



(Le secrétaire général de l'ONU Ban Ki-moon est arrivé dimanche au Nigeria. Il s'est déplacé pour commémorer l'attaque de Boko Haram contre le siège de l'ONU à Abuja, laquelle avait fait 21 morts le 26 août 2011.)

BURUNDI :

Burundi: assassinat d'un responsable local du parti d'Agathon Rwasa

Par RFI /24-08-2015

La violence politique persiste au Burundi. L'administrateur de la commune d'Isale, un membre du parti d'Agathon Rwasa, a été abattu par des hommes non-identifiés samedi 22 août dans la soirée. Un nouvel assassinat qui rappelle que les tensions sont toujours vives dans le pays.

L'administrateur de la commune d'Isale a été abattu par des hommes non-identifiés dans la soirée du samedi 22 août alors qu'il prenait un verre en plein cœur de sa localité.

Sur les 129 administrateurs que compte le pays, Pontien Barutwanayo était le seul représentant des FNL, le parti Agathon Rwasa. D'abord opposé au 3ème mandat, ce dernier a finalement accepté la vice-présidence de l'Assemblée.

Célestin Ruridikye, responsable de la Ligue burundaise des droits de l'homme pour la province de Bujumbura, dont dépend la commune d'Isale, a pu recueillir les premiers éléments sur cet assassinat.

« L'administrateur était dans un cabaret en train de partager un verre avec ses amis. Il y avait beaucoup de monde. Et puis un véhicule est passé tout près du cabaret et, à ce moment, on a tiré sur le cabaret et on a tué l'administrateur. Parmi ses compagnons, trois ont été blessés [...]. Jusqu'à maintenant, personne n'a vu celui qui a tiré. Il faisait nuit, ils ont juste vu le véhicule passer. Les malfaiteurs n'ont pas encore été identifiés », rapporte Célestin Ruridikye.

Une enquête a été ouverte, a précisé le porte-parole de la police. Ce meurtre intervient après deux autres assassinats ciblés survenus récemment. Celui, il y a une semaine, du colonel Jean Bikomagu et celui, il y a trois semaines, du général Adolphe Nshimirimana. Signe que la crise politique au Burundi est toujours vive.

Burundi : la torture utilisée pour écraser la dissidence

[24/08/2015]/amnesty.fr

Les coups de barres de fer et les brûlures à l'acide figurent parmi les méthodes de torture mises en œuvre par les forces de sécurité du Burundi en vue d'extorquer des « aveux » et de réduire au silence la dissidence.

Notre rapport, intitulée "Just tell me what to confess to": Torture and ill-treatment by Burundi's police and intelligence service since April 2015 présente les témoignages poignants de victimes de torture et d'autres mauvais traitements infligés par les forces de sécurité. Il met en évidence une forte hausse du recours à la torture au Burundi depuis avril 2015.

DES COUPS DE BARRE DE FER, DES BRÛLURES A L'ACIDE

Les témoignages que nous avons reçus sont aussi terribles qu'inquiétants, car la torture et les autres formes de mauvais traitements sont prohibés par la Constitution du Burundi et par les traités régionaux et internationaux auxquels le pays est partie.

Le gouvernement doit mettre fin de toute urgence à ces pratiques et suspendre sur-le-champ de leurs fonctions tous les responsables présumés de crimes relevant du droit international comme la torture, dans l'attente d'enquêtes et de poursuites approfondies, indépendantes et impartiales.

D'après les témoignages recueillis, le Service national des renseignements (SNR) et la Police nationale du Burundi (PNB) sont responsables d'actes de torture et de mauvais traitements infligés à un militant des droits humains et à un journaliste, ainsi qu'à des détenus arrêtés depuis avril 2015 en raison de leur participation présumée à des manifestations contre la candidature du président Pierre Nkurunziza à un troisième mandat.

Un homme arrêté fin juin a montré à nos délégués les marques laissées par les coups qu'il a reçus alors qu'il se trouvait aux mains du SNR. Cet homme a déclaré :

Ils ont commencé à me frapper à coups de barre de fer. Ensuite, ils m'ont dit de me déshabiller. Ils ont pris un jerrycan de cinq litres rempli de sable et l'ont attaché à mes testicules. Ils l'ont laissé pendant plus d'une heure ; j'ai perdu connaissance. Lorsque j'ai repris mes esprits, ils m'ont fait asseoir dans une flaque d'acide pour batterie... La brûlure était atroce. »

DES « AVEUX »

Un autre manifestant arrêté a raconté avoir été torturé et contraint de passer aux « aveux ». Il soignait encore ses blessures lorsque nous avons recueilli son témoignage au mois de juillet. Il a déclaré :

