



(Ugandans went to the polls on Thursday to choose presidential and parliamentary candidates in an election riddled with irregularities even before voting began.)

BURUNDI :

**Le Burundi et la RDC demandent à l'ONU de rappeler le Rwanda à l'ordre**  
Par RFI/le 19-02-2016

Le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU doit se réunir en urgence et rappeler à l'ordre le Rwanda. C'est ce que demandent les ambassadeurs du Burundi et de la RDC à l'ONU dans deux lettres qu'ils ont chacun envoyées au président du Conseil de sécurité. Les deux pays accusent Kigali de déstabiliser le Burundi et dénoncent un risque pour la région.

Le Burundi s'appuie sur le récent rapport des experts de l'ONU pour pousser le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU à prendre position. Dans ce rapport, des combattants burundais affirment avoir été recrutés dans un camp de réfugiés, puis entraînés militairement pendant deux mois par des militaires rwandais.

« Nous aimerions que cette fois-ci, les Nations unies prennent acte que l'agression vient du Rwanda et que les deux capitales, Bujumbura et Kigali, doivent se parler pour mettre fin à cette agression », explique Gaston Sindimwo, premier vice-président de la République du Burundi.

L'ambassadeur burundais Albert Shingiro a réclamé une réunion d'urgence du Conseil afin de « prendre des mesures appropriées » pour s'assurer que Kigali ne cherche pas à déstabiliser le Burundi. Dans son courrier, Bujumbura affirme que le Rwanda viole plusieurs textes

internationaux, en particulier l'accord cadre d'Addis-Abeba signé en 2013, dans lequel les pays de la région s'engagent à ne pas s'ingérer dans les affaires des Etats voisins.

La République démocratique du Congo s'associe à cette démarche du Burundi. Dans une lettre au Conseil, l'ambassadeur de RDC Ignace Gata Mavita demande « d'inviter le Rwanda à respecter (ses) engagements internationaux et à arrêter sans délai ces recrutements et toutes les opérations qui s'en suivent ». C'est en RDC que les combattants burundais cités dans le rapport de l'ONU ont été interrogés. Ils étaient munis de fausses cartes d'électeurs. Pour Kinshasa, il y a un risque de déstabilisation régionale.

### **Le pouvoir sur les pas des génocidaires rwandais au Burundi**

lalibre.be/Marie-France Cros/le vendredi 19 février 2016

Ragaillardi par l'inaction internationale face à la grave crise créée au Burundi par l'obstination du président Nkurunziza à se maintenir personnellement au pouvoir, en contravention avec l'Accord de paix d'Arusha (qui avait mis fin à la guerre civile), le régime de Bujumbura accentue sa politique de confrontation.

Ainsi, mercredi soir, le porte-parole du parti présidentiel CNDD-FDD a repris et développé - en français cette fois - à la télévision nationale, un discours qu'il avait déjà prononcé en kirundi, le 2 février. Ces textes reprennent la thèse des génocidaires rwandais selon laquelle, en 1994, au Rwanda, les Tutsis ont été exterminés par des Tutsis. Mercredi soir, le CNDD-FDD a accusé le président rwandais Paul Kagame - un Tutsi qui dirigea la guérilla qui a mis fin au génocide de 1994 - d'avoir voulu commettre "un génocide au Burundi" comme il avait fait "chez lui en 1994" . Ce génocide n'a pas réussi, "au grand dam des commerçants du génocide, dont Pierre Buyoya (ex-Président du Burundi, tutsi) et (le député européen et ancien ministre belge des Affaires étrangères) Louis Michel en tête " .

Et le CNDD-FDD de fustiger "les manipulations mensongères et apocalyptiques selon lesquelles il existe des fosses communes fraîchement remuées" à Bujumbura, sur lesquelles l'Onu a demandé une enquête.

Redistribuer les maisons "aux patriotes" ?

Le régime Nkurunziza s'efforce de faire passer la crise multiforme qu'il a créée au Burundi pour une "agression" extérieure, en l'occurrence par Kigali. Pour ce faire, il tire dangereusement sur la corde ethnique dans une tentative désespérée de regrouper autour de lui la population hutue, alors que la violation de l'Accord de paix d'Arusha l'isole de plus en plus, à l'intérieur comme à l'extérieur.

