



(Le Mali s'efforce d'identifier les auteurs de la prise d'otages de vendredi à l'hôtel Byblos de Savaré qui a fait treize morts, dont cinq collaborateurs de l'ONU.)

BURUNDI :

Burundi: Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa est parti se faire soigner en Belgique

Par RFI /10-08-2015

Pierre Claver Mbonimpa a quitté le Burundi. Son avion a décollé de Bujumbura dimanche à 19h30. Il est arrivé à Bruxelles dans la nuit. Figure de la société civile burundaise, Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa a été la cible d'une tentative d'assassinat la semaine dernière. Touché par deux balles au visage et au cou, il a été gravement blessé.

Figure de la société civile burundaise et président de l'Association pour la protection des prisonniers et des droits humains (Aprodh), Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa a été victime d'une attaque le 3 août dernier. Alors qu'il arrivait dans le quartier de Kinama, un motard s'est approché de sa voiture et a tiré plusieurs balles. Sous le coup d'une interdiction de voyager depuis son arrestation l'an dernier pour atteinte à la sûreté de l'Etat, les autorités burundaises l'ont finalement autorisé à partir se faire soigner à l'étranger ce dimanche.

Autour de lui, au Burundi, tout le monde craignait pour sa sécurité. Pour Jérémie Minani, le porte-parole du Mouvement Arusha, plateforme qui regroupe opposition et société civile contre le troisième mandat de Pierre Nkurunziza, ce départ est donc un soulagement. « Depuis sa tentative d'assassinat, nous avons crié que sa sécurité était menacée, qu'il y avait un risque qu'il soit achevé sur son lit d'hôpital par ceux-là mêmes qui avaient voulu l'assassiner, rappelle-t-il. Nous voulons aussi que les circonstances de cette tentative d'assassinat soient élucidées. Nous voulons connaître la vérité. Mais en tout cas, une chose est sûre, son transfert vers la Belgique est une bonne chose et en tout cas un soulagement non seulement pour le mouvement de la contestation de la candidature du président, mais aussi pour tout le peuple burundais pour lequel il s'est battu. (...) Compte tenu de la pression, le gouvernement n'avait d'autre choix que de laisser Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa. (...) Nous restons persuader que le gouvernement était mouillé de près ou de loin dans cette tentative d'assassinat. »

L'enquête au point mort

Gervais Abayeho, le porte-parole de la présidence burundaise, indique que l'enquête sur cette attaque ne connaît pas d'avancée. « Des enquêtes ont été entamées pour savoir qui était derrière la

tentative d'assassinat de Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa, explique-t-il. Il faut que les enquêtes se poursuivent et qu'on nous dise (...) qui sont les commanditaires ou les auteurs de cette tentative d'assassinat. »

Quant au départ du militant de la société civile vers la Belgique, « c'est une très bonne chose, précise Gervais Abayeho, comme ça il pourra bénéficier des soins qui pourront lui permettre de retrouver ses moyens physiques le plus rapidement possible. Nous on ne fait que se réjouir de cette démarche. »

Soulagement

La fille du défenseur des droits de l'homme, Amandine Mbonimpa, a assisté à son départ à l'aéroport. Elle est rassurée de voir son père partir se faire soigner à Bruxelles.

Son état de santé était stable, il est parti en chaise roulante, il n'arrivait pas à se lever, il avait une faiblesse mais ça va aller là où il va.

Amandine Mbonimpa (Propos recueillis par Alexis Guilleux)

Burundi: l'enquête sur l'assassinat du général Nshimirimana progresse

Par RFI /10-08-2015

Au Burundi, l'enquête sur la mort du général Adolphe Nshimirimana avance. Le chef des services de renseignements, souvent présenté comme le bras droit du président Nkurunziza, a été assassiné dimanche dernier. Le président Nkurunziza avait donné une semaine pour retrouver les auteurs de l'attaque.