Ce soir-là, ils m'ont mis dans une toute petite pièce. Je n'avais pas la place de m'allonger, j'ai dû dormir assis. Le lendemain, ils m'ont conduit dans une pièce tout aussi petite, dont le sol était jonché de petits cailloux. J'y ai passé toute la journée. Le troisième jour, ils m'ont conduit dans une pièce avec un tas de bouts de verre et ont menacé de me couper avec ces tessons. Ils m'ont demandé d'écrire la liste de toutes les personnes que je connaissais et de signer un document dans lequel je m'engageais à ne plus participer à aucune manifestation. Je l'ai signé. »

Les cas de torture et de mauvais traitements recensés se sont déroulés dans l'un des centres du SNR, et dans un centre de détention non officiel de la police baptisé Chez Ndadaye. Les policiers frappent les détenus à coups de câbles électriques et de matraques, tandis que les agents du SNR se servent de barres de fer et plongent la tête des détenus dans de l'eau sale.

Nous avons également eu connaissance de cas d'« aveux » forcés. Un homme détenu et torturé par le SNR au mois de juin a raconté à l'organisation : « Ils ont menacé de me tuer si je ne passais pas aux aveux. Mais je leur ai répondu : Comment le pourrais-je si je ne sais rien ? Vous devez simplement me dire ce que je dois avouer. »

RENDRE DES COMPTES

Selon le témoignage d'un homme interpellé par la police en juin, le SNR a tenté de lui extorquer des informations : « Ils m'ont roué de coups. Ils ont utilisé une barre métallique et m'ont infligé des décharges électriques sur l'annulaire. »

Dans les cas recensés par nos équipes, les détenus n'ont pas été autorisés à consulter un avocat ni à entrer en contact avec leurs familles durant leur détention au centre du SNR. Aucun de ces cas de violations des droits humains ou de torture n'a semble-t-il fait l'objet d'une enquête.

Le gouvernement du Burundi doit prendre sans délai des mesures afin de garantir l'obligation de rendre des comptes, d'accorder des réparations pour les actes de torture et les mauvais traitements infligés par les membres des forces de sécurité et d'empêcher que de tels actes ne se reproduisent.

La communauté internationale doit exhorter le gouvernement à honorer ses engagements régionaux et internationaux en termes de droits humains et les observateurs de l'Union africaine chargés de veiller au respect des droits humains, la Commission africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples et le rapporteur spécial de l'ONU sur la torture doivent être autorisés à se rendre dans le pays afin d'enquêter sur ces accusations.

COMPLEMENT D'INFORMATION

Des manifestations ont eu lieu à Bujumbura, la capitale du Burundi, entre le 26 avril et la mi-juin 2015 pour protester contre la décision du président Pierre Nkurunziza de briguer un troisième mandat lors de l'élection de juillet 2015, ce qui était perçu par beaucoup comme une violation de la Constitution et des accords d'Arusha.

En juillet, nous avons publié un rapport dénonçant les graves violations des droits humains commises par la police dans le cadre du maintien de l'ordre lors des manifestations. La police a en effet recouru à une force excessive et disproportionnée, notamment meurtrière, allant même jusqu'à tirer sur des manifestants non armés qui s'enfuyaient. Elle a également utilisé des gaz lacrymogènes et des balles réelles lors de manifestations à laquelle participaient des enfants.

Le Burundi est lié par divers traités régionaux et internationaux qui interdisent la torture et les autres peines ou traitements cruels, inhumains ou dégradants, notamment le Pacte international

relatif aux droits civils et politiques (PIDCP), la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples et la Convention contre la torture et autres peines ou traitements cruels, inhumains ou dégradants.

Aux termes de cette Convention, la torture est définie comme « tout acte par lequel une douleur ou des souffrances aiguës, physiques ou mentales, sont intentionnellement infligées à une personne aux fins notamment d'obtenir d'elle ou d'une tierce personne des renseignements ou des aveux, de la punir d'un acte qu'elle ou une tierce personne a commis ou est soupçonnée d'avoir commis, de l'intimider ou de faire pression sur elle ou d'intimider ou de faire pression sur une tierce personne, ou pour tout autre motif fondé sur une forme de discrimination quelle qu'elle soit, lorsqu'une telle douleur ou de telles souffrances sont infligées par un agent de la fonction publique ou toute autre personne agissant à titre officiel ou à son instigation ou avec son consentement exprès ou tacite. »

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

South African Rand Sinks Most Since 2011 as Commodities Fall

Lilian Karunungan/bloomberg.com/August 24, 2015

South Africa's rand tumbled the most since 2011 on concern the plunge in commodity prices will deepen as China's economy slows.

