



(Le secrétaire général de l'ONU, Ban Ki-moon a salué, hier, l'engagement de l'Algérie pour la paix et la résolution des graves crises couvrant dans toute la région, en Libye notamment, et dont la menace de débordement demeure persistante.)

BURUNDI :

Burundi: les défis de la Commission vérité et réconciliation

Par RFI/le 06-03-2016

A Kayanza dans le nord du Burundi, Pierre Nkurunziza a lancé en grande pompe, vendredi 4 mars, la phase opérationnelle de la Commission vérité et réconciliation (CVR), créée par une loi votée en mai 2014. Les travaux des onze commissaires (six Hutus, quatre Tutsis et un Twa) vont couvrir la période de 1962 à 2008. Mise en place dans la contestation par l'opposition et la société civile burundaises et accusée d'être l'émanation de la « justice du vainqueur », la CVR aura fort à faire pour convaincre.

Après plus d'une année consacrée à son installation, la Commission vérité et réconciliation (CVR) du Burundi se prépare à passer aux choses sérieuses.

Quelque 150 « enquêteurs » vont être recrutés avant fin mars, selon son président Monseigneur Jean-Louis Nahimana. Ils vont ensuite être formés, avant qu'on ne passe, au mois de juillet, aux dépositions des victimes des violences qu'a connues ce pays.

L'objectif est d'avoir recueilli entre 25 000 et 30 000 témoignages d'ici fin 2016, sans aucune publicité le temps que la CVR fasse des enquêtes de terrain pour vérifier leur véracité.

« Plus Jamais ça »

Les cas plus significatifs seront sélectionnés et débattus dans « des audiences publiques » en 2017 pour servir « de leçon du "plus jamais ça" au peuple burundais », a expliqué Mgr Jean-Louis Nahimana.

La CVR va préparer « un programme de pardon, de réconciliation et de réparation » qu'elle

soumettra au gouvernement et au Parlement burundais ainsi qu'aux Nations unies.

Polémique et méfiance

« S'il y a des crimes imprescriptibles, dit-il, ça sera à l'organisation internationale de décider de la suite à leur réserver. »

Le religieux est aujourd'hui conscient de la polémique et de la méfiance qui ont accompagné la naissance de la CVR au Burundi, un climat alourdi par la grave crise que traverse le pays.

Il demande donc « à être jugé sur les faits, sur actes ». Et le prélat burundais de prévenir, « si on rate ce tournant, on aura raté le futur de ce pays », a-t-il martelé, appelant « toutes les parties à collaborer avec la CVR ».

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

Uganda: Election Petition - Museveni Defends His Victory
6 March 2016/The Observer (Kampala)

President Yoweri Museveni has defended his victory in the February 18 elections, saying he was validly elected in accordance with all electoral laws.

This is contained in Museveni's defense to the presidential election petition filed by independent presidential candidate, Amama Mbabazi challenging his re-election.

"I was validly elected in accordance with the principles laid down in the provisions of the constitution, the Electoral Commission Act and the Presidential Elections Act." Museveni states in his response.

The defense was filed this afternoon before the Supreme Court by Museveni's lawyers led by Kiryowa Kiwanuka. Museveni asks the Supreme Court to dismiss the petition with costs, arguing that none of the cases of malpractices attributed to him by Mbabazi were not committed by him personally or with his knowledge.

Museveni denies every bribery allegation level against him by his former secretary general. On the allegations of distributing hoes to the people of West Nile aimed at stopping them from voting Mbabazi and other candidates, Museveni says that this is part of an ongoing government program to support farmers with agriculture implements and to improve household incomes.

He adds that this same program started well before the 2015/16 campaign and election period. On the allegation of giving out Shs 250,000 to voters in every village throughout the country, Museveni says the money was paid out by the NRM to its branches to support their activities.

He also denies the allegations of using abusive language during the campaigns when he threatened Dr Kizza Besigye and Mbabazi and their supporters that they cannot touch the anus of the leopard and go scot free, saying the reference was figurative to illustrate the recklessness of anybody breaking the law.

