



(Des affrontements entre groupes armés dans l'est de la République démocratique du Congo ont causé la mort d'au moins 15 personnes dimanche. La région est le théâtre depuis plusieurs semaines de vives tensions ethniques.)

BURUNDI :

Burundi: Hollande et Lungu prônent un "dialogue inclusif"

08/02/2016/slateafrique.com

Les présidents français et zambien François Hollande et Edgar Lungu ont prôné lundi un "dialogue inclusif entre le gouvernement et l'opposition" au Burundi, en proie à une profonde crise politique.

Lors d'un entretien à l'Élysée, MM. Hollande et Lungu "ont rappelé leur engagement en faveur d'un dialogue inclusif entre le gouvernement et l'opposition, afin de permettre de restaurer l'équilibre et la stabilité nés des accords d'Arusha", qui avaient mis fin à la guerre civile (1993-2006), a déclaré la présidence française dans un communiqué.

MM. Hollande et Lungu ont par ailleurs "salué la poursuite du processus électoral" en Centrafrique et "indiqué leur attachement au respect de la Constitution et à l'organisation d'élections nationales dans les délais légaux" en République démocratique du Congo, selon le communiqué de l'Élysée.

La RDC traverse une crise politique depuis les élections de novembre 2011, entachées de fraudes massives et ayant reconduit au pouvoir pour cinq ans le président Joseph Kabila et sa majorité.

M. Hollande a par ailleurs "marqué son souhait de développer les relations politiques et économiques avec la Zambie" à l'occasion de cette visite officielle à Paris de M. Lungu, la première d'un chef de l'État zambien depuis 1983.

Tous deux se sont ainsi "félicité" de la conclusion d'une demi-douzaine d'accords de partenariat dans les domaines de l'enseignement et de la recherche, du tourisme, ou de l'audiovisuel pour la diffusion de la chaîne d'information France 24 en Zambie.

La crise politique au Burundi: Le Président Macky Sall désigné membre de la Délégation de haut niveau devant se rendre à Bujumbura

leral.net/ le Lundi 8 Février 2016

Le Chef de l'Etat Macky Sall a été désigné membre de la Délégation de haut niveau devant se rendre à Bujumbura (Burundi), annonce un communiqué de la présidence de la République. Cette décision fait suite à la Vingt-sixième Session ordinaire de la Conférence des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de l'Union Africaine, tenue à Addis-Abeba les 30 et 31 janvier 2016, indique le document. Annoncée par le Président en exercice de l'Union Africaine, Idriss Deby Itno, la Délégation de haut niveau comprend, outre le Président Sall, pour le compte de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, les Présidents mauritanien Mohamed Ould Abdelaziz, sud-africain Jacob Zuma, gabonais Ali Bongo Odimba et le Premier ministre éthiopien Hailemariam Desalegn. "Le mandat de la Délégation est de consulter le gouvernement ainsi que d'autres acteurs burundais sur le dialogue inclusif et, au cas échéant, le déploiement de la Mission africaine de prévention et de protection au Burundi", souligne le communiqué.

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

Au moins 15 morts dans des violences ethniques en RDC

itele.fr/08/02/2016

Des affrontements entre groupes armés dans l'est de la République démocratique du Congo ont causé la mort d'au moins 15 personnes dimanche. La région est le théâtre depuis plusieurs semaines de vives tensions ethniques. L'ONU s'est dit "alarmée" lundi de cette "escalade des violences intercommunautaires".

Des violences ont eu lieu dimanche à Mukeberwa, village situé aux confins des territoires de Lubero et de Walikale dans le Nord-Kivu, une province déchirée par les conflits armés depuis plus de vingt ans.

Bokele Joy, administrateur du territoire de Lubero, a rapporté à l'AFP:

Il y a eu des affrontements dans le village de Mukeberwa et selon les informations en ma possession, entre 15 et 30 personnes ont trouvé la mort

Tensions intercommunautaires

L'administrateur a ajouté qu'il lui était difficile d'être plus précis sur le bilan car les affrontements ont eu lieu dans une zone où il n'y a ni l'armée congolaise ni la police nationale congolaise. Selon

lui, les combats ont été provoqués par l'attaque de miliciens maï-maï d'ethnie nande contre Mukeberwa, tenu par des rebelles hutu rwandais des Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR).

