



(Up to 700 refugees were on board a fishing boat that capsized 15 nautical miles off the Libyan coast on Wednesday. More than 200 are feared drowned.)

BURUNDI :

**Burundi: climat politique tendu et nouvelles violences à Bujumbura**

Par RFI /06-08-2015

Les tensions sont toujours vives au Burundi. Jeudi encore, quatre personnes ont trouvé la mort dans deux quartiers contestataires de la capitale, à Cibitoke et à Buterere. Les attaques de ces derniers jours contre des personnalités de premier plan font craindre un cycle d'attaques et représailles. Un climat vicié dans la rue comme dans les cercles politiques.

Deux réfugiés congolais ont été « fusillés » à Cibitoke mercredi soir. C'est ainsi qu'en parlent les habitants. « Ils ont été allongés par terre par la police et ils ont été fusillés », explique un témoin, ajoutant que c'était peut-être parce qu'ils avaient été vus lors des manifestations. « Ce sont des mensonges », rétorque un officier de police. « Dans ce quartier, ça fait quatre soirs qu'on est attaqué à la grenade, mercredi soir, on a même eu un blessé », précise-t-il.

Jeudi matin, le 6 août, ce sont des passants qui découvrent deux autres corps à Buterere, autre quartier de la contestation. Deux hommes ligotés, l'un avait un sac sur la tête. « Personne ne les a reconnus, ils ont du être tués ailleurs et jetés là pour nous effrayer », explique un témoin.

« Je ne sors plus de chez moi », déclare un opposant. « Depuis qu'on a participé à la réunion d'Addis

Abeba, on est sur une liste noire », faisant référence à la réunion d'Addis Abeba pour créer une plate-forme entre l'opposition de l'intérieur et de l'extérieur. Un autre opposant, Jean Minani, a eu la surprise de perdre sa garde rapprochée. « Il est un ancien président de l'Assemblée, il y a droit, mais ils vont sans doute chercher à l'éliminer », explique un proche.

Le porte-parole adjoint de la police avait annoncé quant à lui à la radio nationale que cinq responsables gouvernementaux ou associés avaient été tués depuis samedi. « Ils vont chercher à nous éliminer un à un », dit un officiel burundais, pointant du doigt l'opposition.

### **ASSASSINATS REPETES AU BURUNDI : Nkurunziza, seul responsable**

lepays.bf/07/08/2015

Sale temps pour un dictateur ! C'est bien ce qu'il convient de dire, au regard de la situation sociopolitique qui prévaut aujourd'hui au Burundi. Une situation que l'on pourrait qualifier d'explosive et qui rappelle, à bien des égards, la guerre civile de 1999 qui avait finalement permis l'arrivée du Pasteur Pierre Nkurunziza à la tête du pays. En effet, depuis le tour de force de Nkurunziza pour se maintenir au pouvoir, les assassinats politiques se succèdent : leaders politiques, membres de la société civile, journalistes ou même simples citoyens hostiles à Pierre Nkurunziza, sont froidement abattus. Cette escalade de la violence qui confirme du reste les craintes maintes fois exprimées par certains analystes de la scène politique burundaise est, il faut le dire, un mauvais signal pour la paix dans ce pays, mais aussi pour la stabilité de la sous-région. Les hommes politiques burundais ont-ils vraiment la mémoire courte au point d'oublier le drame que leur pays a traversé et qui ne s'en est sorti que grâce à l'accompagnement de la communauté internationale ? Sont-ils assez stupides pour vouloir remettre à feu et à sang ce beau pays, juste pour leurs seuls intérêts égoïstes ? Il faut bien espérer que non. Mais en attendant, l'assassinat, le mardi 4 août dernier, d'un représentant du parti au pouvoir, tend malheureusement à prouver plutôt le contraire, et surtout à laisser croire que le pouvoir n'a plus le monopole de la violence au Burundi. Cet assassinat, comme celui, il y a quelques jours, du Général Adolphe Nshimirimana, bras droit du président, vient en repréailles aux meurtres et autres violences perpétrées par les milices de Nkurunziza à l'encontre de militants ou leaders de l'Opposition politique. Ce regain de violence a enclenché une dynamique meurtrière dont personne ne peut prédire jusqu'où elle ira. Désormais, ceux qui sont au pouvoir savent qu'ils ne sont plus les seuls à pouvoir donner la mort ; si le bras politique de l'opposition est plus ou moins timide, à la limite malléable, (le ralliement de Agathon Rwasa en est une preuve), cela ne semble pas être le cas de son bras armé. En tout cas, jusque-là, il donne l'impression d'avoir les moyens de sa politique. Et c'est bien ce qui va durablement troubler le sommeil du dictateur Nkurunziza. C'est bien ce qui va lui pourrir ce mandat acquis au forceps.