Dans la même ligne, le maire de Bujumbura, Freddy Mbonimpa, a annoncé, lundi dernier, que les maisons inoccupées de la capitale seraient occupées par les forces de l'ordre. Officiellement, il s'agit d'empêcher que "des malfaiteurs" s'y cachent. Mais nombre de Burundais y voient une spoliation des opposants présumés au troisième mandat de M. Nkurunziza puisque les 240 000 Burundais qui ont fui l'insécurité à l'étranger étaient menacés par les forces de l'ordre ou la milice du parti ou par l'atmosphère de violence prévalant autour d'eux.

Le président du parti d'opposition Frodebu, Léonce Ngendakumana, a, quant à lui, rappelé à la Radio publique africaine que lors d'un discours qui avait scandalisé la communauté internationale, en novembre dernier, le président du Sénat avait "promis" que " des parcelles lésées allaient être redistribuées aux vrais patriotes" . Nous estimons que l'implantation de soi-disant positions (des

forces de l'ordre dans les maisons inoccupées) "n'est en fait que la concrétisation de cette promesse" .

Certains se demandent si cette occupation annoncée n'a pas pour but, également, d'essayer de tarir le flot de fuyards - qui fait quand même mauvais effet auprès des pays voisins. S'ils sont sûrs de perdre leur maison en partant, une partie des gens menacés devraient préférer rester au pays.

RWANDA :

### Tanzania's FM wraps up visit to Rwanda

By News Ghana /Feb 19, 2016

Tanzania's Minister of Foreign Affairs Augustine Philip Mahiga Thursday concluded a two-day visit in Rwanda aimed at further deepening bilateral ties between the two countries.

Mahiga met President Kagame, and his counterpart Louise Mushikiwabo together with other Rwandan officials in a bilateral meeting.

Both ministers expressed enthusiasm at the prospect of developing the relationship for the benefit of both the people of Rwanda and the people of Tanzania, according to statement issued by Rwanda's foreign ministry after the meeting.

The two ministers said they were eager to continue working together and to join force, collective skills and knowledge and some of the existing potential in the region; in the interest of the well-being, development and the cohesion of the people of this region, it said.

Both sides also discussed matters concerning peace and security in the region.

Earlier on Wednesday, Mahiga and his delegation paid tribute to the victims of the 1994 genocide against Tutsi, a minority of the population of Rwanda.

They laid a wreath and observed a minute of silence to pay respects to the more than 250,000 victims of the genocide buried at the Kigali Genocide Memorial.

After visiting the site, Mahiga described the history of the genocide as a shocking experience.

"This documentary of the history of the genocide is indeed a shocking experience; what a human being can do to another human being. I find it difficult to comprehend this. But this museum has to be there as a lesson, as a teacher, as a memorial," he said.

Mahiga commended the efforts made by the Rwandan people and the Kigali government to bring justice, reconciliation and preparing the young generation to come to terms with what happened, despite the catastrophic experience the country went through.

He also called upon the rest of the world to find systems that will bring culture of coexistence and understanding among people.

"But for the rest of Africa and the rest of the world this should be a living memory, a living teacher that we have to respect human rights, we have to express solidarity with the Rwandan people and

use this experience to create systems that will bring understanding, coexistence, and prosperity,” he added. Enditem

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

### As Uganda Votes, Polling Stations Open Hours Late and a Candidate Is Arrested

By JOSH KRON/nytimes.com/FEB. 18, 2016

KAMPALA, Uganda — Ugandans went to the polls on Thursday to choose presidential and parliamentary candidates in an election riddled with irregularities even before voting began.

Polling stations in some parts of the capital, Kampala, did not open until after noon — nearly six hours late, and three hours before their scheduled closing time. Some did not open at all. At one polling station, voters waited seven hours for ballots to arrive, and when they did, they were for parliamentary candidates only.

And the leading opposition candidate for president, Kizza Besigye, was arrested after trying to get into a police command center in the Naguru neighborhood of Kampala, the police said. Mr. Besigye’s party, the Forum for Democratic Change, alleged that the command center was a “vote-rigging center.”

“He was with people knocking on gates and banging cars,” said an assistant police commissioner, Polly Namaye. Mr. Besigye was later released, his lawyer said.