The currency of Africa's most-industrialized economy led declines in emerging-market exchange rates, hurt by lower prices for resources that account for more than half of its exports. Losses have been exacerbated by concern over growth in China, the top destination for South Africa's raw materials, and the prospect of higher U.S. interest rates.

The rand is among the "commodity-linked, high-yielding currencies where a lot of foreign funds were parked," said Nizam Idris, Singapore-based head of foreign-exchange and fixed-income strategy at Macquarie Bank Ltd. "A lot of these flows are being reversed right now. Lower Chinese growth means weaker demand for commodities as they are the world's largest consumer of raw materials by far."

The rand weakened 2.4 percent to 13.29 a dollar as of 8:19 a.m. in Johannesburg. It fell to 14.07 earlier, the lowest on record, and has dropped 13 percent this year.

China's surprise devaluation of the yuan on Aug. 11 has roiled global markets and reinforced concern of a steep slowdown in the world's second-largest economy. The Bloomberg Commodity Index, which tracks 22 raw materials, slumped to its lowest level since 1999 on Monday.

Investors will see the rand's fall "in the context of other commodity currencies because it's not just the rand that's weak," Ndzutha Mngqibisa, foreign-exchange and fixed-income strategist at Barclays Plc's South African unit, said by phone from Johannesburg. "Other commodity-based currencies, emerging-market currencies, they're all weak, so it's not a rand isolated event."

Devaluations by Vietnam and Kazakhstan are adding more pressure on central banks from South Africa to Kenya, which have taken aggressive action this year to bolster their currencies. 'Vicious Cycle'

A rebound could be in the offing as the rand's slump has pushed its 14-day relative-strength index above the level that indicates it's oversold. The RSI climbed to 81 on Monday, the highest since May 2013 and above the 70 level that some traders see as a sign the currency has depreciated too much, too fast.

"We are not in a scenario where we will see a blow-off in the rand to 15," George Herman, head of South African investments at Cape Town-based Citadel Investment Services, said by phone on Monday. "The fundamental factors are just not ready for that."

Even so, the slide underlines the challenges faced by President Jacob Zuma's administration in reigniting investment and growth in an economy running an electricity shortage and persistent fiscal and current-account deficits. South Africa faces more than 60,000 job losses this year in industries ranging from mining to aviation, according to a report by the Solidarity labor union.

"It's a vicious cycle for commodity-related currencies like the rand as weak commodity prices would feed into weak jobs market, weighing on the economy," said Tarsicio Tong, a currency trader at Union Bank of Taiwan in Taipei. "It's hard to see any strong rebound for now."

Sinking currencies point to jitters about emerging economies

23 August 2015/The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The damage spans the globe.

Thailand's baht. Kazakhstan's tenge. South Africa's rand. Peru's nuevo sol.

In emerging markets worldwide, currencies are plunging over fears that developing economies are on the verge of a crippling fall. Success stories until recently, emerging economies are seen as casualties now — of slower growth in China, plunging prices for commodities like oil and iron ore, the prospect of higher U.S. interest rates and homegrown threats.

The damage has spilled across oceans, with the turmoil jolting investors in New York, Tokyo and Europe. Investors there worry that China and other major emerging economies will reduce their imports. They also fear a trade-disrupting currency war as some countries desperately lower their currencies' value to gain a competitive edge. A lower-price currency makes a country's goods cheaper for foreigners.

The Dow Jones industrials plunged 530 points, more than 3 percent, Friday on top of a 358-point

drop Thursday. Tokyo's Nikkei index shed 3 percent Friday.

For all the markets' jitters, many economists say they remain confident that the U.S. economy is resilient enough to withstand a slowdown in the developing world. And Europe's economy appears to be emerging from its long slump.

Even so, the trouble in emerging markets is a surprising and unsettling reversal.

"It's remarkable just how things turned around so quickly," says Neil Shearing, an economist at Capital Economics and a former British Treasury official.

Consider Peru. Three years ago, its capital, Lima, was chosen to host an International Monetary Fund meeting of global finance officials in what was seen as a celebration of Latin America's arrival in the economic big leagues.

But with the event six weeks away, Latin America's outlook has descended from boom to gloom. Peru's economy has steadily slowed, and its currency, the nuevo sol, has plunged 2.5 percent against the U.S. dollar in the past month.

And Peru boasts one of the region's healthiest economies. Brazil's economy is expected to shrink this year and next. Its currency, the real, is down 7 percent the past month and more than 30 percent the past two years. The Mexican peso closed Friday at a record low against the dollar.

