



(Des milliers d'habitants du sud de Brazzaville ont fui leurs quartiers lundi après plusieurs heures d'échanges de tirs et de canonnades provoqués selon le gouvernement congolais par une attaque menée par un nombre indéterminé d'hommes armés contre des bâtiments publics.)

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

This startup is using drones to deliver medicine in Rwanda

By Amar Toor/[theverge.com/April 5, 2016](https://theverge.com/2016/04/05/11311111/zipline-drones-rwanda)

Zipline will begin delivering blood and drugs across the country in July

A Silicon Valley startup is using drones to deliver medicine and blood to patients in Rwanda, and it plans to expand to other countries by the end of the year. The company, Zipline International, announced this week that it will begin flying its drones in Rwanda in July, under a partnership with the government. The unpiloted autonomous vehicles will ferry supplies to hospitals and health centers across the tiny east African nation, forming what Zipline describes as the world's first drone

delivery system to operate at a national scale.

Rwanda is one of the world's poorest countries, and infant mortality rates remain high. Deaths from HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria have plummeted over the past decade, as the government invested heavily in its healthcare system, though delivering drugs and medical supplies in the "land of a thousand hills" still poses major problems.

"To put it into perspective, when you don't have paved roads, sometimes it's impossible to get out to these hospitals and health clinics, and sometimes it's just difficult," Keller Rinaudo, Zipline CEO, said in an interview Monday. "But it's always unpredictable and unreliable."

With Zipline's system, hospitals will be able to order blood or medicine via text message, and have it delivered within minutes by one of the company's custom-built drones, called "Zips." Each electric-powered Zip weighs about 22 pounds, can carry around 3 pounds of medicine, and can travel for more than 75 miles on a single battery charge. The planes use GPS and Rwanda's cellular network to navigate, and deliver blood or medicine in cardboard boxes that are dropped with a parachute from low altitudes. The company says its network can deliver packages within 30 minutes, eliminating the need for onboard insulation or refrigeration, and the Zips are durable enough to withstand rain and wind.

Zipline was founded in 2014, and has funding from venture capital firms like Sequoia Partners and Google Ventures, as well as investors including Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen. Under its partnership with the Rwandan government, the company's initial fleet of 15 drones will service about half of the country, before expanding to the rest of Rwanda by early next year. Zipline's planes were developed by engineers who had previously worked at organizations like Boeing, SpaceX, and NASA.

Drone delivery has yet to take off in the US due to complex federal regulations, but the Rwandan government has embraced the technology as a way to bolster health systems and spur economic growth. Work is already underway on a network of drone airports that is due for completion in 2020, and the government approved regulations on drones earlier this year.

Other startups have sought to develop similar systems, including Matternet, which is working to deliver HIV testing kits with drones, and Flirtey, which delivered drugs to a medical center in rural Virginia last year — the first FAA-approved delivery of its kind.

Rinaudo says Zipline's system could be expanded to deliver vaccines, anti-venom, or other medical supplies, and he hopes to incorporate home deliveries, as well. He says the company will "certainly" expand to countries outside of Rwanda by the end of this year, and it's targeting both emerging and developed economies alike. A US launch isn't on the immediate horizon, due to regulatory hurdles, though Rinaudo thinks it's only a matter of time before the market opens up.

"I think it's basically inevitable that showing that this can be done safely and reliably, and that it can save thousands of lives, will rapidly increase the adoption of this kind of technology in the US," Rinaudo says.

Key Rwandan genocide suspect abstains from guilty plea

By AFP/5th April 2016

The 53-year-old fugitive was arrested in December in the Democratic Republic of Congo and extradited to his homeland to face justice.

KIGALI - Top level Rwandan genocide suspect Ladislas Ntaganzwa appeared in a Kigali court on Monday but refrained from answering whether he was guilty of the charges including inciting massacres and mass rapes.

The 53-year-old fugitive was arrested in December in the Democratic Republic of Congo and extradited to his homeland to face justice.

Until his arrest, the former mayor was one of nine genocide suspects still being actively sought by an international tribunal for involvement in the 1994 Rwandan genocide which claimed the lives of 800,000 people, mainly ethnic Tutsis.

Ntaganzwa had a \$5 million (4.6 million euro) US bounty on his head and has been indicted by a UN-backed court for genocide and crimes against humanity.

He is accused of organising "the massacre of thousands of Tutsis at various locations," the UN-backed Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT) said when he was arrested.

"He was also alleged to have orchestrated the rape and sexual violence committed against many women," it said.

Ntaganzwa said he was "abstaining" when asked by the judge if he was guilty of genocide, direct and public incitement to genocide, massacres, an extermination campaign and orchestrating mass rapes.

His lawyer Laurent Bugabo told AFP his client had not had enough time to examine his dossier, sent in 2012 to Rwandan authorities by the UN-backed International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), based in Tanzania.