The long delays and irregularities threatened to exacerbate tensions that had risen days before the election. Two people were killed Monday in riots, and Mr. Besigye was twice arrested while trying to hold rallies.

Thursday’s vote in Uganda had been billed as the “D-Day” of presidential elections, the fifth under President Yoweri Museveni, 71, who has led Uganda for 30 years, longer than 75 percent of Ugandans have been alive. Ugandan law prohibits presidential candidates older than 75, so unless the law is changed, this is the last year Mr. Museveni can run.

Mr. Museveni is perceived by many Ugandans to be trying to groom his son — Brig. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, 41, the head of Uganda’s special forces — to succeed him, and the political jockeying in response created the strongest field of opposition candidates yet. Amama Mbabazi, Mr. Museveni’s former second in command, defected last year after a reported falling out and joined Mr. Besigye in challenging the president on Thursday.

Uganda’s police recruited more than 100,000 volunteer Crime Preventers, who were given paramilitary training to help control crowds, arrest suspects, guard ballot boxes and gather intelligence. Many openly say they are working for the incumbent.

Most Ugandans assume that Mr. Museveni will be declared the winner: He has ample genuine

support, bolstered by Uganda's history of vote manipulation.

"Fair in the countrysides; logistical nightmares in Kampala," said Chris Kaheru, the director of the Citizen's Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda, a watchdog group. The thrust of Mr. Museveni's opposition comes from urban and elite voters, and "restrictions on social media networks slowed down the flow of info," Mr. Kaheru said. In Kampala's Kibuli neighborhood, a hotbed of opposition support, ballots did not arrive until nearly 1 p.m. Voting was extended until 7 p.m., but even by then, many had still not been able to vote.

"I arrived early!" said Musa Muburak, 24, a shop manager and supporter of Mr. Besigye. "When I came back, they said it was too late!"

In the nearby neighborhood of Ggaba, hundreds of people waited seven hours for one polling place to open before voting papers arrived, The Associated Press reported. When the voters found out the ballots were only those for choosing members of Parliament, not the president, they overpowered the police, grabbed the ballot boxes and threw them all over a field. The police fired tear gas, and polling officers fled before votes were cast.

Widespread outages of social media services, including WhatsApp and Twitter, were also reported Thursday.

Uganda's electoral commission announced Thursday night that more than a dozen polling stations in Kampala would reopen on Friday. Results are not expected until Saturday.

Mr. Museveni's National Resistance Movement party rejected notions that delays in voting had favored him. A party spokesman, Mike Sebalu, said, "Delays don't discriminate."

"We should be winning," he said. "We didn't have any worries about anyone, because we didn't see ourselves as competing with them."

Nevertheless, early returns from neighborhoods around Kampala indicated solid victories for Mr. Besigye. At the polling site in Kibuli, Mr. Besigye had 216 votes to Mr. Museveni's 66.

But Kampala is not representative of Uganda over all, and most here say Mr. Museveni will win another five-year term.

SOUTH AFRICA :

**Frail 92-year old widow deported to South Africa**

19 Feb 2016/telegraph.co.uk

Myrtle Cothill ordered to return to native South Africa where she has no family rather than be cared by her daughter in Dorset

A frail 92-year-old widow has been ordered to pack her bags and leave the UK where she is cared for by her only child - despite having no close family in her native South Africa.

Myrtle Cothill, who has heart problems, is losing her eyesight and cannot walk unaided, is looked after by her only daughter, Mary Wills, in Poole, Dorset.

But her application to stay in Britain has been turned down and she has been booked on to a flight back to South Africa next Tuesday.

More than 50,000 people have signed a petition calling for the pensioner to be allowed to stay in the UK, and devastated Mrs Wills said she fears the move would kill her mother.

In a statement on the change.org petition, she wrote: "My mother just cannot live on her own, and emotionally, to her as well as for myself, it would really tear strips out of our heart and probably would kill my mother, and maybe myself as well."

Former Conservative shadow home secretary Ann Widdecombe has raised the case with ministers and called for the pensioner to be allowed to stay in Britain.

She told the Press Association: "It is brutal beyond belief and I am deeply ashamed that a Conservative Government is doing this.

"She is very frail - I have seen her, I've met her, I can testify personally that she is extremely frail.

