirable. Le capitaine en second a été tué et plusieurs marins blessés, sans que l'on connaisse précisément leur état.

Le ministère turc des Affaires étrangères a rapidement « condamné fermement cette attaque inqualifiable d'un navire civil », demandant des dédommagements et la poursuite de ses auteurs.

Une réponse vigoureuse qui illustre la tension croissante entre Ankara et les autorités libyennes contrôlant l'est du pays, celles-ci accusant régulièrement la Turquie de « soutenir le terrorisme », à savoir les milices islamistes. Le gouvernement de M. Abdallah al-Theni a d'ailleurs expulsé depuis longtemps les diplomates turcs et les entreprises turques travaillant dans le pays. Ce dernier incident ne va certainement pas rapprocher leurs positions.

Drug-resistant typhoid now 'epidemic' in Africa

Date: May 12, 2015/newvision

Drug-resistant typhoid has become an invisible epidemic in Africa, scientists said on Monday after an unprecedented probe into the disease.

Writing in the journal *Nature Genetics*, the team sounded the alarm after sequencing more than 1,800 samples of typhoid bacteria from 63 countries.

This revealed the rise of a multi-drug-resistant (MDR) strain called H58, which does not respond effectively to frontline antibiotics.

H58 has recently acquired mutations that blunt newer drugs such as ciprofloxacin and azithromycin, they added.

H58 is "displacing" antibiotic-sensitive versions of the germ, the study warned.

The now-dominant lineage "has emerged and spread throughout Asia and Africa over the last 30 years," it said.

The paper described "an ongoing, unrecognised MDR epidemic within Africa itself."

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), about 21 million people are infected with typhoid every year, and an estimated 216,000 to 600,000 die.

The disease is caused mainly by *Salmonella typhi* bacteria in food or water contaminated with the faeces or urine of infected people.

Symptoms can include fever, headaches, constipation or diarrhoea, rose-coloured spots on the chest, and an enlarged spleen or liver. Symptoms can be mild or severe, but some people can carry the germ yet not fall sick.

Vaccines against *S. typhi* do exist, although they are not always effective and are not suitable for young children -- the group most at risk.

In many developing countries, the disease is controlled through drugs, and lax use of them is helping the resistance problem.

The team said that of the 1,832 *S. Typhi* samples they analysed, dated from 1992 to 2013, 47 percent were of the H58 type, confirming that it was now widely disseminated.

The family tree of H58 suggests it spread out of South Asia to Southeast and western Asia and then to East Africa.

H58 strains are now "predominant" among the eastern and southern Africa *S. Typhi* samples tested, they wrote.

"We uncovered evidence of an unreported recent wave of transmission of H58, based on 138 isolates, from Kenya to Tanzania and on to Malawi and South Africa.

"This analysis demonstrates an ongoing epidemic of H58 typhoid across countries in eastern and southern Africa."

The problem of MDR typhoid dates back to the 1970s. It happens when the bacterium acquires new genes making it resistant to prevailing drugs.

'Here to stay'

MDR genes are usually unstable components of the genome.

When doctors switch to a new drug, the variants are pushed out of the genome because they are less useful to the germ and competing strains become dominant.

This time is different, said senior researcher Kathryn Holt from the University of Melbourne in Australia.

"In H58, these genes are becoming a stable part of the genome, which means multiple antibiotic-resistant typhoid is here to stay," said Holt.

The scientists called for beefing up surveillance of H58, tightening use of antibiotics, expanding vaccination programmes and improving water and sanitation in poor countries.

"Bacteria do not obey international borders, and any efforts to contain the spread of antimicrobial resistance must be globally coordinated," said Stephen Baker at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, an Oxford University research unit in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

'Drought-hit Southern Africa at risk of food shortage'

Reuters/2015/05/12

The WFP says severe drought is affecting the 'maize belt' of South Africa

JOHANNESBURG - Southern Africa faces possible food shortages over the next few months due to a severe drought in the 'maize belt' of South Africa, where a lack of rain had caused crop failure rates of over 50 percent, the World Food Programme (WFP) said on Monday.

In South Africa, the WFP said maize production was estimated to have dropped by a third compared with last year, putting it on track for a harvest of 9.665 million tonnes, its worst in eight years.

Besides South Africa, which produces more than 40 percent of regional maize, the drought was also likely to hit harvests in southern Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Malawi and Madagascar, the UN agency said in a report.

The problems in landlocked and impoverished Malawi were compounded by heavy rains and flooding in early January which destroyed crops and roads, it added.

Last month's outbreak of anti-foreigner riots in South Africa, in which at least seven were killed and thousands more forced to flee, might also lead to a drop in remittance flows from Africa's most advanced economy, adding to the problems of nearby countries, the WFP said.

"The rains experienced in late March and early April provided some relief to livestock farmers but arrived too late for both staple food and cash crops," the April assessment by the WFP's Food and

Nutrition Security Working Group said.

"Of great concern is Zimbabwe, which is facing a looming huge food deficit due to imminent widespread crop failure," it added.

Countries in the region were likely to have to supplement their domestic production with increased imports, pushing up the cost of food, the WFP said

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

Brazil's Oi slashes costs

May 12 2015/By Brad Haynes /Reuters

Rio de Janeiro - A rigorous cost-cutting programme at debt-burdened Oi SA has hundreds of

measures - including leaving the Brazilian telecommunication's company's 17 000 staff sweltering in the dark if they work late in its offices.

Chief Executive Bayard Gontijo said in an interview on Monday that the company's strict new 7pm policy to switch off the air conditioning and turn off the lights is both a source of power savings and a big way of reinforcing a crackdown on the amount of overtime worked.

“The first time we turned off the lights, people wanted to stay. They were trying to work with lighters. Now they realise: the lights are turned off because you guys have to do your work in the regular shift and then you have to leave,” said Gontijo.

The Brazilian constitution mandates a pay bump of at least 50 percent for work beyond eight hours per day. A hiring freeze and the tighter overtime policy helped Oi reduce personnel costs 10 percent in the first quarter, even before the phone company cut full-time jobs by 6 percent in April.

Oi has been struggling with a massive debt load and mounting losses following a series of missteps. The slimmer administrative structure and improving operating margins have given Oi more time to consider big strategic moves in Brazil and Africa, Gontijo told Reuters during a visit to New York on an investor roadshow.

If a dark desk is not enough to remind employees to end their workday after eight hours, Gontijo said, the lack of air conditioning in the company's Rio de Janeiro headquarters gets the message across - particularly given the city's extreme heat and humidity for much of the year.

EN BREF, CE 12 Mai 2015... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 12/05/2015