



(Le ministère marocain de l'Intérieur a annoncé jeudi que des djihadistes arrêtés il y a deux semaines s'apprêtaient à utiliser "des substances toxiques et biologiques mortelles" dans un "projet terroriste" contre le royaume.)

BURUNDI :

Burundi: nombreuses interrogations sur la fosse commune de Mutakura
Par RFI/le 04-03-2016

Alors que les trois experts mandatés par les Nations unies poursuivent leurs entretiens à Bujumbura, la bataille de la communication continue au Burundi. Cette semaine, les autorités ont présenté une fosse commune découverte dans le quartier dit contestataire de Mutakura. Si les ossements de seulement 3 corps ont été exhumés, elles affirment que 30 personnes s'y trouvent et accusent les manifestants opposés au troisième mandat du président Nkurunziza. Les victimes seraient des membres des Imbonerakure (le mouvement de jeunesse du parti au pouvoir), selon le maire de Bujumbura. Mais dans ce discours, l'opposition et la société civile pointent plusieurs zones d'ombre, et ce, d'autant plus que le président de la Commission nationale indépendante sur les droits de l'homme (CNIDH) a nuancé ces affirmations. Le parti au pouvoir s'est exprimé à propos de cette affaire dans un communiqué.

Les fouilles devaient reprendre mardi mais elles ont finalement été suspendues. « Il s'agit de laisser place aux experts médicaux pour déterminer si la fosse est récente » explique Jean-Baptiste Baribonekeza, le président de la CNIDH.

Selon lui, il est prématuré de se prononcer sur la date, les circonstances ou les responsables de la mort des trois personnes dont les corps ont été retrouvés. « Il convient de ne pas trop anticiper. Ça peut être des personnes proches du pouvoir, comme ça peut être des citoyens ordinaires », explique-t-il.

Les affirmations des autorités semblent donc reposer sur les aveux des présumés responsables mais selon le journal Iwacu, ces derniers portaient les marques d'un passage à tabac lors de leur présentation à la presse.

Et il ne s'agit pas du seul point qui fait douter Pacifique Nininahazwe, membre de la société civile en exil. « Qu'on trouve une fosse commune dans un quartier vide, dans une maison inhabitée, tout près d'une position militaire, il y a lieu de douter, déclare-t-il. Il y a un homme qui avait été présenté comme arrêté à Mugamba, au sud du Burundi, et qui lundi a de nouveau été présenté comme un homme qui se serait rendu et qui était témoin de l'existence d'une fosse commune. »

Hier, la police n'était pas joignable pour répondre à ces questions. Quant à l'existence supposée de neuf charniers à Bujumbura et dans sa périphérie, « les informations des Nations unies n'étaient pas assez précises » répond le président de la Commission nationale indépendante sur les droits de l'homme. Interrogé sur la carte présentée par Amnesty international qui localise précisément l'emplacement d'une possible fosse commune, il dit ne pas s'en souvenir.

Guerre de communication

Le CNDD-FDD s'est dit « accablé » par la découverte d'une fosse commune et accuse les manifestants opposés au troisième mandat du président Pierre Nkurunziza. Comme à plusieurs reprises ces derniers mois, il prend à partie le président du Rwanda voisin ainsi que les journalistes des médias internationaux.

« Ce sont des menteurs dont le rôle majeur est de retourner les informations contre un pays ou un pouvoir indésirable », a déclaré Daniel Gélase Ndadirakobuca, le porte-parole du CNDD-FDD.

Dans une conférence de presse, les autorités ont à nouveau nié l'existence des fosses communes identifiées par l'ONU et par Amnesty International.

Côté opposition, on dénonce des montages. Pacifique Nininahazwe, membre de la société civile en exil, évoque « une contre-attaque médiatique de la part des autorités » qui cherchent, selon lui, à retourner les arguments de l'opposition contre cette dernière. De plus, il plaide pour une force internationale de protection des citoyens.

Les deux camps peuvent commettre des tentatives de manipulation. Mi janvier par exemple, une vidéo diffusée sur France Télévisions montrant l'assassinat supposé d'opposants s'est avéré être un faux.