"And when I think that people who climb in on the backs of lorries and they are allowed to stay, but this old lady in her 90s, wholly dependent on her daughter, is being forced back to South Africa, it just beggars belief.

"I want to know if this is David Cameron's idea of British values."

A Home Office spokesman said: "All applications are considered on their individual merits and in line with the immigration rules.

"The decision made on this case has been upheld by two separate, independent tribunals which considered the full range of evidence presented."

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

**Kenya Dismisses Olympic Ban Threat Over Drugs After Missing Deadline**

By Agence France-Presse/ Friday, 19 February, 2016

Kenya's Athletics chief has shrugged off Sebastian Coe's warning that the country could be banned from the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Athletics Kenya chiefs shrugged off warnings Thursday teams could be banned from the Rio Olympics if the federation is found to be non-compliant with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). (Sebastian Coe Ready to Ban Kenyan Athletes From 2016 Rio Olympics)

IAAF president Sebastian Coe warned on Thursday that he would ban Kenya's athletics team from

Rio if action was not taken, after Kenya missed a February 14 deadline. (No Quick Fix to Doping Scandal: Sebastian Coe)

Athletics Kenya acting president Jackson Tuwei said the country was on track after the formation of the Anti-Doping Association of Kenya (ADAK), and had been given a two-month extension to show it was doing its job.

"Athletics Kenya is working closely with ADAK, and since we have been given another two months we will work day and night to conform with the rules," Tuwei said.

"It does not worry me now that we may face an Olympic ban, since ADAK is working out a policy bill which will be taken to parliament to be made into law. I am confident we will succeed."

Kenya's situation was worsened earlier this week when Athletics Kenya chief executive Isaac Mwangi stepped aside to allow a probe into allegations he sought bribes from two suspended athletes, claims he denies.

Coe confirmed he will severely punish any country guilty of attempting to cover up doping.

Many in Kenya fear doping is rife among their top-class runners, who have been the source of enormous national pride. More than 40 Kenyan athletes have been suspended for doping in the past two years.

Tuwei said the IAAF vice-president Hamad Kalkaba Malboun is due to visit Kenya next week to inspect the preparations for the 2017 World Under-18 athletics championships.

The event, which will bring some 2,000 athletes and officials from 160 countries, will be held at the Kasarani stadium from July 11-16, 2017.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

**Key institutes keep keen watch on Zika for Africa**

19 Feb 2016/mg.co.za

The Ebola outbreak on the continent showed how countries with poor health systems are unfit to fight epidemics.

If the outbreak in Brazil is not significantly contained by August when the country is set to host the Olympic Games, "there will be legitimate concern that Zika may be spread globally including to mainland Africa", warns Adamson Muula, professor of epidemiology and public health at the University of Malawi. The outbreak was first reported in Brazil in May 2015.

Africa is largely ill-prepared for large outbreak of the Zika virus, Muula says, because the continent's laboratories have limited capacity and there would not be enough experts or funds to

deal with it.

“There are, however, beacons of hope – such as the National Institute for Communicable Diseases in South Africa, the Uganda Virus Research Institute, and the Centre of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases in Nigeria that can lead the way,” he says.

Muula believes an overwhelming majority of the continent lacks the infrastructural and human capacity to diagnose the Zika virus disease.

Is the Zika virus a threat to Africa? Listen here.

#### Lessons from Ebola

He says Africa should learn from the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa in the sense that unstable health systems are less able to contain infectious disease epidemics.

This month the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the Zika virus outbreak in 30 countries a public health emergency of international concern after more than 4 000 babies in Brazil were born with microcephaly in a period of four months.

Microcephaly is a “rare neurological condition in which an infant’s head is significantly smaller” than those of children of the same age. The condition is usually the result of abnormal brain development in the womb, according to the United States-based research organisation, Mayo Clinic.

Although microcephaly can be caused by a number of genetic and environmental factors, there is a “strong association in time and place, between infection with the Zika virus and a rise in detected cases of congenital malformations and neurological complications,” the WHO says.

Experts around the world have welcomed the WHO declaration, saying it will help to streamline research into the Zika outbreak and its impact.