No date was given for the start of the trial.

According to a 44-page ICTR indictment, Ntaganzwa helped to establish, train and arm the local Interahamwe militia, the ethnic Hutu youth wing of the political party he ran in the Nyakizu area, "with the intent to exterminate the Tutsi population and eliminate its 'accomplices'."

It also accuses Ntaganzwa of personally leading a series of massacres of Tutsi civilians, including an attack on a church where thousands had taken shelter.

RDC CONGO :

Viols en Centrafrique : trois casques bleus comparaissent en RD Congo

AFP/05/04/2016

Trois soldats congolais, membres des casques bleus, ont comparu lundi à Kinshasa dans le premier procès militaire lié aux violences sexuelles commises en Centrafrique par les casques bleus.

Trois soldats congolais de la force onusienne de maintien de la paix en Centrafrique (Minusca) ont comparu lundi 4 avril devant un tribunal militaire à Kinshasa pour des viols commis sur la population centrafricaine qu'ils étaient censés protéger.

La plupart des 21 soldats congolais concernés par ce scandale d'abus sexuels doivent être jugés pour viols ou tentatives de viols ainsi que violation des consignes. Selon les règles onusiennes, seuls les pays fournisseurs de soldats aux missions sont habilités à sanctionner pénalement les coupables. À raison de trois audiences par semaines, le procès pourrait durer plusieurs mois.

Lundi, les trois accusés ont rejetés ces accusations, déclarant qu'ils n'étaient pas coupables des faits qui leur sont reprochés.

Plus d'une soixantaine d'agressions sexuelles en 2015

L'ONU fait face depuis plusieurs mois à un scandale planétaire lié aux viols dont sont accusés des casques bleus en opération dans des pays où ils sont censés protéger les populations.

Selon le dernier rapport annuel du secrétaire général de l'ONU, Ban Ki-moon, 69 cas d'agression sexuels auraient été commis par des casques bleus en 2015, en "nette augmentation" par rapport à 2014. À elles seules, deux missions cumulent la moitié des cas : la Minusca et la Mission des Nations unies pour la stabilisation de la RDC (Monusco).

Interrogée par l'AFP, Ida Sawyer, de l'organisation Human Rights Watch (HRW) en RDC a estimé que l'ouverture du procès à Ndolo était "une première et bonne étape pour la fin de l'impunité et pour montrer qu'il y a des conséquences à ce type de comportements".

À l'issue des travaux d'une commission d'enquête dépêchée en Centrafrique en août 2015, la justice militaire congolaise avait classé sans suite une première série de plaintes contre des casques bleus originaires de RDC.

Après de nouvelles mises en causes visant certains de ses soldats le contingent de la RDC au sein de la Minusca a été rapatrié par étapes. Depuis la fin de cette opération fin février, des hommes de ce contingent ont été visés par huit nouvelles accusations de violences sexuelles (dont sept sur mineurs).

UGANDA :

The Media shouldn't Parrot Opposition false Claims!

By Ofwono Opondo/mediacentre.go.ug/05/04/2016

As Ugandans await the Supreme Court ruling on John Patrick Amama Mbabazi, the 'Go Forward' presidential candidate's election petition seeking to nullify President Yoweri Museveni's election victory, I take issue with broadly with the Uganda media, and in particular, The Daily Monitor's coverage of election campaigns and results so far.

It surprises that over a month after the public declaration, official release and gazzettment of the election results by Electoral Commission (EC) the mainstream media of radios, television stations and newspapers continue to parrot the false and very absurd claims by Dr Kizza Besigye of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) that he was 'robbed' of victory at the last minute by the NRM in connivance with the EC and other state organs. This media conspiracy of silence on FDC's loss of 17 of its 35 MPs in the 9th parliament, and the fact that FDC hasn't made any gains at all, begs a jab.

Museveni and NRM win shouldn't surprise because it is consistent with all the opinion polls that

were conducted over two years prior to the elections, and actual fielding of candidates by political parties. Museveni's 60.62% is consistent with NRM's 72.1%, 75%, and 69% for MPs, district, and sub-county local government seats respectively.

The results published by the EC and available including on the internet at almost no cost show that Besigye won in only fourteen out of 112 districts with 3,508,687 million votes representing 35.61%, while Museveni won in 98 districts and in all regions with 5,971,872 million votes representing 60.62% of the total votes cast respectively.