Sept jours après l'assassinat d'Adolphe Nshimirimana, dimanche 2 août, le parquet a indiqué connaître l'identité des auteurs de l'attaque contre le général. Le communiqué publié dimanche sur les réseaux sociaux précise qu'une partie du commando a été appréhendée. Le nombre exact d'assaillants n'a pas été rendu public. Le parquet souligne que d'autres responsables de l'assassinat sont toujours en liberté et lance un appel à la population pour l'aider à retrouver l'ensemble des assassins. Dimanche dernier, le président Nkurunziza avait donné une semaine pour retrouver les responsables.

D'après le communiqué, la voiture utilisée par les auteurs de l'attaque a été retrouvée calcinée dans le quartier de Musaga, à quelques kilomètres au sud du centre de Bujumbura. Selon le parquet, c'est à bord de cette voiture que les assaillants ont quitté le camp militaire de Ngagara avant de passer à l'attaque. Cela rejoint l'analyse des observateurs qui soulignent que l'assaut n'a pu être mené que par des hommes bien entraînés.

Les tenues portées par le commando ont été retrouvées dans un ravin, toujours dans le quartier de Musaga, indique le communiqué. En revanche, on ne sait pas s'il s'agit de tenues militaires. Le jour de l'attaque, des témoins cités dans la presse burundaise ont affirmé que l'assaut avait été mené par des hommes qui portaient des tenues de militaires.

L'enquête « avance normalement », dit le communiqué, mais le parquet y lance tout de même un appel à la population pour l'aider à retrouver l'ensemble des responsables de l'assassinat. Mais pour Gervais Abayeho, le porte-parole de la présidence burundaise, l'enquête ne sera terminée que quand tous les assaillants auront été arrêtés.

Il reste encore un certain nombre d'exécutants ainsi que les planificateurs du crime qui sont toujours

recherchés.

Gervais Abayeho (Propos recueillis par Alexis Guilleux) Porte-parole de la présidence burundaise

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

Uganda's LGBT Community Holds a Cautious Pride March

Joanna Plucinska/time.com/10/08/2015

Attitudes toward homosexuality in the country are draconian

A year after a law punishing homosexual acts with life in prison was annulled after strong international pressure, hundreds of Ugandans gathered for a gay-rights march along the shores of Lake Victoria on Saturday.

About 400 people, some trying to mask their identities by covering their faces, turned up for the march in Entebbe, southwest of the Ugandan capital Kampala, the Wall Street Journal reports.

Homosexuality remains illegal in Uganda. Social attitudes toward the LGBT community have also grown increasingly negative in recent years. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has even encouraged individuals to report any "suspicious" homosexual activity, the Guardian reports.

The Journal reports that some things have gotten easier for the LGBT community — they no longer have to deal with frequent police raids, while eviction rates of gay tenants have also slowed. But conservative lawmakers have vowed to reinstate the law mandating life in prison.

"We're happy the government realized there are more pressing issues than people's sexual orientation," Kasha Jacqueline, who took part in the march, told the Journal. "But the struggle continues."

Why President Uhuru's Son Totally Annoyed Ugandans With His Action In State House Entebbe (Photos)

Monday, 10 August 2015/ghafla.co.ke

The head of state alongside his wife and son left the country for Uganda for a three day official visit. But Uhuru's son is causing ripples in the Banana Republic.

Ugandans are busy talking about President Uhuru's son, Mohoho, following what happened in State House, Entebbe.

Uganda's hardcore President, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, hosted a State Banquet in honor of his Kenyan counterpart at his official residence in Entebbe.

But the meeting between Unye and Sebo isn't the talk of the nation in the landlocked country, no! It's Muhoho that's making headlines in the Banana Republic.

Uganda's are annoyed by Uhuru's kin for 'getting too comfortable' with their all powerful head of state and government.

Perplexed? A simple handshake between Muhoho and Museveni is what landed the Kenyan youngster in problem.