“The declaration is important on multiple fronts,” Muula tells Bhekisisa. “Firstly, it confirms that international health experts are taking the public health threat seriously. Secondly, in response to the declaration, there is often the enhanced provision or allocation of different resources to deal with the threat.”

#### Vaccine development

Deputy director of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases in South Africa, Lucille Blumberg, says the action taken by the WHO “makes the case for improved surveillance, monitoring for microcephaly and other neurological complications, as well as research efforts around vaccines”.

There is currently no vaccine or treatment for Zika virus disease, but Blumberg says that the illness caused by Zika infection is “overwhelmingly mild”.

Symptoms include fever, headache, muscle pain, some inflammation of the eyes and a rash.

“Only one in four infected people will present with any symptoms. It’s a mild illness that lasts about seven days and the majority of people who are infected will get better without treatment,” she says.

Zika virus disease is not fatal, but there have been three reported cases of Guillain-Barre syndrome – a rare neurological condition causing ascending paralyses – where the patients died, according to Blumberg.



The illness is mainly transmitted through mosquito bites. “You won’t get Zika by standing next to somebody, if they cough on you, or by sharing eating utensils,” says Blumberg. “The big concern is the association with the development of microcephaly when women are infected while pregnant.”

#### Travel advice

A travel advisory has been issued by the Centres for Disease Control in the United States, warning pregnant women to avoid travel to any of the areas currently affected the outbreak. But the WHO says there should be “no restrictions on travel or trade with countries” where Zika transmission has been reported.

“We’re considering monitoring ports, where many vessels, ships and aeroplanes bring in goods, just to ensure that there are no imported mosquitoes. But we have not seen Zika in Southern Africa; we’ve certainly not seen it in South Africa,” says Blumberg.

“We do have *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes [the mosquitoes that transmit the Zika virus] but they appear to be a different subspecies that prefer not to feed on people. We are going to do some further studies and monitor our local *Aedes* populations.”

Cape Verde off the west coast of Africa is one of nearly 30 countries that have reported an outbreak. But Muula warns that the chances of the outbreak spreading to “mainland Africa” are uncertain.

While many countries on the continent, like South Africa, do have the mosquito species that transmit Zika, an offset in local transmissions “would require that an already infected mosquito come to Africa.

This can be done through international travel by aeroplanes,” he says. “Sexual transmission of Zika has already been reported in the United States. That would require an individual who is infected elsewhere to come to Africa and then have sex with a susceptible individual.”

#### Pregnant women most at risk

Blumberg says the biggest challenge when it comes to Zika, is “dealing with microcephaly and managing to provide support for moms who have babies with severe neurological problems. Developing countries may not have those resources.”

Investing more resources into controlling mosquito populations is key to reducing the risks associated with mosquito-borne infections.

According to Blumberg, *Aedes* mosquitoes breed in little pots of water used to store water in homes in areas that water supplies are not assured.

“Zika is overwhelmingly a mild illness in travellers. Infectious diseases like malaria should not be forgotten,” warns Blumberg. “The Zika virus is transmitted by a day-time biting mosquito, malaria is transmitted by a night-time biting mosquito. Insect repellents are effective for both.”

The ins and outs of the virus and microcephaly

#### Zika virus

The Zika virus was first identified in a sentinel rhesus macaque, a monkey found in the Zika forest in Uganda, in 1947.

This is where the virus gets its name from, according to Lucille Blumberg, deputy director of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases in South Africa.

In 1952 Zika was detected in humans in Uganda and Tanzania, the World Health Organisation (WHO) says. Previous outbreaks of the virus have taken place in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific.

According to the WHO, Zika virus disease outbreaks were first reported on the Pacific island of Yap in 2007 and in the South Pacific islands of French Polynesia in 2013.

In 2015 outbreaks were reported in Brazil and Colombia and Cape Verde islands off the coast of Senegal.

To date, says the Pan American Health Organisation, cases of Zika virus disease have been reported in 26 countries in the Americas.

#### Transmission

The virus is transmitted to people through the bite of an infected female *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito. “The mosquito needs a blood meal to mature her eggs, and if she’s infected with the Zika virus by feeding on someone who was infected then she can transmit it,” explains Blumberg.

This is the same mosquito that transmits dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever. The symptoms of these diseases are similar those caused by Zika infection.