It's hardly just Latin America. Kazakhstan's currency plummeted last week after the government decided to let it trade freely. The South African rand fell last week to a 14-year-low against the U.S. dollar. Turkey's lira hit a record low against the dollar last week.

Hung Tran, an executive managing director at the Institute of International Finance, expects developing countries to post 3.8 percent economic growth this year, down from 4.3 percent in 2014. The institute is on the verge of cutting that forecast.

Analysts point to a primary culprit:

"It's all coming from China," says Masamichi Adachi, an economist with JPMorgan Chase in Tokyo. "Brazil, South Africa, many countries are commodity exporters, and the final destination is all going to China."

The Chinese economy is slowing more sharply than most people had expected from the double-digit growth rates of the mid-2000s. The world's second-biggest economy is expected to grow 7 percent this year, which would be its slowest pace since 1990.

Beijing is trying to manage a transition from rapid growth based on exports and often-wasteful spending on factories, real estate and infrastructure to slower, steadier expansion based on consumer spending.

That transition means China would need fewer raw materials — Chilean copper, Nigerian oil, Brazilian iron ore. That helps explain why China's pullback has loosed carnage in global commodity prices: The Standard & Poor's GSCI commodity index, which tracks 24 commodities prices, is down nearly 20 percent this year.

Emerging markets were already feeling the squeeze earlier this month, when China devalued its currency, the yuan. That step ignited a semi-panic.

“The devaluation is a red flag about China’s current economic situation,” says Kurt Braybrook, who runs a Shanghai company that does quality control work. A falling yuan raises the risk that other countries will devalue their currencies to catch up.

Most countries can’t blame China and the vagaries of the global commodities market for all their problems.

South Africa is battling labor strife. Brazil is contending with a corruption scandal at state-owned oil giant Petrobras. Turkey is struggling to form a government while its military battles the Islamic State extremist group and Kurdish separatists.

Adding to the pressure: America’s Federal Reserve is expected, perhaps at its September meeting, to raise the short-term rate it controls from near zero. Investors could respond by moving even more money out of emerging markets to seek higher U.S. rates. That would lift the dollar higher and emerging market currencies even lower.

A Fed rate hike could also squeeze emerging market companies that have borrowed in U.S. dollars. Those companies would struggle to accumulate enough local currency to pay their now-more-expensive dollar-denominated debt.

Tran at the Institute for International Finance says dollar borrowing by emerging market companies surged from \$700 billion in 2010 to \$2 trillion through March.

The rising dollar and the hoard of dollar loans recall the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis. Back then, a currency sell-off triggered an emerging market debt crisis that became a disaster for countries such as Indonesia and South Korea.

But the picture is less alarming now, analysts say. For one thing, developing countries have stockpiled foreign reserves that they can use to buy their own currencies and stop a crisis.

What’s more, emerging market companies that borrowed in dollars in recent years tended to take out longer-term loans, notes Joaquin Cottani, Standard & Poor’s chief economist for Latin America. During the 1997-98 crisis, companies had taken out short-term loans and couldn’t refinance when the loans came due during a panic.

“Countries have learned from their experiences,” says Monica de Bolle, visiting fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Paul Wiseman

and Joshua Goodman,

The Associated Press

South Africa Economy Declines As Country Continues To Fail In Its Economic Potential
August 23, 2015/inquisitr.com

South Africa continues to face an economic crisis as the governing party, the African National Congress, has failed to solve the country’s economic problems. The African National Congress took control of South Africa in 1994 after South Africans voted to get rid of the system of apartheid.

Currently, the growth rate for South Africa is only 2 percent as 34.9 percent of all South Africans are unemployed.

As Democratic Alliance leader Mmusi Maimane explained to Business Tech, young South Africans are struggling the most.

“Almost 8.4 million South Africans do not have jobs, while two in every three of those are young people who are left ill-equipped by an inadequate education system. They are not only unemployed, but increasingly unemployable.”

The government of South Africa faces many problems in trying to solve the economic crisis. The first crisis faced by South Africans is the electricity crisis. Critics cite power company Eskom as the biggest reason for the problem because of their monopoly on the power grid in South Africa.

Maimane said there needed to be a focus on breaking the monopoly Eskom created.

“To alleviate the strain in the short term, we would commit an initial R500 million from the Department of Trade and Industry for the purchase of industrial-size generators for manufacturing enterprises.”

Tourism and mining sectors have suffered because of the job-killing policies of the ANC. Visa requirements, lack of small business support, and labor policy also contributed to the problems suffered by the struggling economy.