Les maï-maï sont des milices d'autodéfense, souvent constituées selon des critères ethniques. La tension est très vive entre communautés hutu congolaise et nande dans le sud du territoire de Lubero.

Les violences dans le village de Mukeberwa ne sont pas les seules à avoir été meurtrières dans la région ces dernières semaines. Dans la nuit du 6 au 7 janvier, au moins 16 Nande ont été tués dans le village de Miriki par de présumés rebelles FDLR et les affrontements entre Hutu et Nande se sont multipliés depuis, selon l'administrateur Bokele Joy.

Mercredi, deux personnes ont été tuées, six autres blessées, et plusieurs cases brûlées dans un village de la région, et vendredi, plusieurs dizaines de cases d'un autre village ont été brûlées par des FDLR.

L'ONU s'alarme

Depuis plusieurs mois, les chefs nande de la région de Miriki s'opposent au retour de déplacés hutu congolais, qu'ils accusent de complicités avec les FDLR. Selon la Mission de l'ONU en RDC (Monusco) et les autorités locales, l'attaque de Miriki a exacerbé les tensions intercommunautaires dans la zone.

Les Nations unies se sont "alarmées" lundi de cette "escalade des violences intercommunautaires dans les territoires de Lubero et Walikale" qui ont fait "au moins 21 morts, 40 blessés et 70 maisons incendiées au cours du week-end passé", selon un communiqué du Haut Commissariat aux droits de l'Homme (HCHR) publié à Genève. Le texte ajoute:

Nous avons aussi reçu des rapports sur des déplacements massifs de civils, des pillages, des enlèvements et au moins trois viols au cours des derniers jours

Plusieurs témoins ou chefs locaux ont confirmé des déplacements de population importants "par craintes de représailles". Aucun chiffre précis sur l'ampleur de ces déplacements n'a pu être obtenu auprès des autorités ou du Bureau de coordination des affaires humanitaires de l'ONU (Ocha).

Les tensions entre Hutu et Nande "semblent avoir atteint un niveau alarmant (...) et pourraient engendrer des violences à grande échelle et davantage de déplacements", estime le HCHR pour qui le soutien de groupes armés à chacune des deux communautés "rend la situation potentiellement encore plus explosive".

L'administrateur Bokele Joy a déclaré à l'AFP:

Nous demandons aux dirigeants des deux communautés de calmer les choses et nous demandons à l'armée et à la police de prendre des mesures pour assurer la sécurité de la population.

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

Two White Students in South Africa Suspended for Wearing Blackface They Claim Was 'Purpleface'
jezebel.com/08/02/2016

Two white students at South Africa's Stellenbosch University have been suspended for appearing in what looks like blackface in a photo. Now, one of them claims the face paint was actually a dark purple hue.

Poekie Briedenhann says she and another student were dressed like space aliens and that the face paint they're wearing was purple, the Associated Press reports.

Easy mistake: Black is pretty close to purple. Avoiding a racist mix-up by skipping dark paint altogether would've been another cool option.

Here are unconfirmed photos of the pair that show them wearing foil antennas on their heads as part of their costumes.

This purported blackface follows a previous incident at the university in 2014, when two students wore blackface to dress like Serena and Venus Williams.

The AP reports:

The episode at Stellenbosch University comes amid heightened debate on social media about racism in South Africa, which became a multi-racial democracy after the end of white minority rule in 1994.

University spokesman Martin Viljoen said Monday that the university is aware of "new evidence" — a reference to the account about alien costumes — and that an investigation is ongoing.

Following the students' suspension, the university held workshops and released a statement that reads in part: "Stellenbosch University condemns all forms of racism and discrimination and acknowledges the severe negative impact of the pain and trauma experienced by students, staff and members of the public."

Small bump expected in South African aliya
02/09/2016 /jpost.com

There are around 50,000 Jews in South Africa with annual aliya figures fluctuating around the 200 mark for the past several years.

South African immigration is projected to increase in 2016, according to representatives of Telfed – The South African Zionist Federation in Israel.

Testifying before the Knesset's Immigration, Absorption and Diaspora committee on Monday, representatives of the group cited Jewish Agency projections that only around half of South African Jewish emigrés make aliya but that this number is expected to rise due to inflation and economic problems.