Si une minorité de la population accède à internet, l'enjeu est tout de même de taille, car il s'agit de convaincre l'opinion internationale. Ainsi, le CNDD-FDD termine son communiqué par un appel à lever les sanctions économiques qui visent le Burundi.

Pour rappel, le pays est plongé dans une grave crise financière et l'Union européenne étudie actuellement la possibilité de suspendre son aide qui représente environ 20% du budget national.

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa: Oscar Pistorius's Appeal of Conviction Is Rejected

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/MARCH 3, 2016

South Africa's highest court on Thursday dismissed a final appeal from the former track star Oscar Pistorius to overturn his murder conviction, said one of his lawyers, Andrew Fawcett. The ruling, by the Constitutional Court, clears the way for a judge to sentence Mr. Pistorius, a double-amputee, at a hearing on April 18. The minimum sentence for murder in South Africa is 15 years. Mr. Pistorius, who killed his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, in his home in 2013, had appealed to the Constitutional Court, saying the Supreme Court of Appeal, the country's second-highest court, had erred when it overturned a manslaughter conviction and declared him guilty of murder in December.

Manipal Group plans varsities in Lanka, S Africa

nyoooz.com/Fri,04 Mar 2016

Summary: MGESPL will offer medical, dental, engineering, humanities and other courses at the universities in South Africa and Lanka. BENGALURU: City-based Manipal Global Education Services Private Limited (MGESPL), a subsidiary of the Manipal Education and Medical Group, will set up a university each in South Africa and Sri Lanka. "We are looking at sourcing faculties globally to work in Lanka and South Africa. Once the campuses are set up in these countries, MGESPL will offer a course in medicine with an annual intake of 150. "About 20% of students joining our university in Malaysia are from Sri Lanka; many are opting for our varsity in Nepal too.

BENGALURU: City-based Manipal Global Education Services Private Limited (MGESPL), a subsidiary of the Manipal Education and Medical Group, will set up a university each in South Africa and Sri Lanka."About 20% of students joining our university in Malaysia are from Sri Lanka; many are opting for our varsity in Nepal too. Africa has a shortage of doctors and there is demand for quality education, especially in the south and east. MGESPL will offer medical, dental, engineering, humanities and other courses at the universities in South Africa and Lanka.

The governments in both countries are keen on joining hands with us to offer professional courses. Talks are on with local partners," S Vaitheeswaran, MD and CEO of MGESPL, told TOI. At present, MGESPL is running five universities in countries like Nepal, Malaysia, Dubai and Caribbean. Once the campuses are set up in these countries, MGESPL will offer a course in medicine with an annual intake of 150.

TANZANIA :

Tanzania: Elderly Women Plead for Land

4 March 2016/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

Karagwe — SOME elderly women in Karagwe and Kyerwa Districts have raised their concerns saying that they were being sidelined on land issues, which negatively affected their wellbeing.

They cited lack of confidentiality as a stumbling block to inheritance in the distribution of assets left behind after the death of a husband. They voiced the concern when discussing a topic on inheritance held at Kayanga town in Karagwe District on Tuesday.

Cecilia Richard (58) from Mabira Ward in Kyerwa District said some of the husbands were unfaithful to their wives and did not want to involve them in writing a will as required by law.

She also complained that most husbands sidelined their wives after selling the coffee beans, although it was the women who toil on the farms all year round. Regina Rujomba (52) from Mabira Ward in Karagwe District said some of the witnesses required by law to witness a will were not faithful. "This could endanger the life of person who wishes to make a will," she said.

Maria Kasano (63) from Bugene village in Karagwe District prayed for forgiveness on a son who commits adultery with one of his father's wives. "Even God forgave him. This should not prevent a father from giving his son inheritance," she insisted. The elderly citizens also appealed to government to pay them some pension to enable them to live a peaceful life.