South Africa was once the bread basket of Africa. With the high number of racially-motivated farm murders, farming in South Africa has been greatly reduced.

Another challenge to creating jobs and reducing unemployment in South Africa is the introduction of the policy of Black Economic Empowerment (BEE). This economic policy effectively excludes whites from the marketplace and places unqualified applicants into jobs to meet economic quotas.

Unfortunately, the policy has benefited few. As reported in the Independent, BEE has only helped about 15 percent of blacks in South Africa, while the other 85 percent struggle because they have no chance of achieving any of the economic deals available. The policy also harms this group by reducing investment, growth, and jobs.

One reason cited for the stifling of economic opportunity is the SA Communist Party. The SA Communist Party has used BEE to help bring about first a socialist and then a communist state preventing the chance of a middle class of any color. Guaranteeing property rights and increasing economic freedom for all South Africans have been cited as factors that would contribute to growing the South Africa economy.

What do you believe is the solution to prospering the South Africa economy? What policies do you believe the government is using that are stifling growth?

TANZANIA :

Kikwete terms CCM flag bearer as ethical, hardworking
Monday, 24 August 2015 /dailynews.co.tz

NATIONAL CCM Chairman, President Jakaya Kikwete, has attributed the nomination of Dr John Magufuli as flag bearer for the Union presidency to his merits as ethical and hardworking leader.

“CCM made the right decision to appoint Dr Magufuli given his work record.

We want a leader who has the country and its people at his heart,” Mr Kikwete said at the launch of CCM campaigns ahead of the general election on October 25.

Addressing a mammoth crowd of CCM members and supporters at the Jangwani Grounds in Dar es Salaam on Sunday, Mr Kikwete said the presidential candidate was down to earth and ethical leader with a clean record in his 20-year career in public service.

“We don’t want a poor leader but we should be able to ascertain how such leader has amassed wealth,” Mr Kikwete said amid cheers from the crowd.

He added: “Dr Magufuli has no factions within the party and given the clean record we will not have trouble to promote him to the people.”

Earlier, former President Benjamin Mkapa blasted the opposition for touting to ‘liberate’ the country and yet the country was liberated years ago by the then Tanzania National African Union (TANU) and the African Shirazi Party (ASP) which later merged to form CCM.

“Among the eight presidential candidates approved by the National Electoral Commission (NEC) it is only Dr Magufuli and his runningmate Ms Samia Suluhu Hassan that can steer the country towards development,” Mr Mkapa stated.

For his part, former President Ali Hassan Mwinyi expressed his astonishment by the large turnout of CCM members and supporters at the grounds describing it as historical.

Mr Mwinyi, who led the Second Phase Government, went on to blast the opposition parties in the country for “hiring” leaders from the ruling party.

“It is apparent that we now have CCM A and B; Opposition parties are hiring people from CCM to make them stronger but I can assure you the people will vote for CCM A,” the soft-spoken leader remarked.

Former Prime Minister, Judge (Rtd) Joseph Warioba said if Dr Magufuli was a corrupt leader, he could have enriched himself fraudulently in his capacity as Minister for Works.

“Some years ago, I was appointed by President Mkapa to chair a commission charged to identify areas where corruption was rampant and the construction industry was identified as the leading one.

“Dr Magufuli has been in the Works Ministry for almost 15 years and he has done a great job.

He did not use the position to enrich himself,” Judge Warioba explained. He revealed as well that the tendency by public leaders to associate with wealthy businesspeople was a major cause of corruption in Tanzania.

Zanzibar President Ali Mohammed Shein pledged support to Dr Magufuli, noting that the CCM presidential candidate has huge following from the Islands.

“I have worked with Dr Magufuli for ten years and I know his record very well, Dr Magufuli and Mama Samia are strong leaders to steer this country,” Dr Shein stated.

He went on to boast that CCM was a strong party with a large pool of ethical leaders, blasting the opposition that “governing the state was not a tryout.”

The Chairman of Tanzanian MPs in the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Mr Makongoro Nyerere, took issues with former PM Fredrick Sumaye who defected to the opposition over the weekend, stressing that Mr Sumaye was bitter after he lost out in the CCM nomination process.

“Ten years ago, Mr Sumaye made it to the top-five in which Mr Kikwete was nominated as CCM flag bearer; he has now decided to leave the party after his second bid flopped in which he failed to even make it to the top five,” the politician said.

Mr Makongoro, a son of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, said he will traverse the country to campaign for Dr Magufuli to ensure he clinches the presidency through CCM.