Sebos and Nyebo say Muhuhu was too casual with their de facto President, they claim Unye's son ought to have taken a bow, knelt down or used both hands while greeting Museveni, which according to them is what young folks do when they greet an elderly person or those in authority.

Seriously someone need to tell Ugandans we are in 21st Century! They simply couldn't find any other topic to talk about?

Sudanese president declines Uganda trip despite non-arrest assurances

Monday 10 August 2015/sudantribune.com

August 9, 2015 (KHARTOUM) – The Sudanese president Omer Hassan al-Bashir will not join a regional conference that will be held Monday in the Ugandan city of Entebbe.

The Sudanese ambassador in Kampala shot down assertions made earlier today by Ugandan officials claiming that Bashir will attend the conference despite the International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants issued against him for his alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"He [Bashir] has been invited for heads of state meeting on regional issues at State House, Entebbe. We expect him to join them on Monday to discuss the crisis in South Sudan and how to end it," James Mugume the permanent secretary at the ministry of foreign affairs told reporters.

The Ugandan official said Bashir's visit to his country will not cause "diplomatic incident" because of "AU [African Union] has a different position [not cooperating] on ICC. We respect and abide by it. We have no obligation to arrest him," said Mugume.

He said that Bashir will join Ugandan president, Yoweri Museveni, Kenya's president, Uhuru Kenyatta and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn to discuss the political crisis in the neighboring South Sudan.

In the past Uganda has warned Bashir to stay away or risk arrest despite AU resolutions asking member states to ignore ICC warrants even if they are members of the court.

His June visit to South Africa for an AU summit stirred up a domestic controversy after the government there refused to arrest him and ignored a High Court order barring his departure. He managed to escape hours before the court ordered his apprehension.

Bashir's non-participation in the Kampala summit likely owes to his cool relation with Museveni as the two countries traded accusations in the past over backing insurgents.

The Sudanese leader could also face the risk of drama associated with local NGO's seeking a court order to compel his apprehension as was the case in Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria.

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

Govt. to invest \$380 mln over eight years in cash-starved farm sector

09.08.2015/By Reuters

Tanzania will invest 800 billion shillings (\$380 million) over the next eight years in a new state-run agriculture bank to boost growth in the sector, which has long been stifled by low productivity and a lack of financing.

President Jakaya Kikwete launched the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) on Friday after the government provided 60 billion shillings in seed capital for its establishment.

"Around 75 percent of Tanzanians depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and the sector contributes to 25 percent of our gross domestic product (GDP) and accounts for 34 percent of the country's export earnings," Kikwete said in a statement.

The bank will help to modernise the country's agriculture sector and boost productivity by providing short, medium and long-term financing, the government said.

It will target the production of maize, rice, sugarcane, oilseeds, meat, dairy and poultry, as well as horticulture, fish farming and beekeeping, the government said.

KENYA :

Bad News Dims Kenya's Star Power

By Matina Stevis/wsj.com/Aug. 9, 2015

Glow of Obama visit fades amid concerns about falling currency, economy and security

Kenya has been hit by a glut of woeful news that is spotlighting the economy's fragility, after a week of touting its credentials as a regional powerhouse during President Barack Obama's visit.

Currency tumult and security concerns in what is considered one of Africa's most dynamic countries shows how the continent continues to struggle against swift and unpredictable changes in economic thrust and investor sentiment.

Kenya's currency, the shilling, has shed nearly 11% of its value against the dollar this year. The

central bank on Wednesday maintained its tight monetary policy, holding rates at 11.5%.

The bank said rate increases of a total of three percentage points in June and July had yet to fully feed into the pricing of the currency.

The tumbling shilling and surging inflation are spelling trouble for Kenyan households. Some staples cost 20% more now than at the beginning of the year, according to the national statistics bureau.

“I’m spending more than I used to a few months ago for less,” said Joyce Kinoti, a mother shopping for baby food at the discount Uchumi supermarket in Nairobi’s Westlands, a bustling commercial area.