On the accusations of threatening voters against voting for Mbabazi on any candidate saying Uganda would go to war, Museveni said that what he meant was that Ugandans should exercise their right to vote carefully to protect the gains and progress the country has achieved since 1986.

With the filing in of Museveni's defense that of Electoral Commission and Attorney General, court can now ably hear the election petition and dispose it of within 30 days from the date of filing. The pre-hearing kicks off tomorrow morning.

A First World view of two elections that were worlds apart
07/03/2016/independent.ie

There is nothing like living in another country to get some life perspective. Especially one that is far poorer and less developed than your own.

Even more interesting is when that country is also going through national elections and the start of political change. To observe this close up is fascinating.

I am privileged to be currently living in Kampala, working with an inspiring charity, Hospice Africa Uganda, whose mission is to provide comfort and pain relief to thousands suffering from cancer, HIV/Aids and other life-limiting illnesses. It has been a real eye-opener for me. And truly humbling.

It is a well-worn cliché, I know, but living here for the last two months has made me appreciate all we take for granted in Ireland.

On February 18, the people of Uganda took to the polls in the presidential election. Just a week later, on February 26, the Irish people had their say as they voted on a new government.

The two countries are poles apart in terms of size, (Uganda has a population of 37 million), and economic and social development. It was interesting to follow both campaigns closely.

Long-time president Yoweri Museveni was seeking his fifth term in office and was determined to keep his grip on power, having already served 30 years as leader.

Taoiseach Enda Kenny headed into the election as the longest-serving TD, with 41 years' service and, despite the disastrous election for his party, he is still determined to hang on to power.

Election coverage was dominated in both countries by opinion-poll results and live TV debates. Uganda had its first ever live TV election debates. However, the main contender, President Museveni, refused to turn up for them!

Both countries are in a state of flux after their elections.

At home, we are in a post-election stalemate, with the make-up of the next government still very uncertain. It is looking increasingly like the 'unthinkable' might happen - a merger of the old enemies, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael.

Here in Uganda, President Museveni claimed victory, with more than 60pc of the vote. However, opposition leaders have rejected the results, alleging vote-rigging, bribery and widespread intimidation by the security forces. Some international observers have described the elections as inconsistent with international standards and expectations for any democratic process.

There is a lot of tension in the country with the main opposition candidate, Dr Kizza Besigye of the Forum for Democratic Change party, under house arrest and reports of over 200 other opposition supporters being detained. Polling day itself was badly organised, with some stations opening late or not at all. One Ugandan friend told me his truck was stopped by police on polling day and taken to transport ballot papers to polling booths. He had no choice but to hand it over. He saw ballot papers being loaded onto the truck but they were not sealed. The car was returned to him later that evening - minus the petrol!

Most Ugandans I have talked to in the last few weeks say they have no faith in the election process. They want change. With the highest youth population in the world (77pc of people here are under 30 years of age), they are yearning for the prospect of a good future. Without hope, jobs and a good life, this is a time bomb that is waiting to go off.

So, in the last two months, I have come to appreciate all we have at home.

Despite what you might think of our politicians, we do have an inclusive and open democracy. We all have the freedom to vote in elections that we can be sure are honest and fair.

Despite the economic crash and recession, we are still a very wealthy country. We have good-quality healthcare and education and a well-developed social welfare system. People are not starving. That is not the case here, where school fees and health services must be paid for. Malnutrition is a problem.

One statistic that shocked me is the fact that 95pc of people in Uganda who get cancer will not access chemotherapy, radiotherapy or oncology. There is only one radiotherapy machine for the entire population and that is often broken.

In my work, I have seen people with untreated cancers who have developed huge tumours as a result.