Earlier, a representative of people with disabilities, Mr Amon Mpanju, branded the coalition of four opposition parties (Ukawa) as a bunch of power-hungry leaders.

A delegate of petty traders, Mr Salum Mwela, blasted the tendency of tribalism by some leaders while a representative by motorcycles for hire operators (boda boda), Mr Mapinduzi Mpema, hailed the government by legalizing their business.

KENYA :

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Africa private equity group raises \$1.4bn to invest in continent

Joseph Cotterill/ft.com/August 24, 2015

Abraaj Group, a Dubai-based company, has amassed the largest pool of private equity capital yet for investments across Africa.

The group, which focuses on private equity in emerging markets “beyond the Brics”, said it had raised \$375m for a fund that will focus on North Africa.

Combined with capital raised in April targeted at the sub-Saharan region, the two funds give Abraaj just under \$1.4bn to spend in the continent’s markets, a record sum to raise in a single year.

This follows an Africa-wide fund raised earlier this year by Helios Investment Partners, a rival to

Abraaj, which was the first dedicated to the region to surpass \$1bn.

The dawn of billion-dollar African private equity funds reflects a search by investors for higher returns than are on offer in the saturated buyout markets of the US and Europe, and also represents a bet on the continent's growing middle class.

International buyout groups including Carlyle and KKR expanded into the region last year, with maiden investments often focused on consumer growth. This is despite concerns that larger funds in Africa could be left to chase relatively few opportunities, given the limited size of its capital markets.

Mustafa Abdel-Wadood, a partner at Abraaj who runs its regional funds, said that splitting the funds' capital between north and south would give investors a choice over which markets they wanted to invest in.

"If they want to look at Africa as one continent, or they want to see it as separate markets, they can," he said.

Mr Abdel-Wadood added that the funds would draw from an on-the-ground search for companies, as deals placed in the market are only a "subset" of opportunities. These are businesses we approach proactively," he said.

Abraaj has already made six investments from the new North Africa fund, including a hospital group which it plans to roll out across the region.

The fund will look for majority or minority stakes in mid-market companies based in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia that Abraaj could help turn into regional market leaders.

Sharp falls in African currencies triggered by collapsing commodity prices have also posed pitfalls for private equity investors in the region.

Currency volatility had become a "big part of the discussion we're having" over investments in the region, Mr Abdel-Wadood said.

"This is not the first time these markets have faced currency issues," he added, noting that a drop in exchange rates often occurs in one big step. "Over the lifetime of an investment, this can be absorbed by the underlying growth of the business."

Abraaj was, however, looking at defensive sectors more. "This is a year where one needs to be cautious," Mr Abdel-Wadood said.

UN/AFRICA :

[Ban Ki-moon au Nigeria pour parler de la lutte contre Boko Haram
24.08.2015/romandie.com](http://24.08.2015/romandie.com)

Le secrétaire général de l'ONU Ban Ki-moon est arrivé dimanche au Nigeria. Il s'est déplacé pour commémorer l'attaque de Boko Haram contre le siège de l'ONU à Abuja, laquelle avait fait 21 morts le 26 août 2011.

La lutte contre l'insurrection islamiste qui frappe le Nigeria depuis 2009 devrait être au centre des discussions entre Ban Ki-moon et le président nigérian Muhammadu Buhari, qui a pris ses fonctions fin mai. Ce dernier a promis de démanteler Boko Haram, mais depuis son investiture les attaques du groupe islamiste ont redoublé de violence.

L'avion du secrétaire général de l'ONU a atterri vers 16 heures (17h00 en Suisse). Quelques heures plus tôt, l'armée nigériane avait annoncé que son chef avait échappé à une embuscade de Boko Haram dans le nord-est du pays.

"Nous voyons à travers le monde l'insécurité, les inégalités, des clivages croissants", a déclaré M. Ban dans la soirée après une rencontre avec les gouverneurs des Etats du Nigeria. "Ici, au Nigeria, vous ne connaissez que trop bien ces défis, y compris la montée de l'extrémisme et le manque d'égalité des chances", a-t-il ajouté, cité dans un communiqué.

Onze morts

Nommé en juillet, le général Tukur Buratai visitait samedi un contingent de l'armée à Faljari, à 45 kilomètres de Maiduguri, capitale de l'Etat de Borno, lorsque son convoi a été attaqué. Lors de la fusillade qui a suivi, dix insurgés islamistes et un soldat nigérian ont été tués, selon le porte-parole de l'armée, Sani Usman.