In this election Besigye gained 1.5 million votes compared to two million votes he got in 2011 while Museveni's gain was a paltry 500,000. To the NRM strategists, this is the most shocking, indeed worrying trend, and having located the cause as being our messaging, strategy, campaign style, internal laxity, occasioned fraud and widespread bickering we shall not blame anybody else except ourselves. Actually, to be frank, we were almost swept away by our collective failure to robustly respond to the opposition demagoguery on issues of youth unemployment, despair among the urban population, poor and yet expensive public service delivery and bad public relations especially to distribution of soft campaign cash that often got stolen along the way among other issues. This, to the Besigye camp should give hope that with better strategic organisation not only falsehoods, they can in the future topple NRM through the ballot instead of being bad losers. NRM fielded 414 candidates for the 415 elective parliamentary seats while FDC only had 192, DP 68, UPC 38, and Independents 717, mostly NRM leaning. The final results show NRM has 294 MPs-elect, FDC 36, DP 14, UPC 06 and Independents 64. In fact 44 of the Independents contested in the NRM primaries.

Of the 112 District Local Government Chairpersons, NRM has 84 (75%), FDC 05 (4.46%), DP 02 (1.79%), UPC 04 (3.5%) and Independents 17 (15.18%). So, in this scenario, Besigye and his small band should stop crying foul, and perhaps organize better in future! Out of the already elected 1,392 Sub-County (LCIII) Local Government Chairpersons NRM scooped 972 (69.78%), FDC 105 (7.5%), DP 32 (2.30%), UPC 35 and independents 192 (13.5%), and smaller parties like Uganda Federal Alliance, and SDP and postponed elections account for the remaining. The claims of rigging especially at the last minute through alleged intimidation of candidates' agents, ballot stuffing, falsification or alteration of results on tally and declaration sheets and at announcements are perturbing and incredibly unbelievable. These could pass as truth if the peddlers could at least adduce some verifiable evidence from eyewitnesses and documents in their possession that differ from those of the EC which ought to be available from the multiple sources including the media that observed these elections.

But, it appears the candidates, observers and media did a shoddy job and are now embarrassed they cannot provide any credible documentary evidence of fraud hence the generalized allegations of cheating and unfairness. The local media in particular, appear to have been overtaken by the early rumblings in the campaigns perhaps by the way Mbabazi was hounded out of NRM Secretary Generalship and the subsequent obstruction of his initial consultations outside NRM party rules by the police. Unfortunately, Mbabazi's would be most loyal and vocal supporter, his wife Jacqueline was subdued by God's cruel hand and has been reported indisposed throughout the campaigns unable to butt for him, and, we wish her steady recovery.

The media silence has left Besigye to make the bogus claims thereby inadvertently lending false credence that indeed he was cheated and fanned keep public anxiety. Surely, the Uganda media can do much better that has been!

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa's ANC Starts Campaign to Quell Internal Dissent
April 5, 2016/bloomberg.com

South Africa's ruling African National Congress has started a campaign to encourage its lawmakers to stop plans to impeach President Jacob Zuma over public money used on his private home while explaining the party's position to ordinary members.

"We will explain our decision to the people, visit our party branches and talk to ANC stalwarts and veterans," the party's secretary-general, Gwede Mantashe, told reporters after the ANC's National Working Committee met in Cape Town.

The country's constitutional court ruled that last week that Zuma violated the constitution by failing to repay some of the 216 million rand (\$14.6 million) of public funds spent to upgrade his private residence. On Friday, Zuma apologized on national television.

Zuma is under pressure to resign or be removed from office from the public and a number of prominent people who played a role in the liberation struggle against whites-only apartheid rule that ended more than two decades ago.

Beyond the court ruling's, Zuma's position has been further undermined by allegations by senior ANC officials that a wealthy Indian family who are friends with the president offered them cabinet posts in exchange for business concessions. The party's leadership is currently investigating those accusations, which the Gupta family denies.

The main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, has lodged a motion of impeachment against Zuma that's due to be debated in the National Assembly on Tuesday.

"The constitution is very specific about the removal of the president -- it says there has to be a serious breach of the constitution or the law and the judgment does not use the word serious at all," Mantashe said, referring to the constitutional court's ruling last week.

The ANC holds 249 of the 400 seats in the National Assembly.

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

Kenya's William Ruto due to hear war crimes case ruling

05/04/2016/bbc.com

Kenyan Vice-President William Ruto is due to find out whether a crimes against humanity case against him will be thrown out by judges at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Mr Ruto denies murder, deportation and persecution charges during violence that followed the 2007 elections in which about 1,200 people were killed.

His lawyers want the case to be terminated due to a lack of evidence.

Mr Ruto is one of the most senior politicians to be tried by the ICC.

The prosecution case against him has been dogged by repeated setbacks.

In February judges at the ICC barred the use of recanted testimony, meaning that prior recorded witness statements could not be used by prosecutors.

Several key witnesses in the case have changed their statements, which prosecutors said was due to intimidation and bribery.

Mr Ruto's lawyers say he should be acquitted because so many key prosecution witnesses have either dropped or changed their original statements.

ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda has acknowledged that the loss of witnesses has weakened the case against the deputy president - but she has argued there still remains enough evidence to proceed with the trial.

A spokesman for the ICC has told the BBC's Anna Holligan in The Hague there are a number of possible scenarios.