I have visited Mulago General Hospital, the national referral hospital and the biggest in the country. I was taken aback at the poor conditions and the overcrowding, with hundreds of patients, some clearly very ill, queueing in the open and in baking heat on the hospital campus. I had a glimpse of the inside of some of the wards. They looked dirty and chaotic, with people sitting on the floors eating food.

I had little patience during the Irish General Election campaign with people complaining about our health service and long waiting lists.

It is heartbreaking to see people here struggling to pay school fees for their children. Many kids of Hospice Africa Uganda patients don't go to school because their parents can't afford the fees as they are ill and unable to work.

I drive to work each day along a dusty, potholed road with no footpaths. This is not driving in the countryside but in the capital, the equivalent of going from Dun Laoghaire to Stillorgan.

The electricity supply often goes off. And you dare not drink water from the tap or even wash your teeth in it.

These are all the things I take for granted at home. So yes, a bit of perspective is a good thing.

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

Tanzania: Vietnam President Jets in Tomorrow for Three-Day Tour
7 March 2016/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang, is expected to arrive in Tanzania on Tuesday for a three-day state visit aimed at strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries that have lasted for over 50 years.

President Sang will be accompanied by his wife, Mai Thi Hahn, and five cabinet ministers responsible for industry, communications, agriculture, health and water. His delegation will also include 51 businesspeople.

The visit is the first by a Head of State from outside the East African Community (EAC) since President John Magufuli assumed office in November last year. It is as well the first official trip by the Vietnamese leader in Africa since he became president in 2011.

Announcing the visit in Dar es Salaam, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, East African, Regional and International Cooperation, Dr Augustine Mahiga, said President Sang is scheduled to arrive at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) tomorrow at 08:30pm.

"During his stay in Tanzania, the Vietnamese President will hold talks with President Magufuli as well as the National Chairman of CCM, who was as well the President of the Fourth Phase Government, Mr Jakaya Kikwete.

"Also on the schedule to meet President Sang include the President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Dr Ali Mohamed Shein and Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Job Ndugai," Dr Mahiga stated.

Upon arrival at JNIA tomorrow night, the visiting leader will be received by Dr Mahiga. Official reception awaits President Sang at the State House on Wednesday where he will be accorded a 21-gun salute and thereafter inspect a guard of honour to be mounted by members of the Tanzania armed forces.

These diplomatic arrangements are contained in the Vienna Convention of 1961 which provides that a Head of State receives 21-gun salute while a Head of Government receives 19.

"Afterwards, President Magufuli will host his counterpart for a tete-a-tete from where they will proceed to witness a signing ceremony on a taxation agreement aimed at boosting trade between Hanoi and Dar es Salaam by shielding investors from the two countries on double taxation when trading or investing in respective countries," Dr Mahiga explained.

On the same day, President Sang will meet and hold talks with Mr Kikwete at the CCM sub office at Lumumba. The visiting leader is as well senior leader of the Communist Party of Vietnam which enjoys longstanding friendship with CCM.

"From Lumumba, President Sang will head for the Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) at Mabibo where he will have an opportunity to be informed on opportunities in the manufacturing sector in Tanzania and he will be taken on a tour of factories within the area," Dr Mahiga explained.

Thereafter, the delegation will attend a Tanzania-Vietnam Business Forum with a theme; "A platform to sharing information and unlocking opportunities," to bring together businesspersons from the two countries.

"After meeting President Shein and Speaker Ndugai, President Sang will be hosted for a state-dinner at the State House courtesy of his host President Magufuli," Minister Mahiga said.

President Sang and his delegation will have time to visit Serengeti and Saadani National Parks on Thursday after which they will leave for Mozambique from Kilimanjaro International Airport on Friday.

Bilateral relations between the two countries dates back to the 1960s when that country was under the Communist Party and Tanzania was under the leadership of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere.

KENYA :

First Lady joins Kenya for 'Beyond Zero' Campaign

March 07, 2016/newtimes.co.rw

The First Lady Jeannette Kagame has called on nations to develop strategies to counter challenges such as neonatal and maternal deaths and new HIV infections.