"Les terroristes ont été confrontés à une écrasante puissance de feu des soldats" lors de cette confrontation. "Nos troupes ont capturés cinq terroristes", a affirmé l'officier. "Malheureusement, nous avons perdu un soldat lors de l'affrontement, tandis qu'un officier et quatre soldats ont été blessés par balles", a-t-il poursuivi.

Regain de violences

Depuis l'arrivée au pouvoir de M. Buhari, Boko Haram a intensifié ses attaques dans l'Etat de Borno et dans deux autres Etats voisins du nord-est. Cette nouvelle vague de violences a coûté la vie à plus de 1000 personnes.

Elle a mis en échec les efforts lancés depuis le début de l'année par les armées du Nigeria, du Tchad, du Cameroun et du Niger qui s'efforcent de contrer Boko Haram.

Une Force d'intervention conjointe multinationale (MNJTF) de 8700 hommes regroupant ces quatre pays et le Bénin doit être déployée incessamment dans le nord-est du Nigeria et aux confins des frontières du Cameroun et du Tchad. Les chefs d'état-major des cinq pays ont finalisé samedi à N'Djamena les détails du déploiement de cette force.

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

Harper's Government Helping Canadian Mining Companies Plunder Africa's Resources
by Yves Engler /dissidentvoice.org /August 23rd, 2015

Canadian policy in Africa can be summed up in nine words: Do what is good for Canadian-owned mining companies.

Despite rhetoric about aid to the poorest people in the world, the Harper Conservatives have worked assiduously to ensure that Canadian corporations profit from Africa's vast mineral resources.

Even widespread criticism of their operations has failed to dampen the Conservatives' support for Canada's many mining interests in Africa. Canadian mining companies have been accused of bribing officials, evading taxes, dispossessing farmers, displacing communities, employing forced labour, devastating eco-systems and spurring human rights violations.

But, more important than the specific instances of abuse, which I detail in my forthcoming *Canada in Africa — 300 years of Aid and Exploitation*, the mining industry contributes little to sustainable economic development. Instead it is a prime part of a vast vacuuming up of resources to benefit wealthy people, only a very few of whom live in Africa.

Indifferent to the deleterious impacts of the sector, International Trade Minister Ed Fast has included numerous mining executives in his delegations to the continent while former foreign minister John Baird visited African countries partly based on where Canadian resource companies sought business. For his part, International Development Minister Christian Paradis praised the sector's development benefits in a bid to (misleadingly) convince African officials that "Canada owes much of its economic growth to extractive industries."

Stephen Harper personally promoted Canadian mining companies. When leaders from Tanzania, South Africa and Benin visited Ottawa in 2013 he used the opportunity to promote mining interests. During a trip to Senegal in 2012 the PM met with representatives from five resource firms or trade associations and publicly lauded the sector. On a visit to Tanzania in 2007 Harper gave audience to more than 10 Canadian resource firms, describing the meeting as an opportunity to discuss "the general business climate [and] what the government of Canada can do to assist in building our investments here." In the months after Harper's visit, reported *This Day*, the Canadian High Commission launched an "intense" lobbying effort to convince Tanzania's Parliament to reject the country's Mineral Sector Review Committee's recommendation that a larger proportion of profits from higher mineral prices be retained by the government.

Since 2012 Ottawa has pumped tens of millions of dollars into mining initiatives in Africa. The public money helped establish branch offices of a professional society, the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum, in Senegal and Burkina Faso and a Senegalese school for geomatics (combining geography and information technology to map natural resources). Last year, Canada gave \$18.5 million of tax money for an extractives skills training centre in Mozambique and earlier this year Ottawa announced a \$12.5 million grant for the Project Strengthening Education for Mining in Ethiopia "to develop more industry driven geology and mining engineering undergraduate programs." In 2014 the Conservatives budgeted up to \$25 million per year for the Extractives Cooperation for Enhanced Economic Development (EXCEED) initiative, which it described as "a new funding mechanism to expand Canada's involvement in areas of high development impact in the extractive sector in Africa."

In addition to promoting the sector in general, the Conservatives' ploughed millions of dollars into specific companies' corporate social responsibility projects. One example of this "aid" was a \$4.5-million grant to Lundin for Africa, the philanthropic arm of mining giant Lundin Group of Companies, for its operations in Ghana, Mali and Senegal. Ottawa also put up \$5.6 million for a project between NGO Plan Canada and IAMGOLD near the company's mine in Burkina Faso.

As they pumped tens of millions of “aid” dollars into initiatives supporting the controversial sector, the Conservatives blocked efforts to regulate an industry notorious for abuses in jurisdictions with weak legal structures. The Conservatives blocked legislation – bill C-300 – to withhold diplomatic and financial support from companies found responsible for significant abuses abroad. They also opposed legislation, modeled on the U.S. Alien Torts Claims Act, to allow lawsuits against Canadian companies responsible for major human rights violations or ecological destruction abroad.