To be sure, currencies have fallen further in African petro-economies hit by sliding oil prices like Nigeria and Angola. But Kenya is a net energy importer, meaning it can’t blame its woes on lower global oil prices. A shaky domestic economy is the culprit.

“Domestically, the shilling has been upsetting a lot of people. The shilling has been weakening for almost a year,” said John Ashbourne of Capital Economics. “I don’t think there’s a real reason to expect that it will reverse from that trend.”

The World Bank recently upgraded its outlook for Kenya’s economy, predicting it would grow 6% this year. Yet, the first-quarter growth rate of 4.9% disappointed observers and raised concerns that the optimism wasn’t accounting for persistent troubles.

A long-term drop in tourism is partly driving the shilling’s slide. Islamist attacks near tourism hot spots along the pristine Indian Ocean coast have kept vacationers away, meaning less of the dollars, euros and pounds they might have spent are making their way to Kenya.

Buffeted by a collapse in tourism revenue, Kenya Airways this week reported a record annual pretax loss of nearly \$300 million. Finance Minister Henry Rotich said the airline, which is part-owned by Air France-KLM, may require a state bailout of as much as \$500 million.

Meanwhile, the enthusiasm felt on the streets of Nairobi during Mr. Obama’s historic visit contrasts with the gloom in most corners of the real economy.

Business sentiment has been sliding since the beginning of the year, according to Razia Khan, Standard Chartered’s chief Africa economist. “Economic activity appears to be losing momentum,” Ms. Khan said in a note.

And just as the International Monetary Fund has held up Kenya as one of Africa’s economic success stories, the country’s auditor general, Edward Ouko, said in his annual report published last week that about a quarter of government spending last year was unaccounted for.

More than half wasn’t spent transparently, he said. Of total spending in the latest fiscal year, just 1.2% got a clean bill of health in the auditor general’s report.

“The report reveals the mess that is our public finances and the profligacy that has accompanied higher tax receipts,” said John Githongo, executive director of the Kenya Ni SiSi! nongovernmental organization and a prominent anticorruption activist.

Mr. Githongo, who became one of Africa’s most famous whistle-blowers a decade ago when he

uncovered a previous public-spending scandal in Kenya, said the fact the auditor general released such a report shows progress. But the findings are disturbing, he said, and reveal that in this seemingly rising corner of the continent, corruption remains a major threat to economic potential.

“Corruption and mismanagement of public finances do pose a risk to overall attractiveness of Kenya as an investment destination,” Mr. Githongo said.

Religious beliefs frustrate better health in Kenya

Xinhua/August 10, 2015

KISUMU: Since she gave birth three months ago, Queenter Auma, a resident of Kisumu County in Western Kenya has never taken her son to hospital for vaccination as required by the health ministry.

Auma believes on the doctrines of her church known as Yesu Kende (Jesus Only), which bar her from taking her children to hospital if they get sick.

“I cannot go against what my religious leaders are opposed to,” Auma courageously told Xinhua on Saturday after blocking health officials from administering a polio vaccine on her baby on Wednesday.

Jermine K’Onyango, a children’s officer in the region, said majority of the parents who are members of “Yesu Kende” hid their children to avoid the vaccine. “We have four notorious families from Nyakach, Awasi and Nyando (Western Kenya) who when we conducted the campaign, they disappeared. This has become the norm in every campaign,” K’ Onyango said.

But Auma is not the only one who has been blocking the health officials from vaccinating their children.

Joakim Oloo, a parent who lost his child two days ago, said his church does not allow children to be immunized because the polio jabs “are laced with germs”.

On Friday, the government said it vaccinated 6.03 million children below five years of age against polio despite resistance from the religious leaders.

Last week, three children aged below five years died in Homa Bay County after their parents blocked the ministry of health officials from administering the anti-polio jab citing religious beliefs.