Il doit savoir que porter un gilet pare-balles, pas plus que s'abriter derrière une vitre blindée, n'offre aucune garantie de sécurité quand on a dressé son peuple contre soi. Cette logique de la violence qu'il a lui-même enclenchée, risque fort de l'emporter. A moins qu'il ne se ravise. Et il n'est pas encore tard pour le faire.

Une guerre civile burundaise pourrait mettre en danger la fragile stabilité de la sous-région

Cela dit, il faut reconnaître que si le Burundi replongeait dans la guerre civile, Nkurunziza n'en serait pas l'unique responsable. Il y a aussi tous les chefs d'Etat des pays voisins qui n'auront rien fait pour ramener leur homologue à la raison. Ils seront tous comptables des massacres, de la famine, des viols et des déplacements de populations. Mais le pire dans tout cela, est qu'une guerre civile burundaise pourrait se déporter chez les voisins de ce pays, et mettre en danger la fragile stabilité de la sous-région.

La communauté internationale aura aussi sa part de responsabilité morale pour sa mollesse dans la recherche de sortie de crise au Burundi. Jusque-là, en effet, elle se contente de demander l'instauration d'un dialogue, alors qu'elle ne fait rien pour amener Nkurunziza à vaincre sa boulimie du pouvoir. International crisis group a tiré la sonnette d'alarme : la guerre civile n'est pas loin. A la communauté internationale de prendre ses responsabilités, pour éviter que l'histoire se répète.

Dieudonné MAKIENI

RWANDA :

### **Strong earthquake hits Rwanda**

CIHAN | RW\_KIGA/07.08.2015

A strong earthquake struck Rwanda and shook most of the capital Kigali Friday morning. The magnitude 5.6 earthquake hit Rwanda at 3:25 am local time (0125 GMT), the United States Geological Survey reported.

The epicenter of the earthquake was located 35 km north of Cyangugu city in western Rwanda, occurring at a shallow depth of 10 km.

This is the second strong earthquake ever felt in Rwanda within a period of seven years.

An earthquake damaged up to 45 schools and health centers in western Rwanda's districts of Nyamasheke and Rusizi in February 2008. 27,000 children were evacuated from schools, while 37 people died and 646 others were injured.

According to experts, earthquakes are common in the western Great Rift Valley due to the presence of a seismically active fault line which straddles western Uganda, eastern the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania. (Cihan/Xinhua)

### **PMB Receives Credence Letters From Belgium, Poland, Rwanda Ambassadors**

George Agba/leadership.ng/Aug 7, 2015

President Muhammadu Buhari, yesterday received letters of credence of three new ambassadors to Nigeria, Mr Andrezj Dycha of Poland, Mr Stanislas Kamanzi of Rwanda and Mr Stephane De Loeckeras of Belgium.

Buhari assured the new envoys that his administration would work with them to further improve existing bilateral relations between their respective countries and Nigeria.

He told them that the federal government would continuously engage with them and other diplomats serving in Nigeria on issues of common interest and benefit to Nigeria and their countries.

On their part, the new ambassadors thanked the president for receiving them and assured him that they would work hard to enhance and strengthen the cordial existing relationship between Nigeria and their countries.

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

### Uganda: Supreme Court Bans Refunds of Bride Price

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/AUG. 6, 2015

Uganda's top court on Thursday banned the practice of refunding bride price — normally livestock given by the groom to his bride's family — when a marriage ends in divorce. The Supreme Court agreed with activists that paying bride price undermines women's dignity but upheld the practice nonetheless. Still, Leah Nabunnya, a spokeswoman for the Mifumi Project, a Ugandan group behind the case, said the decision was a victory. She said studies by her group showed that many women were stuck in abusive marriages because divorce meant their families would be obligated to refund the bride price.

### Celebrating Pride in Uganda

August 6, 2015/hrc.org

Despite the dangers facing the LGBT community in Uganda, this year marks the fourth annual pride celebration in Kampala.

On Wednesday night, Pride Uganda kicked off the 2015 celebration with an opening cocktail reception. More than 160 people joined us in Kampala, bringing people together from across the community to show their support for LGBT Ugandans. We thank HRC for supporting this event as a partner and for inviting their corporate partners to the event.