The First Lady was speaking in Nairobi, Kenya after taking part in a half marathon – The First Lady's Half Marathon – which is part of a campaign to curb new HIV infections and promote better maternal and child health.

The campaign christened "Beyond Zero" is aimed at raising funds for the set up of mobile clinics up in the various counties of Kenya.

Mrs Kagame took part in the race alongside Kenyan First Lady, Margaret Kenyatta, Kenyan Deputy President William Ruto and Director General of the United Nations Office in Nairobi Sahle Zewde among other dignitaries.

Mrs Kagame said that the ability to create locally designed strategies to provide greater access to basic health services is a skill that nations should continue to nurture.

This, she said, held the power to bring relevant, successful, and lasting solutions where they are most needed.

The First Lady said Rwanda too had developed locally designed strategies to curb new HIV infections, reduce maternal, child and new born deaths.

The strategy relies on 45,000 committed health workers, who are entrusted by their communities, to deliver key messages and sensitise for timely antenatal care to pregnant women.

“Thanks to this additional assistance provided by these community health workers to health centres, Rwanda continues to see a considerable impact on maternal and neonatal death reduction. Just to give you an idea, through maternal death audit, we have seen an 80percent drop, yet, this is still not enough... After all, No woman should die while giving life,” Mrs Kagame said.

Sharing lessons learnt from the implementation of the programme, Mrs. Kagame said that interventions based on consistent advocacy efforts, resulting from partnerships between government and civil society was a sure way to eradicate preventable diseases and conditions.

She further called on nations to learn from one another in addressing such challenges using each others’ experiences.

“As this world increasingly resembles a global village, we are all given this opportunity to learn from our neighbours, near and far,” she said.

She added that the Rwandan presence at the event was a response to a call that resonates beyond borders, the campaign, was positively contributing to the much-needed awareness, about the collective responsibility, to improve the access to basic health services.

In her remarks, Mrs Kenyatta, said that she was honoured to have the Rwandan delegation participate in the campaign.

The annual campaign was launched in January 2014, by the Kenyan First Lady to provide high level leadership in ending new HIV infections, and reduce maternal, child and new born deaths, by bringing closer to communities the health services they needed the most.

To date, the ‘Beyond Zero’ Campaign has raised more than \$5 million and received donations in kind of medical equipment and kits.

Through this campaign, 36 mobile clinics have been established across 36 out of 47 counties, thanks to a unique private-public sector partnership, involving individual philanthropists, the United Nations, National and County governments, and the media.

ANGOLA :

Angola: Foreign Minister Returns From Algeria
5 March 2016/Angola Press Agency (Luanda)

Luanda — The minister of Foreign Affairs, Georges Chikoti, returned on Friday afternoon, to the

country from Algeria, where he participated in the celebrations for 40 years of independence of the constitution of the Saharawi Democratic Arab Republic (SADR), representing the Head of State, José Eduardo dos Santos.

On the sidelines of the act, which took place in Tindouf desert region of Algeria and the SADR government headquarters, the head of the Angolan diplomacy made an official two-day visit to Algeria, where he was received in audience by the President of the Republic, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, and the Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal.

With the Head of Algerian Government, Georges Chikoti discussed the possibility of two States enter into new partnerships, as well as holding an Economic and Business Forum, a subject proposed by Abdelmalek Sellal.

The Angolan minister also met with his Algerian counterpart, with whom he analyzed aspects related to bilateral cooperation and also discussed matters related to Angola and Algeria's foreign policy in their Geopolitical framework, as well as the African political agenda and the issue of Western Sahara.

AU/AFRICA :

Les Béninois dans l'attente du résultat de la présidentielle
07/03/2016/boursier.com

COTONOU (Reuters) - Les Béninois ont voté dimanche pour désigner un successeur au président Thomas Boni Yayi qui a décidé de se retirer après deux mandats.