The judges could clear Mr Ruto of all the charges, they may ask the prosecution to consider changing the charges or they could reject the defence team's arguments and allow the trial to continue.

In 2014, the prosecutor dropped similar charges against Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, alleging that witnesses had been intimidated to make them change their testimony.

The future of the case now appears to depend on whether the prosecution has proved that it has sufficient evidence to offset a no-case-to-answer move from Mr Ruto's lawyers.

The use of prior testimony falls under Rule 68 of the Rome Statute, which set up the ICC.

But William Ruto's defence team argued this was unfair because changes to the rule were brought in after the case against him and his fellow defendant, the journalist Joshua arap Sang, had started.

Presiding Judge Piotr Hofmanski ruled that prior-recorded testimony was delivered without an opportunity for the accused to cross-examine the witnesses.

Mr Sang, who is accused of using his radio show to organise attacks in the election aftermath, said at the time that the decision was "one step to our freedom".

Mr Ruto and Mr Kenyatta were on opposite sides of the 2007 election, but formed an alliance that won the 2013 election.

France gives Kenya Sh13.8 billion for cheap power connections

Apr. 05, 2016/the-star.co.ke

Kenya will get Sh13.8 billion from France for power connections under the Last Mile Connectivity project.

Under the deal signed during President Uhuru Kenyatta ongoing visit to France, Sh10.4 billion (€90

million) will be given as a loan while Sh3.4 billion (€30 million) will be a grant.

The country is undertaking an ambitious electricity connection plan under the project which will see Kenya Power connect households within 600 metres of targeted 5,320 transformers countrywide at half price.

These connections will cost of Sh15,000 compared to Sh35,000 previously. Kenya Power is targeting 314,200 homes under the first phase which is jointly financed by the government and African Development Bank.

Uhuru has also secured another loan of Sh1.7 billion(€15 million) for phase two of the Roads 2000 Programme.

The programme aims to improve the road network and create employment opportunities through an appropriate mix of labour and equipment for a well maintained and sustainable road network.

An additional Sh1.7 billion financing agreement was signed by Kenya for the ongoing Meru Wind Farm project.

Another Sh2 billion (€19 million) funds deal was signed for Ruiru II dam and water supply project while East Africa Development Bank got Sh3.8 billion (€33 million).

Kenya Power hurt workers now 'stable'

Apr. 05, 2016/the-star.co.ke

Kenya Power yesterday said two of its workers electrocuted while on a routine maintenance of the Nakuru power lines are in stable condition.

In its official Twitter handle, the electricity company said the two men are receiving treatment in an undisclosed hospital.

"The two are in hospital receiving treatment. We are awaiting further investigations on the incident," reads the tweet.

The two men, who were repairing a transformer near Lonrho House in Industrial area were injured when the transformer burst into flames.

Residents expressed concerns over lack of communication between Kenya Power and the workers.

A video clip shows the two being rescued by men believed to be company staff.

Residents called for the immediate sacking of Kenya Power workers who were on duty on that day.

"They power line was switched on while the two were still on top of the transformer. Either there was serious miscommunication or an attempt to murder the two," resident Kelvin Muchiri said.

He said it was unlikely for such a "careless" mistake to happen, yet the company is well equipped with communication gadgets.

James Wakibia asked why there are no Kenya Power emergency first aiders on the ground.

“In any case, the risk of people being electrocuted while up on a power line is high and they do not even have an ambulance on standby,” he said.

Kenya set to burn 106 tons of ivory and rhino horn

By: Ben Curtis The Associated Press/Mon Apr 04 2016

Kenyan wildlife authorities will torch the items to discourage the destructive ivory and rhino horn trade.

NAIROBI, KENYA—Kenyan wildlife authorities Monday started moving at least 105 tons of ivory and 1 ton of rhino horn in preparation for the torching of the items at the end of the month to discourage ivory and rhino horn trade believed to be fuelling poaching of elephants and rhinos.

In a musty basement strongroom behind two sets of heavy steel doors, workers pulled elephant tusks from piles that nearly reach the ceiling. Each one is carefully logged and matched against previous photos of the tusk, pulled up on a computer tablet. The workers carry the ivory outside with the numbers of tusks being counted at each stage by wildlife rangers — a process expected to go on for days.

The stockpile is from elephants and rhinos killed in conflict with humans, from problem-animal control, those that died naturally or were killed by poachers, said Kenya Wildlife Service deputy director Patrick Omondi.

The mass destruction is timed to coincide with an April 28-30 summit on the protection of elephants in Kenya.

A global ban on the ivory trade in 1989 briefly halted the elephants' demise. But the ban's initial success was undermined by booming Asian economies and increasing demand for land. Africa had 1.3 million elephants in the 1970s but has only 500,000 today.