The rest of the week will be full of events that celebrate the LGBT community. On Thursday, we will raise awareness of the transgender community in Uganda and host an open discussion about health in the LGBT community. On Friday, pride will honor two Ugandans with the titles of Mr. & Miss Pride. On Saturday, the last day of pride, we will have the third annual pride parade, showing all of Uganda that we are here, we are proud and we are in this together.

Though Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Act was overturned last year on procedural grounds, there continues to be indications that some Ugandan politicians are still looking to push through another similar piece of legislation. The now-defunct law punished "aggravated homosexuality" with life imprisonment. The law also put obstacles in the way of those who advocate for LGBT equality by prohibiting the so-called "promotion of homosexuality."

Following the court decision to overturn the law, Member of Parliament David Bahati, an outspoken proponent and sponsor of the bill, held a press conference and pledged to appeal the decision to Uganda's Supreme Court.

My organization, Sexual Minorities Uganda - SMUG, released a report last year indicating that the introduction of the Anti-Homosexuality Act led to a tenfold increase in violence against LGBT people. We recorded 162 incidents of violence, including an attempted lynching, mob violence, blackmail, lost jobs, arrests, evictions and suicides.

To oppose this uptick in violence and to make clear that we are part of society and the culture of Uganda, Pride Uganda's theme this year is "We are Family." We want to show our communities that

we value our families and our relationships and that we are not simply LGBT outcasts. LGBT people can be someone's brother, sister, friend, cousin, niece or uncle. Those relationships matter, and we urge our families to support us and welcome us.

Due to security concerns, our events this week will be held in secret locations. However, the fact that we are here and that we are gathering together as a community of LGBT people and allies sends a clear message: We are not afraid. We are proud. We are hopeful.

The support of HRC means so much to our community. It sends the message that we are a part of a larger, global movement and that through hard work, we can change Uganda.

SOUTH AFRICA :

### South Africa: Zuma Question Time On Brink of Chaos Again

By Thomas Hartleb, News24/6 August 2015

President Jacob Zuma's question time again threatened to descend into disorder when the EFF took exception to his addressing the party's members of Parliament (MPs) directly on Thursday.

"The president directly spoke to us," EFF MP Floyd Shivambu protested to National Assembly Speaker Baleka Mbete.

"The president must respect the rules of this House. Call him to order. Don't be afraid or we are going to get those securities to remove him here. He must speak to us through you. Please call the president to order," he demanded.

Zuma was replying to a question from EFF MP Hlengiwe Makhosini when he interrupted himself to object to the talking from the EFF benches.

"Madam Speaker, I am talking to the members who are talking," he said.

Shivambu said in terms of Parliament's rules MPs were allowed to speak to one another.

During the bickering that followed, ACDP MP Cheryllyn Dudley stood up and tried to raise a point of order.

"If she doesn't have a point of order she must shut up and sit down," EFF MP Godrich Gardee said.

Dudley said she wanted to mention the public gallery was participating in the discussions.

"The guests in the gallery are welcome, but they are not expected to participate by clapping, that is a political activity reserved for the floor here," Mbete said.

EFF leader Julius Malema then tried to raise a point of order.

"What now Honourable Malema?" a clearly exasperated Mbete asked.

He repeated Shivambu's point Zuma had to address them through Mbete.

Mbete ordered him to take his seat, which he did.

Source: News24

### **CDB to Distribute Neera, Virgin Oil in South Africa**

[newindianexpress.com/By Express News Service/07th August 2015](http://newindianexpress.com/By%20Express%20News%20Service/07th%20August%202015)

KOCHI: The Coconut Development Board (CDB) has made arrangements for distributing Neera, virgin coconut oil and other value-added products in South Africa.

The shipment of the consignments has been already dispatched as per the directions of Ruchi Ghanashyam, High Commissioner, South Africa. She has expressed interest in coconut oil, neera honey and neera sugar and have made arrangements to distribute the products in South Africa on August 15, 2015 - "Independence Day celebrations" as well as in the "India Golf Day". The Board has sent coconut oil, neera honey, sugar, other value added products such as spicy jaggery, jaggery, virgin coconut oil, and coconut chips along with promotional literatures and brochures regarding the products for distribution in the events. CDB has sent 500 packets each of Neera value-added products and VCO.

The consignments include VCO produced by Keratech, chips from Kodungallur Coconut

Producer's Company Ltd and the rest of the products from CDB Institute of Technology at Vazhakkulam in Aluva.