These include fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, and a rash, loss of appetite and fatigue, according to the WHO.

Malaria is transmitted by a different mosquito, the anopheles mosquito.

#### Microcephaly

Microcephaly is a neurological disorder that is characterised by a baby having an abnormally small head.

The Mayo Clinic, a United States-based research organisation, says that the condition is usually caused by abnormal development of the baby’s brain during pregnancy or “not growing as it should after birth”.

According to the organisation, microcephaly is a permanent disability – the only available treatment is therapeutic support that might help enhance a child’s development.

Although microcephaly has been associated with the outbreak of the Zika virus, the Mayo Clinic states that there are many other causes of the condition. These include:

- Craniosynostosis – the premature fusing of the joints (sutures) between the bony plates that form an infant’s skull keeps the brain from growing;

- Chromosomal abnormalities – Down syndrome and other conditions may result in microcephaly;

- Decreased oxygen to the fetal brain (cerebral anoxia) – certain complications of pregnancy or delivery can impair oxygen delivery to the fetal brain;

- Infections of the fetus during pregnancy – these include toxoplasmosis, cytomegalovirus, German measles (rubella) and chickenpox (varicella);

- Exposure to drugs, alcohol or certain toxic chemicals in the womb – any of these put one’s baby at risk of brain abnormalities;

- Severe malnutrition – not getting adequate nutrition during pregnancy can affect your baby’s development; and

Uncontrolled phenylketonuria, also known as PKU, in the mother. PKU is a birth defect that hampers the body's ability to break down the amino acid phenylalanine.

### Ghana : plus de 60 morts dans un accident entre un bus et un camion

FRANCE 24/18/02/2016

Au moins 60 personnes ont péri, jeudi, lors de la collision entre un bus et un camion sur une autoroute dans le nord du Ghana, ont annoncé les forces de l'ordre. Le bilan fait également état de "25 blessés dans un état critique".

La collision entre un bus et un camion a fait au moins 60 morts sur la route entre Accra et Tamale, dans le nord du Ghana, a déclaré, jeudi 18 février, la police ghanéenne.

L'accident, qui s'est produit mercredi soir, a également fait 25 blessés qui ont été transportés à l'hôpital, a précisé Christopher Tawiah, un porte-parole de la police régionale.

"Le bilan définitif est de 61 morts et 25 blessés dans un état critique", a déclaré Christopher Tawiah, révisant à la hausse son premier bilan de 53 morts. Les deux chauffeurs sont décédés, a-t-il ajouté.

Le président John Dramani Mahama a présenté sur Twitter ses condoléances aux familles des victimes. Les deux chauffeurs sont décédés, a ajouté Christopher Tawiah.

La police et les pompiers ont dû "utiliser une tronçonneuse pour découper des morceaux du bus broyé et en extraire les corps des personnes décédées et les survivants", a-t-il expliqué.

Les causes exactes de cet accident entre un bus appartenant à la compagnie nationale de transports et un camion transportant une cargaison de tomates ne sont pas connues mais la police a dit soupçonner les deux véhicules d'avoir été en excès de vitesse.

UN/AFRICA :

### 18 killed in clashes at U.N. compound in South Sudan

By Catherine E. Shoichet and Pierre Meilhan, CNN/February 19, 2016

(CNN)Clashes inside a United Nations compound in South Sudan killed at least 18 people, including two Doctors Without Borders staffers, the organization said Thursday.

The fighting erupted Wednesday evening and continued Thursday at a U.N. civilian protection site in the northeastern city of Malakal, officials said. Doctors Without Borders teams reported treating dozens of wounded.

Youths from the Shilluk and Dinka ethnic groups fought using small arms, machetes and other weapons, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan said in a statement condemning the violence.

U.N. police used tear gas to disperse the crowd, the mission said. Officials released photos showing smoke billowing in the sky above the compound.

The site is one of six U.N. bases housing nearly 200,000 people displaced by violence in the

country, according to the mission. More than 47,000 people have taken shelter at the Malakal site. The number of people living there more than doubled last year, Doctors Without Borders said.

Many of them came from areas where there had been no aid for months, the organization said, and most arrived without any possessions.

It's a place where people go seeking protection, said Marcus Bachmann, coordinator of Doctors Without Borders projects in South Sudan.