Trente-trois candidats sont en lice, dont l'actuel Premier ministre Lionel Zinsou, ancien économiste et banquier d'affaires soutenu par le chef de l'Etat sortant et par le Parti du renouveau démocratique, principale formation de l'opposition.

La décision de Boni Yayi de quitter ses fonctions contraste avec l'attitude de plusieurs dirigeants d'autres pays africains comme le Burundi, le Rwanda ou le Congo qui ont procédé à des modifications constitutionnelles pour briguer un troisième mandat et se maintenir au pouvoir.

Le Bénin a été le premier pays d'Afrique subsaharienne à introduire le multipartisme en 1991.

"Le Bénin est une grande démocratie. Avec mon départ, notre démocratie fera un nouveau pas en avant", a commenté le président sortant en déposant son bulletin dans l'urne.

L'économie du Bénin, grand producteur de coton, a été affectée par la chute des prix du pétrole et ses conséquences sur le Nigeria voisin, l'un de ses principaux partenaires commerciaux.

La création d'emplois et l'amélioration de l'éducation ont été les grands thèmes de la campagne.

Lionel Zinsou, qui fait figure de favori, a promis de restructurer l'économie, d'aider les petites entreprises et d'améliorer l'accès au micro-crédit.

Le Premier ministre sortant, qui est franco-béninois, est toutefois contesté par le parti au pouvoir, la FCBE (Force Cauris pour un Bénin émergent), et par les syndicats qui lui reprochent d'avoir passé

une grande partie de sa vie en France, à l'écart de la politique locale.

Selon la presse locale, qui avance des résultats officieux, Lionel Zinsou affrontera l'homme d'affaires Patrice Talon au second tour. La Commission électorale n'a pour le moment annoncé aucun résultat.

Parmi les autres candidats à suivre figurent l'ex-Premier ministre Pascal Irénée Koupaki, l'ancien haut responsable du Fonds monétaire international Abdoulay Bio Tchané et Sébastien Ajavon, un autre homme d'affaires.

Les bureaux de vote ont fermé à 16h00 locales (15h00 GMT) mais plusieurs bureaux de Cotonou sont restés ouverts plus longtemps en raison d'une forte affluence.

UN/AFRICA :

Lamamra et Ban Ki-moon s'entretiennent sur la Libye et le Sahara occidental : Passer aux actes pour éviter le pire

letempsdz.com/07/03/2016

Le secrétaire général de l'ONU, Ban Ki-moon a salué, hier, l'engagement de l'Algérie pour la paix et la résolution des graves crises couvant dans toute la région, en Libye notamment, et dont la menace de débordement demeure persistante.

«Je suis très reconnaissant au gouvernement algérien pour sa contribution au maintien de la paix. J'apprécie énormément le rôle que joue l'Algérie, notamment en accueillant les pourparlers organisés sous l'égide des Nations unies», a affirmé le SG de l'ONU, hier, à Alger, lors d'un point de presse animé conjointement avec le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Ramtane Lamamra. Pour Ban Ki-moon, des efforts considérables doivent être fournis encore afin de venir à bout d'une crise libyenne qui risque à tout moment de déborder sur toute la région avec les graves conséquences que l'on sait. «Il nous arrive de Libye des informations alarmantes sur des actes graves qui pourraient constituer des crimes de guerre.

Tous les acteurs extérieurs doivent user de leur influence pour calmer la situation. Si les choses ne progressent pas sur le plan politique, la crise humanitaire s'aggravera et les atteintes à la sécurité, y compris les attaques de Daech, se multiplieront et gagneront du terrain», a mis en garde Ban Ki-moon. Très attendue, la visite du SG de l'ONU intervient, en effet, dans un contexte régional bouillonnant : instabilité chronique en Tunisie et au Mali, situation explosive en Libye et enfin, un statu quo dans les territoires occupés au Sahara occidental, qui s'éternise au grand dam des réfugiés qui vivent une situation tout simplement intenable. Face à cette situation peu reluisante, Alger n'a de cesse plaidé pour des solutions politiques et pacifiques.