They contended that in addition to reducing demands on elderly citizens, social pensions help HIV positive people access treatment, which strengthens livelihood and reduces levels of orphaning. A Non-governmental Organization-Saidia Wazee Karagwe (SAWAKA)-- has trained 5,700 elderly citizens in Kyerwa and Karagwe Districts and enabled them to know their rights and how to claim them.

SAWAKA Co-ordinator, Mr Livingstone Byekwaso said elderly people in Kagera Region were facing a burden of caring for increasing numbers of orphans due to the HIV/AIDS scourge. "While progress is being made to combat HIV/AIDS the effort is still facing a significant challenge on older people.

SAWAKA in collaboration with other partners including USAID and PACT Tanzania is keen to assist elderly people to enable them cope with the loss of children, while also supporting grandchildren.

This has a significant emotional impact on elderly caretakers," he said. From the early days of HIV/AIDS in Tanzania older people have been at the centre of the epidemic and its impact.

Tanzania with an estimated population of 45 million people has about 2.2 million (about 5.7 per cent) people aged above 60 years . This figure is expected to increase to 8.3 million (about 10 ten per cent) by the year 2050.

A recent survey conducted by SAWAKA in 1,975 households revealed that Karagwe District has a total of 4,834 elderly people aged above 60 years.

The survey showed that the district has 2, 498 elderly men and 2,336 elderly women most of whom are living in difficult conditions.

According to Mr Byekwaso, in a bid to provide good shelter to the elderly, SAWAKA completed construction of 198 houses for the group in ten Wards including; Nyaishozi, Nyakahanga, Igurwa,

Businde, Bugomora, Nyakatuntu, Bugene, Ndama, Mabira and Chonyonyo.

KENYA :

KCSE results of a record 5,000 cheats cancelled

Mar. 04, 2016/the-star.co.ke

A total of 5,101 of last year's KCSE exam candidates will not get their results because they cheated.

According to the results released by Education CS Fred Matiang'i yesterday, there are increased cases of examination malpractices compared to 2014, when there were 2,975 cases.

Schools affected by the cancelled results have one month to raise questions with the Kenya National Examinations Council so necessary action can be taken.

Only Isiolo county has no cheating case.

Knec CEO Joseph Kivilu said exhaustive investigations on all reported cheating cases have been done.

He said the council has established a secretariat at Mitihani House in Nairobi to deal with candidates' queries regarding the results.

Most candidates involved in cheating were from subcounty schools whose 150 centres had 2,538 candidates.

County schools had 56 centres involved, with 1,817 candidates caught cheating, while private schools had 656 centres with 512 candidates.

National schools had 64 candidates in 14 centres, while 29 of private centres had 170 candidates' results cancelled.

Last year, there were numerous reports of suspected cheating during the examination period.

Matiang'i said President Uhuru Kenyatta is "alarmed" by the malpractice and has directed the Education and Interior ministries to compile up a report in one month.

"We already have three reports being analysed. We shall discuss them with stakeholders," he said.

Matiang'i pledged to ensure this year's KCSE exam is free of cheating incidents.

He said the marking, processing and validation of results was thorough.

"I wish to assure you appropriate action will be taken against all persons found culpable," Matiang'i said.

The CS said 171 people have been arrested and charged with offences related to last year's KCSE exam.

Out of the number, 104 were candidates 34 teachers from public secondary schools and 22 university and college students.

Others included 11 principals and deputy principals, two police officers and one TSC official.

Makueni, Nairobi and Meru counties had the highest number of examination centres involved in irregularities, with 22, 20 and 18 centres respectively.

Makueni, Bomet and Kisii had the highest number of cheating candidates, with 382, 343 and 294 respectively.

Kenya: Kabarak Retains Top Spot As Maseno and Alliance Shine in 2015 Form Four Exams 4 March 2016/The Nation (Nairobi)

Kabarak High School was the best performer in last year's Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education exams for the second year running, posting a mean score of 11.667.

Out of the school's 289 candidates, 202 scored grade A and the least candidate had a B, meaning the entire class qualifies for university admission.

In the second place was Maseno School with a mean score of 11.393.