Kochi-based Cosima Travel agency is authorised to hand over the consignment. This cooperation is expected to bring value-added coconut products from India to the forefront of global market and would ultimately benefit the coconut farmers of India.

This exchange is also expected to develop a fruitful collaboration between the Coconut Producers and their FPOs in India with potential consumers in South Africa.

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

### **Kenyans on Twitter raise over Sh6 million in TWO DAYS for cancer-stricken university student**

[By Njambi Mungai/sde.co.ke/Thursday, August 6th 2015](http://By%20Njambi%20Mungai/sde.co.ke/Thursday%2C%20August%206th%202015)

Two days ago #1MilliForJadudi was a trending topic on Twitter.

The aim was to raise one million towards 22-year-old Jadudi's fourth brain operation in India. Born Emmanuel Otieno, he was diagnosed with brain cancer at the age of 22. By the time his story was highlighted, he had already undergone 3 surgeries.

But the tumor had started to grow again, calling for the much needed surgery. Zawadi Nyong'o, a social entrepreneur and lifestyle blogger Jackson Biko who runs the Biko Zulu blog highlighted the plight of Jadido on social media. Their call to action; 1 million for Jadudi by Saturday. Just two

days later, over Sh6.1 million has been raised. In addition, Kenya Airways has provided tickets for Jadido's flight to India. "Here is the final figure: As of 9am this morning you guys had raised a little over 6million, actually 6,111,638 Kenyan money. I will repeat, 6,111,338!! It's surreal. I saw the statements, running into over 180 pages. Kenyans in their thousands sending 130 bobs and 1,000 bobs and 500 bobs and 200 bobs. Kenyans making a bold statement putting their Mpesa where their hearts were at, " Jackson Biko posted on his blog. #1MilliForJadudi 6 million tear drops! Bless." Zawadi Nyong'o tweeted. Jadudi on the other hand was overwhelmed by the support and donations sent his way.

#KOT am beyond grateful I'm overwhelmed with joy. From #1milliforjadudi to #renewedhopeforJadudi This tidal support and donations from the Kenyans on Twitter has not only set a trend in Africa but also, as some users have said, restored faith in humanity.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

### Interesting times beckon for Africa

By James Shikwati/standardmedia.co.ke/Friday, August 7th 2015

President Barack Obama's visit to Africa has set in motion forces that will pressure Africans to invest in geopolitical navigation skills. With lots of partnership deals from the West, Latin America and Asia, a dizzying season has descended upon Africa. Africa is keen to cash in on the on the United States of America's offer on markets, opportunities for its youth buldge and capability building. The continent requires \$93 billion per year to meet its infrastructure needs – an area China has excelled in so far.

Offers from US, China and other markets are not for free, they are driven by respective countries' national interests. Will Africans' geopolitical navigation tools fail the way they did prior to colonialism? In the recent past, Africa has leveraged on its relationship with emerging economies to exert its viewpoints in international processes. The most dramatic one was how the African Union marshalled its forces to counter the activities of the International Criminal Court. In 2003, African countries led to the collapse of the World Trade Organisation talks in Cancun, Mexico when they walked out in protest against the refusal by Western countries to open their markets to the poor. With two turbocharged powers - US and China - on the shores of the continent, Africans have the challenge to manage and ensure peaceful engagement. While hosting President Obama, President Uhuru Kenyatta said: "We cannot afford the luxury of the old language of East versus West. Kenya is aligned to neither. We are firmly and irreversibly aligned to progress." It should be recalled that the first President of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah at independence had said: "We face neither East nor West; we face forward." Such sentiments did not stop the ugly events that weighed down the continent shortly after.

The first African-American President did an excellent job to bolster the historical bridge that connects Africa and America. The bridge has both sad tales and tales of great benefits to Africa. On a sad note, the slavery episodes led African-Americans into forced labour to power the American economy.

Similarly, the cold-war era tactics halted the continent's transformation. On a happy note, the bridge has its happy ending tales as well. The son of a Kenyan ascended to become the President of the most powerful nation on earth and the first American President to address the African Union. The

bridge also has positive tales of development initiatives on the continent that have energised how Africans organise their societies. Obama's dream of an effective partnership with Africa will require heavy investment to build a constituency in the US that can vouch for Africa's interests. It will require a strong bond between Americans who derive direct benefits for Africa's being and Africans. This has to be cultivated. It came a little late in Obama's presidency but his charisma and goodwill can get the momentum going. Without such a constituency, US's efforts will waver.