Health Cabinet Secretary James Macharia earlier said that polio is a global campaign and Kenya is not in isolation as it is one among the countries being affected by disease that has come from West Africa, horn of Africa through the refugee camps.

“Kenya has different religions which if allowed to take part in decision-making process the health sector, total confusion will be the order of the day,” Macharia regretted.

Ministry of Public Health medical officer based in Kisumu, Dr Rosemary Obara, acknowledged that religious beliefs are a major hindrance to better health.

WHO Representative to Kenya Custodia Mandlhate said the government needs to engage the religious leaders on vaccine administration.

“Our resolve to eradicate polio should not be slowed or be stopped by anybody. There is serious need to take the campaign to the communities and let the people choose whether they want it controlled or stopped,” she said.

Polio aside, many HIV patients in Kenya it is noted are no longer taking their anti-retroviral drugs because of religious and cultural issues.

Amos Owino, a HIV patient in Homa Bay, recently said he no longer takes his life sustaining drugs because the church he recently joined encourages people to believe in God and they will be healed.

“I have never taken my ARVs. I have never been bedridden because I believe that God is the healer,” Owino said.

Zahra Hassan, a programme coordinator at the Women Fighting HIV in Kenya (WFHIK), said that religion is the major reason why HIV patients shun anti-retroviral drugs.

“The patients are misled by their religious leaders that they will be healed if they believed in God and stopped taking the drugs. They watch television and all they see is that HIV patients are miraculously healed and they stop taking the drugs,” Hassan said.

She said there was need by the government to advocate for change of mindset and encourage people to take their drugs.

She cited an incident where relatives of a very sick HIV patient removed the patient from the hospital bed and took him to a crusade where healing and miracles programme were being performed.

The patient died after two days. It was too late to resuscitate him because he had stopped taking his medication.

Could powerful cartels be preparing to milk Kenya dry?

Date: August 10, 2015/mediamaxnetwork.co.ke

The rapidness with which scandalous insolvency of Kenya's previously blue chip corporations is being reported should worry all of us. From the Kenya Meat Commission to Kenya Airways, Mumias Sugar Company, Uchumi supermarkets and Kenya Ports Authority, the list is not only endless but mind boggling.

Also, other key departments such as National Youth Service, National Police Service, the Railways Corporation, Kemri, National Social Security Fund, National Social Security Fund and some county governments are in crises because of corruption.

The shilling is in a free fall against the dollar, inflation is on the rise, the number of citizens below the poverty line is on the increase. Yet the government claims the economy is growing steadily! One is tempted to ask, are these scandals accidental?

The latest casualty of the crisis is Kenya Airways. For long it thrived. Then, it was very lucrative and easily attracted respected foreign suitors seeking partnerships. When a percentage of its shares were floated to the public through the Nairobi Securities' Exchange, they sold out.

Abruptly, we are told the airline has been loss-making trend for the past three years and now risks

imminent collapse. Experts quickly advised that the government needs to pump in at least Sh60 billion to rescue it.

Shockingly, senior government officials are supporting the bailout instead of commissioning a forensic audit to establish the cause of the heavy losses and nail culprits. This resembles the case of Mumias, which gobbled up Sh1 billion tax payers money to stem a Sh6 billion cash crunch.

In both cases, nobody is going after the suspected looters nor planning to curb a repeat in the future. This is happening at a time when the government is seen to direct all its legislative and administrative guns at weakening constitutional departments meant to fight corruption.

Smell a rat! The vicious political attacks on the Auditor General Edward Ouko, following his latest damning annual report that has unearthed massive mismanagement and embezzlement of public funds by National government departments cannot happen in a democracy with a working constitution.

Strangely, this follows the suspicious 'sacking' of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commissioners (read Matemu Mumo and team), leaving the anti-graft agency headless.

Add this to the ongoing legislative efforts to reduce the budgets of EACC and the Auditor General's office plus concerted efforts to dilute their independence by having their senior officials hired through the Public Service Commission, under the Office of the President, and you suspect a conspiracy to scrap the already weakened anti-corruption infrastructure.

