



(L'armée nigériane a annoncé jeudi avoir retrouvé une deuxième rescapée parmi les 219 lycéennes de Chibok kidnappées par Boko Haram, peu après que le président Muhammadu Buhari eut considéré avoir "de nouveaux espoirs" de retrouver d'autres otages, deux ans après le rapt.)

BURUNDI :

Dans un rapport, le Burundi accuse le Rwanda de chercher à la déstabiliser

Par RFI/le 20-05-2016

Les autorités du Burundi accusent une fois encore le Rwanda d'actes d'agression. Cette fois, elles publient un rapport entier sur la question.

Vingt-cinq pages pour démontrer comment le Rwanda s'ingère dans les affaires burundaises et arme des groupes rebelles, pour déstabiliser le régime de Pierre Nkurunziza.

Publié un an après la tentative de coup d'Etat de mai 2015, ce rapport commence par un rappel d'histoire. Il remonte jusqu'en 1959. Cette année-là, de milliers de Rwandais se sont réfugiés au Burundi après des massacres dans leur pays. Le rapport parle de « quartiers littéralement envahis » par des Tutsis à Bujumbura. Et assure qu'il s'agit des quartiers qui contestent aujourd'hui et depuis un an le 3ème mandat du président Nkurunziza.

Selon le rapport, il ne s'agit d'ailleurs que d'un prétexte, les manifestations sont qualifiées « d'insurrection ». Et le texte assure que les violences ont commencé bien avant la campagne électorale l'année dernière. Des attaques menées par des groupes rebelles, derrière lesquels se trouverait donc le Rwanda.

Pourquoi ? Parce que le régime de Paul Kagame se sentirait menacé par le processus de réconciliation mené au Burundi et par le système politique, basé sur des quotas ethniques. Une réussite selon le rapport, alors qu'au Rwanda, le débat n'a jamais eu lieu. Selon Bujumbura, le régime en place à Kigali tire sa légitimité de la distorsion des mémoires. C'est pour cela, conclut le

texte, que le Rwanda cherche à déstabiliser son voisin.

RWANDA :

Rwanda: First Lady to Receive Humanitarian Award in U.S

20 May 2016/The New Times (Kigali)

By Collins Mwai

First Lady, Mrs Jeannette Kagame will tonight receive a humanitarian award for her tireless efforts and dedication to improve the lives of the most vulnerable, including children and women.

Mrs Kagame who is the Chairperson of Imbuto Foundation which works in the fields of health, education, youth and economic empowerment, will be honoured by Team Heart, an organisation focused on increasing access to cardiac care in Rwanda for the vulnerable population.

The award ceremony is expected to take place tonight at the University of Massachusetts Alumni Club in Boston, USA.

The same ceremony will see the launch of a public campaign aimed at raising funds to build the first-ever cardiac care centre in Rwanda to serve the vulnerable population.

Speaking ahead of the event, David Wilson the Team Heart Board President said that they were the cardiac centre to be set up would help reduce the number of patients who have to undergo critical heart surgeries due to lack of early treatment.

"The stories of patients in Rwanda often start with an easily treatable infection, but because they are forced to suffer untreated for years, they are pushed to the brink and need critical heart surgery. This Cardiac Care Center will serve as a beacon of hope to this country - providing the preventive care and medical procedures that will save countless lives. We are so thankful that the First Lady will be joining us, and we hope this event will help make this dream a reality," Wilson said in a statement.

The organisation has for the past nine years been working with highly skilled volunteers from the New England region who have been travelling to Rwanda to provide health screenings, life saving open-heart surgery and educational workshops for Rwandan medical caregivers.

Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) among children and young adults is one of the top heart ailments the two organisations have been dealing with in the country.

RHD is the result of a strep throat in childhood. If not treated, it progresses to destroy the valves of the heart and cause irreversible heart failure.