Out the 285 candidates, the school had 140 As and 122 A-. The last candidate obtained B, also sending the entire class to university.

In the third position was Alliance High School, with a mean score of 11.37.

The other strong performers were Utumishi Academy with a mean score of 11.1704, Kapsabet Boys 11.15, St Joseph' Boys in Trans Nzoia County, 11.0, Sacho High School, 10.973, Light Academy, Nairobi, 10.93, Rang'ala Girls High School 10.9 and Kapsabet Girls High School 10.89.

Others were Light Academy, Mombasa 10.86, Asumbi Girls High School 10.833, Kanga High School 10.8, Rumuruti Mother of Grace Boys secondary 10.78, Murang'a High 10.74, Pioneer School 10.74, St Patricks' Iten 10.7, Maranda 10.6, Chogoria Girls High School 10.569, Kagumo High School 10.54, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed 10.53 and Litein Boys High School 10.37.

Also in the top ranks were Strathmore School with a mean score of 10.35, Friends School Kamusinga 10.28, Kapenguria Boys 10.217, St Mary Boys 10.08, Moi Girls 10.04 Booker Academy 10.4, Sing'ore Girls 10.4, Abu Hureira Academy 10.02, Kipsigis Girls 10.1, Samoei High School 10.01, Kisii School 10.0 and.

These are the Nation's own rankings at the time of going to press and were not issued by the Ministry of Education which declined to issue the scores for any of the candidates or schools.

Some 522,870 sat the exams in 8,646 centres last year compared to 483,630 in 8,057 centres in 2014. There were 279,289 males compared to 243,581 females, representing a gender ratio of 53.41 per cent and 46.59 per cent respectively.

The results were released Thursday by Education Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i at Mthani House, Nairobi, at a ceremony that was bereft of the previous splendour and grandeur.

Unlike in the past when the ceremony was attended by all senior education directors, county education directors, representatives of unions and other stakeholders, this time round, it was a brief and brisk news conference with just a handful of ministry officials.

CHEATS

Last year's KCSE recorded the dubious distinction of having the highest number of examination cheating cases in history.

Some 5,101 candidates in 305 centres cheated and their results were cancelled, representing about 1 per cent of the candidates. In 2014, there were 2,975 cases while in 2013, they were 3,812.

All the counties except Isiolo were involved in cheating and the worst cases were registered in Nairobi, Makueni and Meru. For Makueni, this was repeat offending. In 2014, it was one of the three counties that recorded the highest cases of cheating, the others being Bomet and Kisii. Some 171 people had been arrested, among them 11 principals and deputies.

"Results of all candidates who were involved in examination irregularities have been cancelled as it is our duty to the diligent candidates who do not involve themselves in examination irregularities to ensure that the results are credible," said Dr Matiang'i.

The Cabinet Secretary announced the Kenya National Examinations Council (Kneec) had set up a secretariat where those whose results have been cancelled can seek clarification.

Unlike in the past when schools whose students cheated had the entire results cancelled, this time it is only the cheating candidates who are penalised.

"Schools that feel aggrieved with any aspect of the examination results including cancellation of results have one month to raise any question on the same with Kneec to enable the council take necessary action," he said.

RANKING

The schools or candidates were not ranked, a trend that has been going for the past three years.

However, Dr Matiang'i said the government was reopening debate on the matter and said the stakeholders would be called upon to give suggestions how it can be comprehensively addressed.

Performance more or less mirrored the previous year. There were 165,766 candidates -- or 31.52 per cent who scored grade C+ and above, which is the minimum university entry requirement. In 2014, there were 149,717 candidates -- or 30.78 per cent who obtained grade C+ and above. Even so, the number of candidates with grade A went down from 3,073 in 2014 to 2,636 last year. The number of candidates who scored D+ and below were 209,807 compared to 203,051 the previous year.

But questions were being asked if the number of grade As announced by the minister tallied with the actual grade As recorded in schools, given that a single school like Kabarak had more than 200 candidates and the other top ones had more than 100 candidates with grade A.