The elephant populations in Tanzania, Gabon, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Mozambique, Republic of Congo and Congo are the worst hit by poaching,

The years 2011, 2012 and 2013 witnessed the highest levels of poaching since a poaching crisis in the 1980s, Kenya's Wildlife Service has said.

Save The Elephants said in 2014 that 100,000 elephants were killed in Africa between 2010 and 2012. Last year, China imposed a one-year ban on ivory imports amid criticism that its citizens' huge appetite for ivory threatens the existence of Africa's elephants.

ANGOLA :

Yellow Fever Outbreak in Angola Strains Health Organizations

nytimes.com/2016/04/05

Angola is experiencing a major urban yellow fever outbreak that threatens other countries, including China, and is exposing how poorly prepared the world is to fight two mosquito-borne epidemics at once.

Angola's outbreak, which is known to have killed about 200 people, has already consumed the World Health Organization's emergency stockpile of yellow fever vaccine.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said it cannot give Africa as much help as it normally would: Most of its mosquito-disease experts are fighting the Zika virus in Brazil, Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

Yellow fever usually kills about 3 percent of its victims, although some epidemics have had much higher mortality rates.

Last month, the disease-alert service ProMED — which said almost a year ago that Zika might spread in Latin America — issued an unusual warning. John P. Woodall, a founder of the service, calculated how much yellow fever vaccine the world has and can make this year, and said that if the disease spread to parts of Asia with the right climate and mosquitoes, “hundreds of thousands could die before Y.F. vaccine stocks could be boosted and delivered.”

The W.H.O. is so concerned that its director-general, Dr. Margaret Chan, flew to Angola this week to draw attention to the crisis.

Yellow fever normally circulates in monkeys, and human outbreaks are usually limited to jungle villages, logging camps and mining areas. But in December, the virus spread to Angola's capital, Luanda, which has more than six million people. It is the third most populous city in the Portuguese-speaking world, after São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

Yellow fever is spread by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, which also carry Zika, dengue, chikungunya, Japanese encephalitis and other diseases.

With more than five million Angolans vaccinated, cases in Luanda have dropped. But new clusters are growing in a third of the country's provinces, and cases have turned up in Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and in China. Many Chinese work in Africa building roads and bridges, and in oil fields and other industries.

AU/AFRICA :

Congo : la population fuit massivement le sud de Brazzaville, théâtre de violences

le 04 avril 2016/AFP

Des milliers d'habitants du sud de Brazzaville ont fui leurs quartiers lundi après plusieurs heures d'échanges de tirs et de canonnades provoqués selon le gouvernement congolais par une attaque menée par un nombre indéterminé d'hommes armés contre des bâtiments publics.

Les autorités n'ont fourni aucun bilan en pertes de vie humaines de ce qui s'apparente selon elles "à une véritable action terroriste" et ont indiqué enquêter en vue d'établir s'il existe un lien entre ces attaques et les candidats de l'opposition ayant contesté la réélection du président Denis Sassou Nguesso à l'issue de la présidentielle du 20 mars.

La victoire du chef de l'État au premier tour de scrutin a été validée lundi soir par la Cour constitutionnelle, selon laquelle M. Sassou Nguesso - qui cumule plus de 32 ans de pouvoir à la tête

du Congo - a obtenu plus de 60% des suffrages.

Selon des témoignages recueillis par l'AFP, des échanges de tirs à l'arme automatique émaillés de détonations d'armes lourdes ont commencé entre 02h00 et 3h00 du matin (1h00 à 2h00 GMT) dans les quartiers de Mayanga et Makélékélé et se sont poursuivis pratiquement sans discontinuer jusque vers 06h00. Ils ont continué par intermittence jusqu'en fin dans l'après-midi.

En début d'après-midi, le porte-parole du gouvernement congolais, Thierry Mougalla, a lu une déclaration à la télévision publique affirmant que la "situation [était] maîtrisée" et invitant la population à vaquer à ses "occupations quotidiennes".

M. Mougalla a accusé d'"ex-miliciens Ninja Nsiloulou" - des combattants d'une ancienne faction de la guerre civile dite du Pool (1998-2003) ayant éclaté après le retour au pouvoir de M. Sassou Nguesso en 1997 - d'être à l'origine des troubles de la nuit.

Pendant la guerre du Pool, les Ninja Nsiloulou étaient dirigés par Frédéric Bintsamou, alias le pasteur Ntoumi. Ce dernier a fini par rallier le pouvoir de M. Sassou Nguesso, mais s'est rangé récemment derrière Guy-Brice Parfait Kolélas, arrivé deuxième lors de la présidentielle du 20 mars, selon les résultats officiels.

Interrogé par l'AFP dans l'après-midi le porte-parole de l'équipe de campagne de M. Kolélas, Vivien Manangou, n'a pas voulu faire de déclaration sur les violences ayant frappé la capitale, jugeant la situation encore "confuse".