UN Recognizes Exceptional Bravery of Senegalese Peacekeeper

May 19, 2016 /voanews.com

UNITED NATIONS—

The United Nations has recognized the outstanding bravery of a peacekeeper who was killed while

protecting hundreds of civilians during the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

The honor was awarded Thursday to the widow and two children of Senegalese Captain Mbaye Diagne.

In 1994, Diagne was a young army officer deployed with the U.N. Assistance Mission for Rwanda. While Hutus massacred at least 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus during a 100-day spree, Diagne risked his life to save hundreds of children, women and men.

“He did not turn a blind eye or a deaf ear,” U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said at a medal ceremony in the General Assembly Hall under a large projected image of a smiling Diagne. “He did not ignore his conscience or walk away in fear. He acted from his heart. He was exceptionally courageous.”

Diagne hid the civilians a few at a time in his U.N. vehicle. Ban said he made “dozens” of trips across checkpoints and roadblocks, using his charm and steely nerve to get the people to safety.

“If he had been caught, he and his passengers very likely would have been killed on the spot,” Ban said.

The Rwandan genocide continues to haunt the United Nations as one of its greatest failures. Messages from the mission to headquarters in New York warning of the potential for mass atrocities were not acted upon. When the killings began, peacekeepers provided refuge for thousands at their bases, but were otherwise reduced largely to the role of bystanders.

“While the world failed to act to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of Rwandans, Captain Diagne was fearless in saving as many lives as he could,” the secretary-general said.

Diagne was killed by a mortar round in May 1994 on his way to mission headquarters, just weeks before his assignment was due to end.

Two years ago, the U.N. Security Council created the Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal in his honor. U.N. peacekeeping chief Hervé Ladsous told the gathering it is to be awarded to military and civilian personnel who demonstrate exceptional courage, using Diagne’s bravery as the benchmark.

Ladsous said the U.N. considered 10 cases but realized no one had achieved what the Senegalese captain had, so the inaugural medal was awarded to Diagne's family in his honor.

Peacekeeping under scrutiny

The United Nations has more than 100,000 peacekeepers — or “blue helmets” as they are often known because of their distinctive headgear — deployed in 16 missions around the world. Recently, however, they have come under heightened scrutiny because of scores of sexual abuse and exploitation allegations leveled against those serving, particularly in Africa.

The United Nations has a zero-tolerance policy for such misconduct, but it has not stopped the wave of allegations, many from minors in the Central African Republic. The mission chief in the C.A.R. was fired last August when the first wave of allegations came to light, but that has not stopped the rapes.

A former U.S. Homeland Security official, Jane Holl Lute, has been hired to coordinate U.N. efforts to improve the organization’s response.

Peacekeepers come from 123 countries, some with poor vetting and human rights practices. The U.N. Security Council has expressed its support to the secretary-general in a resolution allowing him to repatriate entire police or military units when there is credible evidence of widespread or systemic sexual exploitation or abuse.

Dangerous work

May 29 is International Peacekeeping Day, but it was commemorated Thursday at U.N. headquarters.

The secretary-general laid a wreath in the building's lobby to commemorate all fallen peacekeepers, but especially the 129 who died in the line of duty in 2015.

This year, 37 peacekeepers have died, including five who were ambushed Wednesday in northern Mali.

RDC CONGO :

Moïse Katumbi inculpé pour « atteinte à la sûreté intérieure et extérieure de l'Etat », précise le parquet
congoplanete.com/20/05/2016

Un communiqué du Parquet général de la République publié jeudi 19 mai annonce que Moïse Katumbi est inculpé pour « atteinte à la sûreté intérieure et extérieure de l'Etat ». Le même document note que l'ancien gouverneur du Katanga est placé sous mandat d'arrêt provisoire.

Un message lu dans la mi-journée sur la télévision publique indiquait que Moïse Katumbi avait été inculpé pour «recrutement de mercenaires».

La semaine passée, Moïse Katumbi a été auditionné au Parquet de Lubumbashi dans le cadre de cette affaire. Des auditions interrompues vendredi 13 mai après que M. Katumbi a demandé et obtenu du parquet de se rendre à l'hôpital.