It appeared that just about 10 schools took up all the As, which does not appear realistic.

Performance improved in 13 subjects, including English, Kiswahili, mathematics, biology, physics, chemistry and agriculture. However, despite the improvement, some of the subjects were still

performed poorly in absolute terms.

For example, English had a mean score of 40.29 per cent , mathematics alternative A 26.88 per cent and general science 9.02 per cent.

Female candidates did better than males in seven subjects -- English, Kiswahili, home science, Art and Design, German and French.

Girls generally did better in languages but were not as good as the boys in maths and the sciences.

Knec's chief executive Joseph Kivilu said the candidates were examined in 30 subjects organised in 72 papers. Deadline for registration for this year's candidates is March 31.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Des djihadistes s'apprêtaient à utiliser des "armes biologiques" au Maroc
3/03/16/Source: Belga

Le ministère marocain de l'Intérieur a annoncé jeudi que des djihadistes arrêtés il y a deux semaines s'apprêtaient à utiliser "des substances toxiques et biologiques mortelles" dans un "projet terroriste" contre le royaume.

Le 18 février, dix personnes, dont un Français, soupçonnées d'être liées au groupe Etat islamique (EI), ont été arrêtées dans plusieurs villes du Maroc au cours d'une opération de démantèlement d'une "cellule terroriste".

"Certaines des substances saisies sont classées par les organismes internationaux spécialisés dans la santé comme dans la catégorie des armes biologiques dangereuses pour leur capacité à paralyser et détruire le système nerveux et causer la mort" de la personne atteinte, a souligné le ministère de l'Intérieur dans un communiqué.

"Les membres de cette cellule terroriste ont préparé ces substances mortelles en vue de leur utilisation dans le cadre de leur projet terroriste dans le royaume", selon ce texte.

Les autorités marocaines ont multiplié ces dernières semaines les annonces sur des démantèlements de cellules liées à l'EI et l'arrestation de recruteurs présumés pour le compte de ce groupe djihadiste.

Will Africa cheer up Turkey's troubled exporters?

al-monitor.com/Author: Mehmet Cetingulec/March 3, 2016

As Turkey's regional policy drifted from "zero problems with neighbors" to "precious loneliness," the accompanying loss of trade markets in the neighborhood and Russia has made Africa a potential "lifesaver" in Ankara's eyes. Accompanied by 150 business people, President Recep Tayyip

Erdogan went on a tour of Western Africa from Feb. 28 to March 3, visiting the Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and Guinea, following a trip to the continent's eastern coast in January 2015 that took him to Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia.

Summary

Turkey scrambles for trade opportunities in Africa to make up for major losses in economic ties with Iran, Iraq, Syria and Russia.

Author Mehmet Cetingulec Posted March 3, 2016

Translator Sibel Utku Bila

What groundwork does Turkey have in Africa to build on? The Turkish Foreign Ministry's official website lists the following milestones in ties with the continent: In 2008, the First Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit was held in Istanbul with the participation of 49 African countries, resulting in the adoption of a road map on boosting ties. Follow-up gatherings were held later in Addis Ababa and Istanbul. In January 2013, Turkey became a member of the African Development Bank. At the Second Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit, held in Equatorial Guinea's capital, Malabo, in November 2014, a Joint Implementation Plan was agreed for the 2015-19 period. Since 2009, the number of Turkish embassies in Africa has increased from 12 to 39. As part of efforts to boost economic exchanges with the continent, Turkey has signed 38 bilateral agreements on commercial and economic cooperation, 17 bilateral agreements on investment promotion and protection, and eight bilateral agreements on the prevention of double taxation.

According to the website, the Turkey-Africa trade volume, which stood at \$5.47 billion in 2003 increased four times by 2014, reaching \$23.4 billion. Turkey's exports grew from \$2.13 billion to \$13.7 billion, while imports rose from \$3.34 billion to \$9.6 billion. At the end of 2014, Turkish direct investment in the continent stood at over \$6 billion. In addition, Turkish development aid to African countries was worth \$772 million in 2012 and \$783 million in 2013.