There are around 50,000 Jews in South Africa with annual aliya figures fluctuating around the 200 mark for the past several years.

However, Telfed officials predicted, this number could rise to 300 in 2016.

A Jewish Agency projection forwarded to The Jerusalem Post by Telfed officials showed that the aliya organization believes that around 250 will make the move in the coming year.

“Telfed has initiated a special student program to encourage aliya from South Africa,” said the group’s CEO Dorron Kline.

“In the recent past, Telfed has become increasingly aware that there are parents within the South African Jewish community who would like to have their children undertake their tertiary studies out of South Africa, particularly in Israel,” he said. “They feel that a structured framework should be made available in Israel to facilitate this, thus providing a sense of security for the students and parents, whilst at the same time providing an opportunity to study at internationally recognized universities in Israel – in this case mainly the IDC [Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya].”

The goal, he said, was to “provide a comprehensive framework for South African tourists and olim [immigrant] students to study in English.

“Israel is recognized as a financially stable country with good opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship. This is another factor which attracts olim from South Africa.”

Israel and South Africa have been at loggerheads many times in recent years, with officials of the ruling African National Congress party in the past year threatening to punish student members who visited Israel.

The Jewish community and the ANC have squared off before, with Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein in 2014 accusing the party of having “betrayed the South African dream of peaceful and dignified dialogue.”

He was responding to a party denunciation of Israel that likened the IDF’s incursion into the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge to the Nazi war against the Jews.

At the time, ANC deputy secretary-general Jessie Duarte condemned Israel’s strikes on Hamas targets as “barbaric attacks on the defenseless Palestinian people of Gaza,” adding that Israel had turned the “occupied territories of Palestine into permanent death camps,” calling for all South Africans to boycott Israel.

Several days later the party’s social media manager came under fire for praising Adolf Hitler.

A picture of the Nazi dictator on Rene Smit’s Facebook wall was accompanied by a caption reading, “Yes man, you were right... I could have killed all the Jews, but I left some of them to let you know why I was killing them. Share this picture to tell the truth a whole world.”

Nkandla: South Africa's top court to rule on Zuma residence

bbc.com/09/02/2016

South Africa's top court is to discuss whether President Jacob Zuma should pay back about \$23m (£15m) of state funds used to renovate his rural home.

A 2014 report by an independent watchdog said Mr Zuma had "benefited unduly" from the upgrades.

He has offered to pay some of it back but the case, brought by opposition parties, is going ahead regardless.

Large protests are expected, led by former Zuma ally turned fierce opponent Julius Malema.

The demonstration was against "corruption and cronyism" a spokesman for his Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) said.

But Mr Zuma's ANC party called the planned march to the court a "political exercise".

Political row

The constitutional court in Johannesburg will also rule on whether the government flouted the law by ignoring recommendations of the watchdog, known as the Public Protector.

Mr Zuma has been cleared of wrongdoing in a police report over the Nkandla residence. The government has said the upgrades were made to boost security.

Some of the money was spent on building an amphitheatre, swimming pool, and cattle enclosure.

The saga has become a major political scandal, at one point sparking scuffles inside parliament.

It comes at a difficult time for Mr Zuma, who has also been under fire over his sacking of respected Finance Minister Nkhosho Nene late last year.

Analysis: Milton Nkosi, BBC News, Johannesburg

Even though President Jacob Zuma has now offered to repay the money, the opposition Economic Freedom Fighters and Democratic Alliance insisted on pressing ahead with the case.

It is not that they do not want the president to pay; they do.

But they want to set a precedent by reinforcing the powers of the Public Protector, the corruption watchdog office set up under the country's constitution.

Mr Zuma had justified his reluctance to repay the state by reducing Thuli Madonsela's findings to mere recommendations and said they were not equal to orders given by a court of law.

The EFF smells blood - it hopes the Constitutional Court will conclude that the president contravened the constitution and therefore violated his oath of office.

The opposition would then no doubt demand the president's impeachment.

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

Kenya: ICC to Make Key Ruling in Ruto Case Friday

9 February 2016/The Nation (Nairobi)

Deputy President William Ruto will know this Friday if the International Criminal Court will admit recanted evidence in the case against him.

Last evening, the Appeals Chamber of the Court said it would deliver its ruling on Friday at 6.30pm Kenyan time.