Dans son arrêt, la Cour constitutionnelle déclare que la requête de M. Kolélas demandant l'"annulation" ou la "reformulation" des résultats dans quatre départements (sur douze) et un arrondissement de Brazzaville a été "jugée irrecevable parce que déposée au-delà des délais constitutionnels".

- Paix 'toujours menacée' -

Sur la télévision publique, M. Mougalla a affirmé les assaillants avaient attaqué une position militaire, quatre commissariats de police, incendié la mairie de Makélékélé et commis des "voies de faits et diverses exactions sur les populations civiles", les contraignant à fuir.

Un journaliste de l'AFP a pu voir la façade d'un de ces commissariats endommagée par un début d'incendie.

Toute la journée de longues files d'habitants tirant des valises, portant des matelas ou transportant des vieillards dans des brouettes ont remonté "l'avenue de l'OUA" principal axe de communication des quartiers sud vers le centre, où la police avait établi des barrages pour fouiller passants ou véhicules.

Vers 19h00, alors que des centaines de fuyards s'apprêtaient à passer la nuit dans des églises ou des bâtiments administratifs, d'autres continuaient à arriver dans le centre de la ville.

"Nous sommes apeurés. Rien ne nous dit qu'on peut passer une nuit calme dans notre zone. J'ai préféré quitter avec femmes et enfants", a déclaré à l'AFP un de ces nouveaux venus, Fidèle, menuisier de 52 ans.

"Nous ne savons pas où aller, nous sommes comme des immigrés, c'est choquant", a déclaré pour sa part Mercie, une étudiante de 24 ans habitant Makélékélé. Comme Jérôme, âgé de 55 ans, beaucoup

sont partis en toute hâte, laissant tout derrière eux.

Julienne, habitante d'un quartier sud, trouve "curieux" de vivre "dans un pays où qu'on vote ou pas, la paix est toujours menacée."

Après l'annonce des résultats de la présidentielle par le gouvernement, le 24 mars, cinq candidats d'opposition, criant à la fraude, ont appelé la population à rejeter la réélection de M. Sassou Nguesso par des voix légales et pacifiques.

"Les investigations se poursuivent" pour tenter de déterminer si certains de ces candidats sont "impliqués" dans les dernières violences, a déclaré M. Moundounga.

La France, qui avait dénoncé le "contexte préoccupant" selon elle, dans lequel s'est déroulé la présidentielle du 20 mars a appelé lundi toutes les parties à la "retenue".

L'Union européenne a lancé un appel similaire, estimant que "la violence ne [pouvait] pas constituer la réponse aux défis posés au pays".

Offshore and Africa – what's in the leaked Panama Papers?

By Daniel Finnan/en.rfi.fr/05-04-2016

The leaked Panama Papers exposing the workings of offshore law firm Mossack Fonseca resulted in a number of stories published on Monday detailing offshore entities stretching from Uganda to Sierra Leone. The internal documents expose the company's questionable dealings in Africa highlighting missing taxes, dodgy infrastructure tenders and secret holdings in the diamond industry. RFI spoke to Amanda Potgieter, managing editor, African Network of Centers for Investigative Reporting.

What are the most significant leaks relating to the African continent?

We have a number of very strong stories and while a lot of them seem to be quite small - in the sense that they might focus on countries that we don't consider economic powerhouses, such as Botswana or Guinea - they really do link to a major problem, where Africa loses some \$150 billion to illicit financial flows every year. So they all link to a much bigger picture. For me, the strongest stories would be Uganda, where we see oil companies trying to avoid paying \$400 million in capital gains tax through restructuring. Sierra Leone, which is very strong, because of the links between Steinmetz, who through shelf companies does business with Tiffany & Co, selling them diamonds. As well as Guinea and links with the Beny Steinmetz Group.

Could you explain what the leaked papers show in Uganda? Why did Heritage Oil and Gas try to move their legal place of business from the Bahamas to Mauritius?

Because it would have benefitted from the double taxation agreement between Uganda and Mauritius. The company went about trying to do the whole change and then suddenly got caught out by the Ugandan government, as well as by the British government. So they learnt ahead of time that there would be an imminent tax liability before it was officially imposed. And suddenly they needed major changes to take place before this actual tax would happen. So the leak shows a number of emails sent in advance to lawyers where they try and fight the paying of taxes. It also then ends up being a four year court case - courts in the UK as well as Uganda - where they really try and get out of paying something that they owe the Ugandan government.

The leaks reveal very interesting information about the tender for a Namibian port. Could you tell us more?