The \$23 billion figure in trade volume may sound impressive on its own, but given that it covers 49 countries, commercial ties are clearly in a fledgling stage.

And what is Turkey pursuing on the African market? Following Erdogan's 2015 African tour, Deputy Culture and Tourism Minister Huseyin Yayman, who was part of the delegation, said, "Turkey is making the test drive of a new foreign policy in Africa ... It stands as a model with its secular democracy. As Turkey is opening up to the world, domestic problems are fading in importance. Geostrategists say the 21st century will be an African century. Turkey is, in fact, seeking its history and a new future in the Dark Continent."

Yayman's emphasis on secularism is present also in the Foreign Ministry's narrative. It is quite ironic, though, that the Islamist-leaning Turkish government promotes secularism in Africa, while avoiding the same message at home.

Now, back in the economic realm, the question is: Can Turkey increase its share on the African market at an extent that makes up for the regress in trade with neighbors and Russia?

Turkey's trade volume with Nigeria, one of the stops on Erdogan's latest tour, stood at \$426 million in the first 10 months of 2015. With the Ivory Coast and Ghana, the trade volumes were \$390 million and \$399 million respectively for the whole year. Even a two-fold increase in trade with those countries would mean less than \$3 billion in total, while trade with neighboring Iran alone was \$25 billion off target last year. On the Iraqi and Russian markets, meanwhile, Turkey's exports were down by some \$2 billion and \$2.5 billion respectively in 2015. The downturn with Russia became even more pronounced this year, with the decline in exports worsening from 39% in 2015

to 60% in the first two months of the year.

In remarks to Al-Monitor, Faik Oztrak, a former treasury and foreign trade undersecretary who is now a lawmaker for the main opposition Republican People's Party, drew attention to another alarming detail. "Market diversification is important but not sufficient. One has to look at what Turkey manufactures," he said. "The technologic level of Turkish exports has been decreasing. The share of advanced technology goods in manufacturing industry exports was 6.2% in 2002, while it is down to 3.2% as of January 2016. In other words, Turkey is failing to export goods that are light in weight but heavy in value, which is forcing it to turn to markets where it can sell low-technology goods."

Omer Cihad Vardan, the head of Turkey's Foreign Economic Relations Council, warned that competition was already heated on the African market. "China, the United States and European countries have made great headway there. We must act very fast from now on," he told reporters last week.

In an overview of trade opportunities in the countries on Erdogan's itinerary, Vardan stressed the Ivory Coast's mining, energy and construction sectors offered an investment volume of \$46 billion. He said, "With a population of nearly 200 million, Nigeria is hungry for Turkish export goods. There is a high demand for Turkish textiles. Seventy tons [of Turkish textiles] make their way to Nigeria every week in the form of luggage [carried by travelers] trade. The Ivory Coast, meanwhile, targets an economic growth of nearly 10% in 2016. Twenty-five Turkish companies are currently active in the country, with investment concentrated mainly in the construction sector. The country has a housing deficit of 400,000 homes, and they are well-disposed to Turkish contractors. In Ghana, the industry sector is growing faster than agriculture, and the energy sector tops the development agenda."

According to DEIK, Ghana offers opportunities also in the fields of railway transport, renewable energy and citrus fruits, while in the Ivory Coast, Turkish contractors face tough competition from French and Chinese counterparts.

One has to keep in mind that the African markets are thousands of kilometers away, home to the world's poorest people with the lowest purchasing power. They could hardly become a substitute for the decline in Turkey's exports to neighboring countries. Moreover, China is already in full force in Africa, posing tough competition with its cheap goods. In sum, Africa's retail market offers little hope for Turkey's traders, but its contractors and investors stand a chance in the long term.

Barclays Africa assets eyed by Bob Diamond, the bank's former chief executive
ibtimes.co.uk/ By Kedar Grandhi/ March 4, 2016

Bob Diamond, former Barclays chief executive, is understood to be interested in buying the UK bank's Africa assets. It is understood that he has spoken to some investors amongst whom the sovereign wealth funds in the Middle East and Asia are likely to back a takeover bid for the bank's Africa business, which he had helped to build.