Kenya has been mobilising the international community -- including the Assembly of State Parties -- to stop the use of recanted evidence in the Ruto case, saying the amendment to Rule 68 of the Rome Statute was made after the case had started. Kenya has been pushing to block the amendment from being used retroactively.

After hearing submissions, the Appeals Chamber judges, Presiding Judge Piotr Hofmaski and judges Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, Christine Van den Wyngaert, Howard Morrison and Péter Kovács will be make the ruling that has three potential outcomes for the case against Mr Ruto.

WEAKEN CASE

The court could weaken the case made by Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda if it rules that Rule 68 cannot be applied retroactively.

If it rules otherwise, then it will weaken Mr Ruto's defence. It is also possible that the ruling will have no impact on the case, depending on what the judges decide.

Mr Ruto and his co-accused, former radio presenter Joshua arap Sang had appealed a ruling by Trial Chamber V(A) which allowed the prosecutor to have renounced testimony re-admitted.

Mr Ruto and Sang are facing charges of crimes against humanity in connection with the 2007-2008 post-election violence in which 1,113 people were killed and more than 600,000 displaced.

A verdict in favour of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda will offer her new standing to strengthen her case, now that all her witnesses have testified. If judges agree with the defence team, however, it would boost the defence argument that the case was built on quicksand.

The judges may side with the prosecutor but allow her witnesses to be challenged by the defence team, which means that they could rebut Ms Bensouda's earlier submissions in the trial.

Ms Bensouda has in the past argued some of the witnesses pulled out or recanted their testimonies possibly because they were influenced to do so.

Earlier in the trial, Ms Bensouda had asked Trial Chamber V(A) to allow evidence submitted to the court and recanted to be used. She based her argument on Rule 68, which was amended during the 12th Assembly of State Parties (ASP) meeting at The Hague in 2013. The court agreed with her.

The ASP, composed of member states of the ICC, acts like a parliament for the court. It makes rules and regulations to guide the judges.

HOSTILE WITNESSES

Ms Bensouda had convinced the judges Chile Eboe-Osuji, Olga Herrera Carbuccion and Robert Fremr that five of the witnesses in the case were influenced -- through bribes or intimidation -- to recant their statements. She had also argued that a sixth witness had disappeared.

However, Mr Ruto's lawyer raised 11 issues about admitting testimony from witnesses considered hostile.

"The admission of hearsay evidence, which is central to the OTP's (office of the prosecutor) case, will significantly affect the fair conduct of proceedings because it will not only affect the defence's ability to properly test the OTP's case but to adequately make its case," argued his legal team led by Mr Karim Khan.

After the judges ruled to allow the use of recanted evidence, the Kenyan Government immediately wrote a protest letter to the presidency of the ICC.

In the letter to the court's president, Ms Silvia Alejandra Fernández de Gurmendi and the president of the Assembly of State Parties, Mr Sidiki Kaba, Kenya's ambassador to the UN, Mr Macharia Kamau, described the judges' decision as "regrettable and improper".

"We wonder why the court would take this course of action when it is surely aware of the understanding and decisions of the assembly.

"The legal and moral hazard of such action(s) ought to be self-evident as it undermines the legislative oversight of the assembly," he wrote on August 25.

Kenya complained that although it had supported the amendments in 2013, it had been promised by the assembly that the rule would not apply in the Kenyan cases already before the court.

"Kenya was duly assured, through consensus reached by states parties, that the proposed amendments to Rule 68 shall not be applied retroactively.

"Moreover, specifically and crucially, Kenya was expressly informed that there would be no attempt to apply the amended rule 68 in the trials under way before the court and more particularly so, in the trials relating to the situation in the Republic of Kenya," argued Mr Kamau.

Kenya had agreed to the amendment as a give-and-take so that the assembly could also amend rules that would ensure cases go on even if the Kenyan suspects were not present in courts.

At the time, President Uhuru Kenyatta was also facing similar charges and it was feared there would be a vacuum if both he and Mr Ruto were required to appear in court.

The prosecutor later dropped Mr Kenyatta's case.

Is management storm brewing at Kenya Ports?

Feb. 09, 2016/the-star.co.ke

Reports abound that a major change in management at the Kenya Ports Authority is about to take place.