In maybe their most significant support to Canadian mining corporations in Africa, the Conservatives negotiated Foreign Investment Protection Agreements (FIPAs) with more than 10 African countries. FIPAs give corporations the right to sue governments — in private, investor-friendly tribunals — for pursuing policies that interfere with profits. In essence, the aim of a FIPA is to counter “resource nationalism”.

Having benefited from two decades of privatizations and loosened restrictions on foreign investment, mining companies operating on the continent fear a reversal of these policies. These concerns can be somewhat alleviated by gaining rights to sue a government if it expropriates a concession, changes investment rules or requires value added production take place in the country. Academic Paula Butler notes: “Canada appears keen to negotiate FIPAs with some of the most economically and politically vulnerable but resource rich African countries before they develop a taste for resource sovereignty.”

Canadian policy in Africa has become largely synonymous with the interests of Canadian mining companies. The Harper Conservatives have sought to ensure that the continent’s mining policy serves the interests of foreign corporations, the majority of Africans be damned.

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

Africa running out of options as China to Kazakhstan devalue

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Currency devaluations from Kazakhstan to China are heaping pressure on African central banks to relinquish control of their exchange rates as they run down reserves faster than any other region.

From Nigeria to Uganda, African policy makers are burning through their foreign reserves and tightening monetary policy to prop up their currencies.

Thursday’s move by Kazakhstan, central Asia’s largest crude exporter, to abandon its currency peg has intensified speculation that authorities in Africa will devalue or halt intervening in their foreign-exchange markets.

“I’m sure African central banks are watching avidly what’s happened in Kazakhstan,” Yvonne Mhango, an economist at Renaissance Capital in Johannesburg, said on Thursday. “It puts increasing pressure on them, especially Angola and Nigeria. Investors are already expecting devaluations in Nigeria and Angola. This just heightens those expectations.”

African central banks from South Africa to Kenya have been taking aggressive action this year to bolster their currencies, concerned with inflationary pressure emanating from rising import costs.

Commodity-dependent nations such as Zambia and Ghana are struggling to cope with currency declines of more than 20 percent against the dollar since January.

Half of the 20 countries that have lost the most reserves as a proportion of the total in the past year are from Africa, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Nigeria’s reserves have dropped 20 percent to \$31.6 billion in the past year, Angola’s are down 16 percent, while Kenya’s slumped 14 percent since January.

“Some countries just don’t have the level of reserves to use that frequently and it’s a very costly exercise,” Nema Ramkhelawan-Bhana, an economist at Rand Merchant Bank, a unit of Africa’s biggest lender, FirstRand Ltd., said. “We are going to see a lot of tightening of monetary and financial conditions across these African countries.”

The move by Kazakhstan, which caused the tenge to plunge as much as 24 percent against the dollar, followed China’s depreciation of the yuan last week and Vietnam’s third devaluation this year of the dong last Wednesday. Russia stopped managing the ruble in November.

Nigeria and Angola, Africa’s biggest oil producers, have held off on weakening their currencies in recent months despite Brent crude prices falling almost a fifth this year to below \$50 a barrel.

Nigeria’s naira may be lowered by 15 percent to 20 percent against the dollar following the action by Kazakhstan, according to Mhango. The currencies of the two nations have tracked each other closely since both were devalued within 10 weeks of each other in 2008-09, she said.

The Central Bank of Nigeria said it has no plans to ease its rules or devalue.

“We haven’t seen any reason so far to institute a change in the foreign-exchange policies,” Ugochukwu Okoroafor, a spokesman for the bank, said from Abuja, the capital. Genuine demand for foreign exchange will be met by the central bank, “but once it comes as a result of speculation, we’ll fight back,” he said.

The naira slid 0.4 percent to 199.05 per dollar at 2 p.m. on Friday in Lagos, the commercial capital.

It has been mostly flat since the start of March after the central bank stopped banks from trading the currency without matching orders from customers. Forward prices indicate it will fall to 236.5 in six months and 261 in a year.

A slowdown in China, Africa’s biggest trading partner, will make it harder for the continent’s central banks to prop up their currencies, said Albert Essien, chief executive officer of Ecobank Transnational Inc, which operates in 36 African countries, more than any other lender.

“I don’t think that most of them can hold their currencies by just intervening,” Essien said. “With China softening up, with China devaluing, it has some implications for Africa.”

INDIA/AFRICA :

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