Au sujet de la Libye, M. Lamamra n'a pas manqué de réitérer au Secrétaire général de l'ONU, la «nécessité d'une solution politique pacifique» en Libye. «Nous avons discuté longuement sur la situation qui prévaut en Libye, et tout en réitérant le soutien constant de l'Algérie aux missions des Nations unies et aux missions de ses envoyés spéciaux, nous avons souligné la nécessité d'une solution politique et pacifique», a-t-il déclaré, tout en rappelant le niet catégorique de l'Algérie quant à l'éventualité d'une intervention militaire sur le sol libyen. «Nous avons refusé l'intervention militaire étrangère, en tant que position de principe (de l'Algérie) qui a ses constantes, car ce genre d'intervention entraînera une situation de destruction et de chaos dont on peut se passer», a-t-il

ajouté.

Sahara occidental : parachever le processus de décolonisation

Sur la situation qui prévaut au Sahara occidental, Ban Ki-moon a affirmé avoir engagé de profondes discussions avec les dirigeants algériens, notamment sur les moyens de «travailler étroitement» pour un renforcement des efforts diplomatiques allant dans le sens de la paix et de la stabilité dans cette région. «Hier, (samedi NDLR) à Tindouf, j'ai rencontré des réfugiés qui souffrent depuis des générations. J'ai discuté avec des jeunes qui perdent espoir en l'avenir. Je leur ai promis de tout faire pour que les choses avancent», a dit Ban Ki-moon tout en déplorant que «les parties au conflit n'ont fait aucun progrès réel dans les négociations devant aboutir à une solution politique juste, durable et acceptable par tous, fondée sur l'autodétermination du peuple du Sahara occidental. Le monde ne peut continuer à négliger les Sahraouis. Ils espèrent l'appui de la région, de l'ONU et de la communauté internationale». «Nous devons réagir», a-t-il martelé.

L'Algérie a souligné, pour sa part, «l'impératif» du parachèvement du processus de décolonisation du Sahara occidental à travers l'organisation d'un référendum d'autodétermination. M. Lamamra fera savoir à ce propos que «(...) Nous avons assuré au SG de l'ONU l'impératif du parachèvement du processus de décolonisation de ce territoire à travers la Mission des Nations unies pour l'organisation d'un référendum d'autodétermination (Minurso)», a indiqué M. Lamamra pour qui ce référendum doit être «régulier, transparent et se dérouler dans des conditions favorables au peuple sahraoui et à la communauté internationale».

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

EU leaders torn over needing Turkish help with migration crisis

07/03/2016/euronews.com

European Union leaders are hoping Turkey will step up to the mark at today's summit in Brussels and hold back migrants trying to get to Europe.

The talks will include formalising the closure of the Balkans route out of Greece while pledging to help Athens and seeking assurances that Turkey will with NATO naval back-up, bar the sea to people smugglers.

A million people reached Europe through illegal routes in 2015, many fleeing economic and political turmoil in the Middle East, north Africa and Asia. Most of them came through Turkey, which borders Syria, Iran and Iraq.

Ankara is also being asked to take back migrants halted in its waters and those who reach Greek islands but fail to qualify for asylum.

But asking favours from a government that only two days ago sent in police to seize control of Zaman, Turkey's top-selling opposition newspaper, does not sit well with several EU leaders. They are torn between anger at Ankara's action and fear of derailing Turkish willingness to help with the migrant crisis.

President of the European Parliament Martin Schultz has declared his intention on social media to raise the issue of press freedom with Turkey's prime minister.

Within 48- hours of the paper being taken over by the authorities Zaman published an edition carrying pro-government articles....critics have described it now of merely being a propaganda publication. The government has called the paper's seizure "legal and not political".

Meanwhile one cartoonist tweeted his own take on the problem showing a Turkish journalist and a refugee both trying to get to Europe.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 07 Mars 2016... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 07/03/2016