"This should be a sanctuary respected by all parties," he said.

U.N Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted that "any attack directed against civilians, U.N. premises and peacekeepers may constitute a war crime," his spokesman said in a statement.

"He warns all parties against stoking ethnic disputes and calls on them to refrain from any actions or statements that could further escalate the situation," the statement said.

The statement also called on South Sudan's leaders to implement a peace agreement to end fighting.

South Sudan, the world's newest country, has been embroiled in one of the world's most brutal -- and under-reported -- conflicts since December 2013.

Earlier this week South Sudan's President reinstated his vice president as part of a peace deal to end the country's two-year civil war.

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

**EU advances €4,5m for Africa's regional integration programmes**  
February 19, 2016 /newsday.co.zw

THE European Union (EU) yesterday signed a €4,485 million technical co-operation facility to support implementation of regional integration programmes for the Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and India Ocean (EA-SA-IO) region.

BY VICTORIA MTOMBA

The agreement was signed by the Head of the European Delegation to Zambia and special representative to the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) Ambassador Alessandro Mariani and Comesa secretary-general Sindiso Ngwenya.

The funds would be shared among five regional economic communities – Comesa (€1,525m), Southern African Development Community (€1,615m), East African Community (€1,525m), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (€1,435m) and the Indian Ocean Commission (€900 000).

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Harare, Ngwenya said: “It is not an understatement that without the support of the EU, the achievements made by Comesa in regional integration would have been less than optimal. Comesa already has a framework to ensure that we deliver time-bound results and demonstrate value for money for the facility.”

Mariani said the funds would provide support for the studies sector, surveys, stakeholder consultations, communication, monitoring activities in various development areas such as trade integration, maritime security, wildlife and others. The funds are part of an overall of €1,3 billion provided by the EU under the 11th European Development Fund Regional Indicative programme for the EA-SA-IO region signed in June 2015 for the period 2014 to 2020.

Of this amount, €600m would be used for blending and leveraging of funds to enable implementation of regional infrastructure projects, €205m for selected cross-regional actions and €450m for specific envelopes of the regional bodies.

CHINA/AFRICA :

**Confucius institutes improve China-Africa ties**

By News Ghana/Feb 19, 2016

A South African academic on Thursday said the Confucius Institutes help enhance China-Africa relations.

“The Confucius Institutes are meant to make people understand evolving China and for the Chinese to understand Africa,” said David Monyae, co-director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Johannesburg while addressing members of the diplomatic corps, government officials and academics in Pretoria.

He said the institutes are also meant to make people understand the philosophy of Confucius and compare it with ubuntu, an ethical concept of southern African origin, for similarities and differences.

The academic said the Confucius institutes also provide access to Chinese funding and achieve political and economic growth for African countries.

He stated that the relationship between China and Africa goes beyond the signing of trade deals and high political elite meetings.

Monyae said China and Africa have a long lasting friendship dating back to ancient times and the two sides nurtured this relationship even when China was poor.

“We share a rich background of solidarity with China. We were both humiliated by the West in terms of colonialism and subjugation. They (the Chinese) supported the liberation struggle movements in Africa with training and supplying ammunition in South Africa and Zimbabwe among others,” he said.

Monyae stated that many Chinese died while helping Africans in the construction of Tanzania-Zambia Railway in the 1970s. The link extends more than 1,800 km from Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to Kapiri Mposhi in Zambia, and has become a symbol of traditional China-Africa friendship.

He said Confucius Institutes tell the Chinese story not from the Western lenses but gives direct contact with the Chinese, removing misconceptions about China.

China also helps Africa address illegal poaching, the academic said.

“Africa can count on China for fair trade, for African voices to be heard in the United Nations Security Council,” he said.

Confucius Institutes, he said, also give Chinese academics access to African universities and understand African cultures.

One of the resolutions adopted at the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) last year is to strengthen people to people relations, Monyae said.

He expressed belief that Confucius Institutes will enhance such relations.

For trade deals to be done, there have to be understanding, Monyae said.

“In every relationship there are differences. When tempers rise in trade misunderstanding, the understanding brought by these Confucius Institutes comes to the fore,” he noted.

For the people to people relationship to be improved between China and Africa, there has to be seminars as well as cultural exchanges, he said.

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