The destructive effects corruption has caused Kenya are manifested in rising poverty levels, runaway crime rate, worrying misbehaviour by frustrated children who have rebelled and openly exhibit their rebellion through sexual immorality, drug abuse, resorting to illicit brews and burning schools. The writer is MP for Kitutu-Masaba

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Le Mali sur la piste des preneurs d'otages
tdg.ch/09.08.2015

TerrorismeLe Mali s'efforce d'identifier les auteurs de la prise d'otages de vendredi à l'hôtel Byblos de Savaré qui a fait treize morts, dont cinq collaborateurs de l'ONU.

Dix civils ont été tués au cours d'une attaque menée par un commando armé dans le village de Gaberi, dans le nord du pays. Selon un porte-parole de l'armée, Souleymane Maïga, il est encore trop tôt pour dire s'il existe un lien entre cette attaque et l'assaut contre l'hôtel Byblos.

La prise d'otages de Sévaré est la dernière attaque en date de ce qui ressemble à une campagne organisée contre l'armée malienne et la mission de l'ONU dans le pays (Minusma) par des rebelles liés à Al Qaïda et des groupes islamistes plus récents.

L'assaut de l'établissement, qui accueille régulièrement des expatriés, s'est soldé dans la nuit de vendredi à samedi par la mort de «quatre soldats des Fama», les forces armées maliennes, «cinq contractuels de la Mission de l'ONU au Mali et quatre terroristes», a indiqué dimanche le gouvernement dans un bilan qu'il dit «définitif». Par ailleurs, huit soldats ont été blessés.

Front de libération du Macina

A ce jour, l'attaque n'a pas été revendiquée. Mais «de forts soupçons pèsent» sur le Front de libération du Macina (FLM), «un groupe terroriste qui tient à faire parler de lui par tous les moyens», a affirmé une source militaire malienne jointe à Sévaré depuis Bamako.

Le Macina est une appellation traditionnelle d'une partie du centre du Mali. Apparue début 2015, le FLM, qui recrute essentiellement dans la communauté peule et a revendiqué des attaques dans cette région, est un mouvement allié à Ansar Dine, un des groupes djihadistes liés à Al-Qaïda ayant contrôlé le nord du pays près de dix mois entre 2012 et début 2013.

L'agence privée mauritanienne Al-Akhbar, qui publie régulièrement des communiqués de djihadistes, a aussi affirmé dimanche que le FLM «pourrait être derrière l'attaque de Sévaré». Pour le journaliste et analyste malien Alexis Kalambry, l'attaque «porte la marque d'Iyad Ag Ghali», chef d'Ansar Dine.

Fragile accord de paix

Début 2013, une offensive conduite par l'armée française a repoussé les combattants djihadistes, qui avaient joint leurs forces à celles de la rébellion touareg pour s'emparer de vastes territoires dans le nord du Mali et menacer la capitale Bamako.

Depuis, les négociations entre les insurgés touaregs et le gouvernement ont débouché sur un fragile accord de paix, signé en juin, mais les miliciens islamistes n'ont pas participé à ce processus. Des zones entières échappent encore au contrôle des autorités maliennes comme à celui des forces étrangères.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

How Obama failed Africa – OPINION

mmegi.bw/10/08/2015

In light of President Obama's 2015 trip to Africa, likely his last trip to Africa as the U.S. president, it is appropriate to evaluate his government's foreign policies in Africa since he assumed office.

Through this assessment, it is sadly plain to see that Obama's policies have not helped the vast majority of Africans. Instead, the policies have allowed the suppression of the African people's hoped-for democratic reforms while simultaneously bolstering the power of corrupt African elites.

In 2008, many Africans were overjoyed when the son of a Kenyan man was elected President of the U.S. Many had hoped Obama would help change Africa's enormously negative plight, especially in the areas of civil conflict, poor economic development, lack of democracy and the terrible governmental corruption that is displacing and killing thousands of people.