America has unleashed its goodies running into millions of dollars: \$40 to counter extremism in East Africa; \$465 million in training, equipment and capacity building; \$450 million in loans to Small and Medium Sized enterprises; \$100 million to women initiative and USAid \$25 million loans to social enterprise and over half a billion dollars in USA private sector pledges to Africa. Africans expect China through the Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) which meets later this year to unbundle Chinese goodies as well. The best navigational tool Africa can push for at the moment is to reform international systems to secure the continent's interests. Africans should push for a reformed United Nations system that can effectively protect weak countries from powerful partners; a reformed international financial system that can scale down illicit outflows of money from the continent and a reformed global system that can anchor a multi-polar world to enable Africans evolve development models that work for them. In Obama's words, "Africa is on the move."

### Egypt unveils 'gift to the world', Suez Canal 2.0

Nergish Sunavala, TNN/timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Aug 7, 2015

ISMAILIA, Egypt: On Thursday, as children in sailor uniforms waved the Egyptian flag, and fighter jets turned somersaults in the sky spewing the national colours — a cargo ship floated down the newly-inaugurated second passageway of the Suez Canal for the first time.

The chest-thumping ceremony, attended by foreign dignitaries like French President Francois Hollande and Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, was Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's opportunity to burnish his government's image, which has been plagued by accusations of human rights abuses since it overthrew President Mohammed Morsi in a military coup in July 2013. "We promised the world this gift and we are fulfilling it in record time," said the president in his speech at the inauguration.

"People of Egypt I salute your patriotism," he added referring to the \$8.5-billion engineering feat, which was completed in record time by 43,000 labourers working round the clock and funded by the Egyptian people. At the ceremony, the president publicly signed an order allowing ships to pass through the canal. The expansion of the 120-mile canal will allow for two-way traffic and is expected to reduce waiting time for ships by eight hours. According to a Suez Canal press release, the new canal "will gather revenues of \$12.3 billion annually by 2023, more than doubling the canal's current revenue intake".

It is also estimated that daily transit volume will increase from 49 to 97 in the next eight years. To raise money for the project, the government issued state bonds with a 12% return that were sold out in a record six days raising the full amount needed for the project.

Road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari represented India at the ceremony on behalf of PM Narendra Modi. Gadkari congratulated President al-Sisi on the completion of the New Suez Canal and extended an invitation to him for the third India-Africa Forum Summit. Gadkari described the canal as a great achievement, which would promote economic development of Egypt and the region.



For a country that has seen two revolutions in the last four years, the canal is a reason to celebrate. A decorated inauguration venue lent a festive air to the endless security check posts. To build up the excitement, Thursday was declared a national holiday, a public lottery was held to pick ordinary Egyptians who could attend the extravaganza and TV channels ran countdown clocks to the opening.

But amid the hoopla, there was also the looming shadow of terrorist attacks, which have become more frequent in recent months. About 10,000 police personnel were deployed to secure the premises, said state-owned news agency MENA. Even President al-Sisi mentioned terrorism in his speech.

"This project was carried out in extreme circumstances," he said. "Terrorists were trying to impede its march and progress."

(This writer was in Egypt at the invitation of the Suez Canal Authority and the Egyptian government to cover the inauguration)

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

**Hundreds dead as refugee boat sinks in Mediterranean**

By Martin Kreickenbaum/wsws.org/7 August 2015

Up to 700 refugees were on board a fishing boat that capsized 15 nautical miles off the Libyan coast on Wednesday. More than 200 are feared drowned. According to the Italian coast guard, around 400 people were rescued, while 26 bodies were recovered from the sea so far. One hundred refugees were below deck at the time and likely went down with the ship.

The small, overloaded fishing boat was caught in heavy seas and sent out a Mayday call. When the Irish coastguard ship LE subsequently approached the boat, several refugees apparently rushed to

one side of the boat, causing it to capsize.

“It was a horrific sight,” said Juan Matias, coordinator of Doctors without Borders who was on the ship Dignity I, which also came to the assistance of the refugees. “People desperately clutching life belts, boats and anything, fighting for their lives among the drowning and those who were already dead.”

Dignity I received the call from the coastguard just as it was saving 100 refugees from another fishing boat that was in difficulty. “The fact that we were first called to assist this boat and then shortly afterwards sent to another one highlights the severe lack of resources available for rescue operations,” said Matias.