I feel like we're going to be able to explore this story more because it's a shell company that's linked to a bribery scandal in Brazil that paid \$1 million to another firm, which is completely owned by a Trinidadian politician. His company is trying to win the \$340 million tender to expand the Walvis Bay port in Namibia. It's just so bizarre when you look at some of the links - there are links to a firm incorporated in New Zealand, that seems to be paying kickbacks to the Pendrey Associates Corporation and all of this is almost managed by Mossack Fonseca. So the leaked court documents from the Brazil 'Car Wash' scandal, which is what the company was involved in, shows that Santa Tereza Services paid \$1 million to Pendrey which is the company that belongs to the Trinidadian politician to develop the technical studies that will support the pricing and the technical proposal for the expansion of the Walvis Bay port. While the leak exposes the involvement of the offshore company in the bid for the Namibian port tender, we still are missing a link - which international company subcontracted Santa Tereza. And what's even more worrying is that port officials claim they don't have any access to the names of companies that determined the technical aspects of the international companies' bids. So again, we can't prove exact illicit behaviour. But it's the secrecy around it that allows for illicit behaviour.

Your investigation has revealed more about Israeli businessman Beny Steinmetz and his dealings in Sierra Leone's diamond mining industry. The country is home to some of the world's most valuable diamonds, yet it seems unclear whether any taxes are being paid. What's going on here?

Beny Steinmetz and his companies seem to be followed by controversy. He is currently being investigated for an alleged tax avoidance scam in South Africa. There is also the ongoing US grand jury investigation into corruption in Guinea. He really should be trying to keep his name out of the papers. He sold his company, or his share in the Steinmetz Group's diamond segment to his brother Daniel in 2014. All of this was done via Mossack Fonseca. However, leaked emails seem to indicate that while his share had technically been sold to his brother, which meant that he would then make the decisions around the company, there seems to be emails that seem to request backdating to hide the fact that he possibly was still running the company from the side-lines, despite visibly selling his shares to his brother. So between 2013 and 2015 he was still linked to the company and seemed to be listed as the person who makes the calls. We've also got incomplete diamond export data that shows that another company that he's linked to, Ocea, exported more than \$330 million in rough diamonds. That company is specifically alleged to be more than \$150 million in the red, dozens of creditors are waiting to be paid, including the government of Sierra Leone and Standard Chartered bank. If these debts aren't paid, the company could then lose its license. Conspiratorial rumours seem to say that this could entirely be part of their plan. There's selling, there's heaps of money coming in, and yet the company's showing it doesn't have any money. This means that under the agreement it made with the Sierra Leonean government, it isn't paying the taxes it owes.

What are you hoping will happen next following the publication of this information?

What we're really hoping to do is find more stories. To me, what we've uncovered so far is only really scratching at the surface, especially for the Africa side. Now that some of the international stories have been published, we'll certainly be seeing more links outside of Africa. So I'm hoping to do more cross-continental investigations, using the data that is already available. Then to see what's the outcome of this leak. We have had a response from Mossack Fonseca, who are basically saying, 'we've done nothing wrong, we followed due diligence'. The next step will be seeing what happens to these politicians and national leaders that have been mentioned. We're also hoping to launch further investigations with more of the data available and preferably with some of the countries, now that they know about it.

Global Partnerships Can Work if Aligned with Africa's Strategic Objectives

africa.com/05/04/2016

The 17th Session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa) kicked off in Addis Ababa, amidst calls for better coordination in the implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the global Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030). The meeting is being held during the ongoing African Development Week.

The RCM-Africa – a platform for the UN system to support the African Union and its member countries to implement global and continental development goals in Africa – will play a key role in making this a reality.

“There is no doubt that global partnerships can provide the impetus for tackling the key socio economic challenges currently facing Africa. Global partnerships can work for Africa if they are aligned with the strategic objectives of the continent and buttressed by a unified continental voice”, said Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Executive Secretary, Carlos Lopes. “We have the opportunity to model what such a partnership could be”, he stressed.

Speaking on behalf of UN Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, UN Special Adviser on Africa, Maged Abdelaziz, said: “What is critical for us today is what the implementation of the UN-AU partnership and the implementation of Agenda 2063 and 2030 agenda for sustainable development entail: both agendas are wide and comprehensive. Together they will therefore address a range of political, economical, social, and environmental challenges for Africa”.

Mr Abdelaziz recommended that RCM Africa prioritizes multi-stakeholder and public private partnerships that facilitate joint programmes. These will support national efforts to domesticate and implement both Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030, while helping to address the perennial problem of lack of resources.

“The implementation of Agenda 2063 will really help us meet the Sustainable Development Goals of ending poverty, zero hunger, quality education, water and sanitation, protecting the planet, gender equality, reducing inequalities and ensuring prosperity for all », added African Union Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma. “An integrated, peaceful, prosperous Africa that is driven by its own citizens is in the interest of the whole of humanity », she added.

The RCM-Africa took place with the participation of high level representatives from the African Development Bank, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, African economic communities as well as several UN system agencies and organizations including the World Bank and the IMF.