This follows Barclays recently announcing that it will break its 100-year relationship with Africa by pulling out, in an effort to focus on its core business. On the basis of preliminary talks with investors, Diamond hopes to receive millions of dollars to buy Barclays's Africa business, which is located outside of South Africa, according to people familiar with the matter.

However, some people have said that it would be challenging for Diamond to raise enough money.

This is because, the market capitalisation of Atlas Mara, the London-listed investment vehicle he created after being ousted by Barclays in 2012 over the Libor rate-rigging scandal, is just £230m (€297.48m, \$325.58m). This is significantly lower than the £1.5bn the Africa business he is eyeing is worth.

A source who knows Diamond said: "This is the opportunity of a lifetime for him. It is a very difficult transaction in my view but if anyone can pull it off it is definitely Bob." Other companies who could challenge Diamond by bidding for this Africa business include China's ICBC, which owns a large stake in South Africa's Standard Bank, and France's Société Générale, which has operations in 18 African countries.

The UK bank owns 62.3% in Barclays Africa Group, its Johannesburg-listed subsidiary. While a few sources said there are a few strategic buyers who could be interested in acquiring this entire stake, any deal with local rivals, such as FirstRand or Nedban, could be blocked by regulators, meaning Barclays may have to sell its stake in parts to institutional investors.

Barclays' alternative is to sell its banking business in 11 countries outside South Africa before selling its stake in its listed subsidiary. However, it is understood that only 20% of the bank's profits are from operations outside of South Africa, which include regions such as Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Botswana, Mauritius and Zambia, according to The Financial Times.

One banker, however, said the UK bank would not transact with its former CEO with regards to its Africa business. He said: "I would have thought a split may be a solution here. But the optics are horrible for Barclays to sell to Bob Diamond. They will not want to do this."

UN/AFRICA :

UN staff registered 99 sex crime allegations in 2015
(REUTERS)/2016-03-04

There were 99 new allegations of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse against United Nations staff members across the UN system last year, a sharp increase from the 80 allegations in 2014, according to a new UN report.

The majority of those allegations - 69 in all - involved personnel in 10 peacekeeping missions, the report said. The military and police personnel accused of sexual crimes while serving for the United Nations involved some 21 countries, most of them African.

The report by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon does not identify the nationalities of the 30 U.N. staff members accused of sexual abuse or exploitation who were not working for peacekeeping missions.

The report, an advance copy of which was obtained by Reuters, came in response to a new U.N. "name and shame" policy for U.N. peacekeepers implemented after a series of allegations of rape and sexual abuse by international troops in Central African Republic (CAR).

Most of the allegations involved peacekeepers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, seven in all, serving in CAR. There were also allegations against several European countries and Canada.

There were allegations against troops and police from Burundi, Germany, Ghana, Senegal, Madagascar, Rwanda, Congo Republic, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Tanzania, Slovakia, Niger, Moldova, Togo, South Africa, Morocco, Benin, Nigeria and Gabon.

In addition to CAR, the allegations involved peacekeeping missions in places like Haiti, Mali, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ivory Coast.

The report includes recommendations for member states to make it easier to identify suspected perpetrators and prosecute them.

It calls for the U.N. General Assembly and troop contributing countries to allow prosecutions inside the countries where the alleged crimes took place and creation of a DNA registry of all peacekeepers.

One of the problems, human rights groups say, is that it is currently up to U.N. troop-contributing countries to prosecute their soldiers accused of abuse. When such prosecutions happen, the groups say, they often take place quietly and it is difficult to follow up on the results and punishments, if any.

In December an independent review panel accused the United Nations and its agencies of grossly mishandling numerous allegations of child sexual abuse by foreign troops in CAR in 2013 and 2014.

The idea of prosecutions in theater would likely be unpopular among U.N. troop-contributing countries, U.N. diplomats and officials say, though they suggest it is an idea worth pursuing as a deterrent.

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 04 Mars 2016... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 04/03/2016