On his first trip as president to Africa in 2009, Obama gave a speech in Ghana calling for "democratization in Africa." Just five years later in August 2014, at the U.S.-Africa Summit in Washington D.C., President Obama rolled out the red carpet for some of Africa's most brutal dictators.

These included President Yahya Jammeh of The Gambia, Paul Biya of Cameroon, Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé of Togo, Idriss Deby of the Republic of Chad, Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, and Pierre Nkurunziza of Burundi just to name a few.

By inviting these leaders, Obama's message to the African people was made clear: America has no interest in fostering democracy for the African people.

To further illustrate the truth of this, look at Obama's Power Africa Initiatives. These initiatives promised 20 million Africans electricity, but we see today that it remains mainly unfinanced. Many have given up hope that President Obama has the will to truly change anything for the better for the African people.

It appears Obama does not understand that Africa is more important than ever to the United States and the U.S. must take its partnership with the African people more seriously than its partnership with the despots who prevent democracy from taking root. Africa is a rapidly growing actor in the global economy but is being wooed by China and Russia; only by gaining the allegiance of the masses of people instead of the controlling elites will the US make better and more sustainable partnerships.

It is well known that most US government aid to Africa gets siphoned off to a combination of military power to suppress grassroots African civil society and the rest is taken directly by African dictators who stay in power for decades.

Too many Africans remain starving and in squalor while nothing serious or substantial is being done to stop the corruption. Humanitarian aid groups do far more effective work but US government aid is

crucial in suppressing democracy by giving violent leaders the tools of suppression.

The problem of Africa is not the people, but instead the despotic leaders who want to hold on to their usurped power and the support they get from external powers, especially the United States of America.

Most African leaders cling to power as long as they can because power leads to the opportunity for more wealth accumulation through channels of corruption long known to the international community. The known strategies used by these leaders to hold on to power has been through imposing restrictions on political participation, the use of violence, and manipulating the constitutions to amend term limits.

Unfortunately, when African leaders abuse their power and positions, they are supported by the American government because these corrupt rulers do benefit American corporate elites by providing access to cheap human and natural resources.

This history traces back to colonial Europe but now is giving democracy a bad name in Africa, and emboldens terrorists who will increasingly haunt the USA too.

Obama could use his remaining time in office to end this corruption, halt military aid, and instead promote two-way trade with direct investments through the involvement of the U.S. private sector, and he must ensure that the American government works with African countries to develop and strengthen their markets.

President Obama and the State Department should implement these common sense recommendations to end corruption and promote multiparty democracy in Africa: Firstly Obama should push for presidential term limits across the continent as a condition for American support of governance. This will certainly limit political violence as manifested in Burundi, Uganda, Togo, The Gambia and many other countries. Secondly he should also stop supporting corruption. The U.S should freeze assets of known corrupt leaders.

Several of these dictators have millions of dollars of assets in the U.S. and the U.S. government knows it. Furthermore any U.S. aid must be accompanied with stipulations such as accountability and good governance. Lastly he must impose smart sanctions by issuing travel bans for dictators and their families to the U.S. If the goal for Africa is really the spread of democracy as stated by Obama in 2009, changing these corrupted leaders without changing the old institutions that they have built will be meaningless.

Right now Obama has the power to nonviolently change the way that Africa works for the people and all Africans deserve better from the powerful son of one of their own.

SOLLY RAKGOMO*

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CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

Plus de 1.000 migrants sauvés ce week-end
10/08/15/Source: Belga

Plus de mille migrants à bord de bateaux de fortune ont été secourus au cours du week-end, lors de plusieurs opérations distinctes en Méditerranée, a-t-on appris dimanche soir auprès des gardes-côtes italiens.

Pour la seule journée de dimanche, cinq opérations de sauvetage, coordonnées par le centre opérationnel des gardes-côtes à Rome, ont permis de sauver 671 personnes, dont 48 mineurs et 108 femmes.