Wednesday’s tragedy was the first such mass drowning since 1,200 refugees lost their lives in a series of boat sinkings in April, prompting the EU to step up patrols on the Mediterranean and threaten air strikes against refugee boats before they left the Libyan coast.

Some 224,000 refugees have crossed the Mediterranean to Europe this year, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees announced Thursday. Italy has registered 97,000 boat refugees and Greece 91,000. One in three refugees traveling by boat comes from Syria, with other main countries of origin including Afghanistan, Eritrea, Somalia and Nigeria.

The death toll among those people desperately trying to reach Europe is shocking. On Tuesday, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) stated in Geneva that more than 2,000 refugees have lost their lives trying to reach Europe since the beginning of the year.

According to IOM, these figures confirm that “the route across the Mediterranean is the most deadly for migrants,” a development which has intensified over the last six months. In 2014, the attempt to seek protection in Europe from persecution and poverty cost 3,279 refugees their lives.

“It is unacceptable that in the 21st century people fleeing from conflict, persecution, misery and land degradation must endure such terrible experiences in their home countries, not to mention en route, and then die on Europe’s doorstep,” said IOM Director General William Lacy Swing.

Terrible incidents take place almost daily on the main route across the Mediterranean from Libya to Italy. On July 29, 14 refugees arrived dead in the Sicilian port of Messina, on a ship with 456 survivors. On August 1, a rescue ship from Doctors without Borders discovered five bodies on board a boat transporting 120 refugees.

The loss of life in the Mediterranean is not merely a tragic event, but a crime. The imperialist powers in Europe and the United States bear responsibility for the mass deaths of refugees at sea.

The number of refugees has dramatically increased over the past three years, according to calculations by the UN agency for refugees. Almost 60 million people were on the move in 2014, 40 percent more than in 2011.

The Syrian civil war, which was triggered by the United States and its Arab allies in 2011, and is still raging, has driven more than 3.5 million people over the border. An additional 7.5 million people within Syria have fled their homes.

The NATO-led war against the Gaddafi regime in Libya, which began almost simultaneously, turned more than 1 million people into refugees. A further 500,000 refugees from Syria, Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia are marooned on the Libyan coast, which is now under the control of rival

militias, desperately hoping for a place on a boat to Europe.

Hundreds of thousands were forced from their homes as a result of the imperialist wars and subsequent famine crises in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia). The US-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have had disastrous consequences for the populations of both countries. In Yemen, the US-aligned Saudi Arabian regime's bombing raids on the country, using US supplied weapons, together with Washington's drone war, have forced countless people to flee.

In addition, there are numerous Palestinian refugees who lost their livelihoods in the Israeli war in the Gaza Strip and are effectively imprisoned by the closure of the border by the Israeli government, on one side, and the Egyptian military dictatorship on the other.

In western and central Africa, it is above all the neo-colonial policies of the European powers that have forced thousands to flee from Mali, Mauritania, Central African Republic, Niger and Chad in the face of wars and the plundering of these countries by European companies.

The European Union has responded to this humanitarian catastrophe by pulling up the drawbridge and expanding fortress Europe. The deaths of refugees on the EU's external borders are meant to serve as a deterrent.

In Greece, Bulgaria, Hungary, and in the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, barriers several metres tall with razor-sharp spikes have been constructed to guard against refugees. In November 2013, the EU began the Eurosur programme for the surveillance of the Mediterranean with drones, satellites and reconnaissance aircraft.

Under pressure from the German government, the military mission conducted by the Italian government, which used warships to search for refugees throughout the Mediterranean, sending them back to Libya, was incorporated into Operation Triton, run by the EU border agency Frontex. The EU states cynically declared that the Italian mission, known as Mare Nostrum, had encouraged too many refugees to travel to Europe.

In response to the two tragedies in April this year, the EU sent additional warships to the Mediterranean. However, these ships were not primarily to focus on rescuing refugees from the sea, but to wage war against "smugglers" as part of the Eunavfor Med mission and destroy refugee boats. In addition, measures were agreed to accelerate the process of deporting refugees back to Africa and the crisis regions of the Middle East.

At the same time, the fight against the "root causes" of migration, proclaimed by the EU, has been revealed as an effort to arm dictatorial regimes in Africa so that they could more effectively prevent their populations from fleeing. The German television programme Monitor reported that Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan and Egypt have been integrated more closely into the EU border management system through the training of their soldiers.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 07 Août 2015... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 07/08/2015