By yesterday evening, KPA workers were awaiting an announcement concerning their managing director Gichiri Ndua.

Earlier reports indicated that Gichiri was set to retire in June.

Last night, KPA chairman Marsden Madoka did not deny or confirm the reports.

“I don’t know who is spreading this but all I can tell you for now is I have no comment,” he said.

But by yesterday evening, no one at the management level would confirm or deny the reports.

The reports also indicated that Catherine Mturi could replace Ndua.

A senior official who sought anonymity said: “The same information you (media) have is what we have.”

“No one has confirmed the same. By the time we left office, there was no official statement.”

Gichiri has been at the KPA helm for more than five years.

It was reported senior officers in the legal and operations departments could be fired.

Reasons for the sackings were not given.

A press conference scheduled for 3pm by the Transport ministry did not take place.

A source at the ministry told the Star that all the information will be given during a press conference set to take place today.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

U.S. military seeks to prepare Africa for shifting terror threat
Mon Feb 8, 2016/reuters.com

African forces began a U.S.-led counter-terrorism training program in Senegal on Monday amid what a U.S. commander said were rising signs of collaboration between Islamist militant groups across north Africa and the Sahel.

The annual "Flintlock" exercises started only weeks after an attack in Burkina Faso's capital Ouagadougou left 30 people dead. The assault on a hotel used by foreigners raised concerns that militants were expanding from a stronghold in north Mali toward stable, Western allies like Senegal.

Al Qaeda (AQIM) fighters claimed responsibility for the attack, one of increasingly bold regional strikes in the Sahel, a poor, arid zone between the Sahara Desert and Sudanian Savanna that is home to a number of roving militant groups.

U.S. Commander for Special Operations Command Africa Brigadier General Donald Bolduc told reporters on Monday that increased collaboration between militant groups meant they have been able to strengthen and strike harder in the region.

"We have watched that collaboration manifest itself with ISIS becoming more effective in north Africa, Boko Haram becoming more deadly in the Lake Chad Basin (and) AQIM adopting asymmetrical attacks ... against urban infrastructure," he said. ISIS, or ISIL, is used for the militant group Islamic State.

Bolduc said that cooperation had increased as Islamic State exploited a power vacuum in Libya to expand its self-declared caliphate, which takes up large areas in Syria and Iraq.

"We know in Libya that they (AQIM and ISIS) are working more closely together. It's more than just influence, they (AQIM) are really taking direction from them," he said.

Not all security experts agree that there are emerging alliances between Islamist militant groups. Some argue that competition between groups has led to more attacks.

This year's program, which opened on a dusty airstrip in Senegal's central city of Thies, involves around 1,700 mostly African special operation forces. Western partners including France and Germany are among more than 30 countries participating.

Nathan Broshear, spokesman for U.S. Special Operations Command Africa, said the exercises were called Flintlock, after a type of firearm, to symbolize readiness for any threat.

Bolduc stressed the importance of regional cooperation and intelligence-sharing and said the United States would help Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon set up a joint intelligence center by the middle of next year.

The United States already supports a regional task force against the Nigeria-based group Boko Haram.

The Ouagadougou attack and a hotel attack in Mali's capital in November led to a greater emphasis on preparing for urban attacks this year through training to increase cooperation between military forces and police.

At the request of African partners, the exercises will also include anti-Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) training.

The program, an annual event since 2005, will run from February 8 through 29. Some exercises will also be held in Mauritania.

Obama signs Africa electricity initiative into law

hewn.co.za/2016/02/09

The president signed into law the Electrify Africa Act that will provide electricity for 50m Africans.

PRETORIA - President Barack Obama has signed into law a measure aimed at expanding electricity to millions of households in sub-Saharan Africa.

The initiative, announced during his 2013 visit to South Africa, will help accelerate growth on the continent.

The Electrify Africa Act has unanimously passed the US House of Representatives and the Senate.

The initiative, linked to the private sector, will improve access to electricity. At least 50 million Africans will have access to electricity for the first time.

A system of loan guarantees rather than US federal funds will be used to add 20,000 megawatts of electricity to the continent's grid by 2020.

The power will stimulate African economic growth and improve access to education and public health.

With electricity, small businesses will be able to stay open till after dark, cooking will be safer and healthier and school children won't have to study by dangerous and inefficient lighting.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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