Canots pneumatiques

Pour quatre d'entre elles, les migrants se trouvaient dans des canots pneumatiques surchargés, distants de quelques milles les uns des autres, et menaçant de sombrer. Quant au dernier sauvetage, il concernait un bateau près de chavirer, à 137 milles à l'est du cap Passero (sud-est de la Sicile).

Dispositif européen

Un navire croate, le "SB72 Mohorovicic", impliqué dans le dispositif européen Triton pour aider l'Italie à contrôler ses frontières maritimes et secourir les migrants, a été immédiatement détourné de sa route et dirigé vers la zone où se trouvait le bateau en difficulté, ont affirmé les gardes-côtes.

Débarquement

Le navire "Diciotti" à bord duquel se trouvent plus de 400 migrants se dirigeait dimanche soir vers le port sicilien de Pozzallo, où son arrivée est prévue lundi matin, tandis que le bâtiment croate était en route pour Augusta (Sicile).

Libye

Dans la journée de samedi, plus de 400 migrants avaient été secourus lors de diverses opérations, notamment au large des côtes libyennes, auxquelles a notamment participé l'un des navires affrétés par Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), le "Bourbon Argos", ont précisé les gardes-côtes.

224.000 cette année

Selon un dernier bilan du Haut commissariat de l'ONU pour les réfugiés (HCR), publié jeudi mais ne tenant pas encore compte du naufrage de mercredi au large de la Libye, quelque 224.000 migrants sont arrivés en Europe par la Méditerranée depuis janvier -- 98.000 en Italie et 124.000 en Grèce -- et plus de 2.100 autres ont trouvé la mort en tentant la traversée.

Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond says African migrants are threatening our 'standard of living'
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Philip Hammond, the UK's Foreign Secretary, has accused African migrants seeking a better life in Europe of undermining the continent's "standard of living".

Speaking during a visit to Singapore, Mr Hammond said Britain's "number one priority" was to find a way to make it easier to send would-be asylum seekers back where they came from, adding that Europe could not "absorb millions of migrants from Africa".

He told BBC News that in many cases migrants knew they only needed to set foot in the EU to be confident they would never be forced to leave.

Mr Hammond made his comments as 117 suspected "illegal immigrants" were found in a single "suspicious" lorry travelling on the M1 near St Albans.

Police officers stopped a lorry on the M1 motorway after a member of the public alerted them to "suspicious activity" involving the vehicle.

Upon searching the interior, they found 17 people, who they suspect may have entered the UK without authorisation.

The lorry driver, a 40-year-old Polish man, was arrested on suspicion of helping people enter the country illegally.

The suspected immigrants have all been taken into custody.

Local police say that they are understood to be of Vietnamese nationality.

Asked about how Britain could solve the migrant "crisis" at Calais and prevent more people dying trying to cross the Mediterranean from north Africa, Mr Hammond said: "We have got to be able to resolve this problem ultimately by being able to return those who are not entitled to claim asylum back to their countries of origin. That's our number one priority.

"As long as the Europe Union's laws are the way they are, many of them will only have to set foot in Europe to be pretty confident that they will never be returned to their country of origin.

"Now, that is not a sustainable situation because Europe can't protect itself and preserve its standard of living and social structure, if it has to absorb millions of migrants from Africa."

Mr Hammond also said more should be done to "enhance the physical security of the tunnel" at Calais, warning that "there are large numbers of pretty desperate migrants marauding around the area".

His comments follow criticism of the UK by a UN's special rapporteur on the human rights, who said that Britain's approach to the "courageous" migrants at Calais is tantamount to "racism".

Speaking to The Sunday Times, envoy Francois Crepeau said there was little difference between the migrants and UK travellers taking a "vacation in Thailand".

"It is remarkable that in most of our countries we have nothing against numerous Germans and French coming in and we dislike profoundly that people with darker skin colours are coming in."

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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