Participants will discuss the UN-African Union partnership for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Objectives (SDGs). Also discussed will be the African Year of Human Rights, with a particular focus on the Rights of Women, Movement, Migration, Youth and Gender Empowerment, Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade, and Strengthening the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa for an effective Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

UN/AFRICA :

First UN soldiers on trial in C. Africa sex abuse scandal

By Afp/5 April 2016

The first soldiers to face justice in a huge sex abuse scandal that has rocked the UN and France went on trial in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Monday.

The three Congolese men from the UN's MINUSCA peacekeeping mission in Central African Republic wore blue prison gear as they appeared before the tribunal in Ndolo, a military prison north of the capital Kinshasa.

They are the first troops to be prosecuted in the scandal, which has seen more than 100 victims come forward with horrifying accounts of sexual abuse by UN peacekeepers and French forces.

Another 18 soldiers from DR Congo accused of rape -- or attempted rape -- of the civilians they were meant to be protecting during a peacekeeping mission in CAR were also present in the court.

"Sergeant Jackson Kikola is being prosecuted for raping a (young girl) of 17 and for not following orders," said public prosecutor Lieutenant Mposhi Ngoy, reading the indictments.

Sergeant major Kibeka Mulamba Djuma faces similar charges, while sergeant major Nsasi Ndazu was charged with disobeying orders and attempted rape. All three pleaded not guilty.

"We want absolute transparency in this trial," the justice minister, Alexis Thambwe Mwamba, told AFP, adding that "a few individuals cannot discredit our army".

Three hearings are scheduled each week, meaning the entire process could take months to complete.

Ida Sawyer, an advocate for Human Rights Watch in the Democratic Republic of Congo, told AFP the trial at Ndolo was "a first, and good, step to end impunity" and called on all countries involved to ensure "real justice".

But Venance Kalenga, who attended the hearing as an observer for Congolese human rights charity ACAJ, said "the absence of victims constitutes a major obstacle in the demonstration of truth".

- 'Shocked to the core' -

The UN said last week its investigators have identified 108 alleged new victims, "the vast majority" of them under-age girls who were raped, sexually abused or exploited by foreign troops.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he was "shocked to the core" by the allegations made to UN investigators by victims in south-central Kemo prefecture in CAR.

Witness statements gathered by AFP at a camp in Bangui said young girls would have sex with men -- some of them soldiers -- in exchange for bread, or cash worth the equivalent of less than \$1.

AIDS-Free World, a civil society group that tracks peacekeeper sex abuse cases, said three girls told a UN rights officer they were tied up and undressed by a French commander and forced to have sex with a dog.

The girls were then allegedly given about \$9 in payment.

The UN's MINUSCA operation, which counts 12,600 foreign police and soldiers, took over from an African Union force in CAR in September 2014 in a bid to end a year of brutal sectarian violence.

Former colonial power France had sent its own intervention force, dubbed "Sangaris", nine months earlier.

Paris has said any French troops convicted would face military discipline and possible criminal penalties.

"We cannot -- and I cannot -- accept the slightest stain on the reputation of our armed forces or of France," French President Francois Hollande said on Friday.

Under UN rules, the responsibility for investigating and prosecuting peacekeeper sexual abuse lies with the countries that contribute the troops and police to the peace missions.

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

German minister: EU may need refugee deals with North African states

DAILY SABAH WITH AFP/2016/04/05

Germany's interior minister voiced optimism Sunday that Europe's refugee and migrant influx had peaked, but said agreements with North African countries may be needed to prevent mass arrivals in the future.

An EU-Turkey deal went into effect yesterday under which Ankara has pledged to take back migrants from EU member Greece, while it plans to launch orderly transports of Syrian asylum seekers to the 28-member bloc.

Germany, which took in more than 1 million refugees and migrants last year, has already seen arrivals drop sharply to an average of 140 a day on its Austrian border, Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said. "I can say with a great deal of caution that the peak of the refugee crisis is behind us," de Maiziere was quoted as telling the Tagesspiegel am Sonntag newspaper, speaking weeks after Balkan countries closed their borders to the wave of migrants.

He added however that "there are still some questions that we must answer. ... This includes the implementation of the negotiated agreement achieved with Turkey, but also a search for solutions in case of possible alternative routes, such as via Libya and Italy," he said.

"If, once more, more people come via this route, we will need to search for similar solutions as we did with Turkey and also enter into negotiations with North African countries," he added. "I could imagine reception centers in North Africa for refugees who are returned from Italy, and in turn a humanitarian admission program with the North African country in question," he said. He cautioned, however, that much "hard work" would lie ahead before any such programs may be agreed.

The majority of migrants come from the Middle East and Africa. The turmoil in the Middle East and the five-year civil war in Syria have led many people to flee the conflicts in an attempt to seek security and shelter in more prosperous and peaceful countries such as those in Europe. However, the EU has been slammed for lacking a collaborative response to the crisis.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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