Le procureur général de la République fait savoir que Moïse Katumbi peut continuer de se faire soigner en RDC ou à l'étranger.

Selon le Parquet, l'instruction pré-juridictionnelle va se poursuivre avec les interrogatoires d'autres suspects qui seront confrontés à Moïse Katumbi dès qu'il sera rétabli.

C'est le 4 mai dernier que le ministre de la Justice a annoncé avoir donné injonction au Procureur général d'engager des poursuites à l'encontre de l'ancien gouverneur du Katanga pour recrutement des mercenaires, organisation des réseaux maffieux et d'une entreprise criminelle.

Radio Okapi a tenté de joindre les avocats de Moïse Katumbi qui se trouvaient encore au Parquet de Lubumbashi jusqu'en début de soirée.

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

Why Tanzania doesn't have enough sugar

By Sammy Awami BBC Africa, Dar es Salaam/20/05/2016

You know there is trouble when you walk into East Africa's biggest supermarket and on the shelves where usually there is sugar, there are now eggs.

Over the past month or so, Tanzania has been grappling with a shortage of sugar. Government and business accuse each other of creating the crisis, but many here believe it started with the decision of President John Magufuli in February to require sugar importers to obtain permits from State House.

The president said the importation process was marked by corruption, the market flooded with poor quality or adulterated products and that the country had failed to protect local factories while importers grew rich.

"You find an officer issuing permits for sugar imports when local producers have enough sweetener for the market in that period," he said.

"Some of the imported sugar is of inferior quality compared to our locally produced sugar and some poses health risks to consumers. I thus direct that no permit be issued without my approval."

The intervention caused prices to double almost immediately. Now, in many market places, sugar is sold at \$1.05 a kilo, while in some places it goes for up to \$2, three times the government's fixed price.

Hoarding?

Tanzania's annual domestic sugar consumption is about 420,000 tonnes while local production is 320,000 tonnes. This leaves a deficit of about 100,000 tonnes a year to be made up by imports.

Local producers have been complaining that rising imports have caused them cashflow problems while also threatening the livelihoods of 10,000 sugar cane growers.

The government is now accusing traders and distributors of hoarding, saying they have been creating an artificial shortage to justify price hikes. The business community rejects this.

Economist Prof Honest Ngowi says more research is needed before blame can be apportioned to producers or distributors.

But, he says: "The domestic factories are not able to produce the needed quantity. There is a need to

interrogate why the domestic factories are not able to bridge the 100,000 tonnes deficit."

In the meantime, the government says it will import 70,000 tonnes of sugar to fill the shortfall.

Economists agree this is necessary but warn it comes with a hefty price tag.

"Imports are costly to the economy," says Mr Ngowi.

It means parting not only with scarce foreign currency. "It also implies exporting jobs, incomes and government revenues."

And that makes those shelves full of eggs a matter of national economic importance.

Tanzania: Rural Power Budget Up By 50 Percent

20 May 2016/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

By Christopher Majaliwa

Dodoma — The Ministry of Energy and Minerals has increased the budget for rural electrification by 50 per cent, from 357bn/- in the 2015/2016 fiscal year to 534bn/- in the coming year as it struggles to ensure Tanzanians are supplied with reliable electricity.

Presenting his budget estimates for the 2016/17 financial year yesterday, the minister, Professor Sospeter Muhongo, insisted that all projects under the Rural Energy Agency (REA) will be implemented as planned.

He informed the House that the power access level has also gone up by four per cent. About 40 per cent of Tanzanians are now connected compared to 36 per cent that was recorded last year.

For the first time, 94 per cent of the total budget of the ministry for the next financial year has been allocated for development projects. Budget estimates for the ministry in 2016/2017 fiscal year stands at 1.12 trillion/-.

According to Prof Muhongo, 1.05tri/- will be channelled to fund development projects while the remaining 66.2bn/- will cater for recurrent expenditure. "Basing on section 43 (a) of 2015/2020 CCM election manifesto, which directs the government to increase power production, the ministry has allocated 98 per cent of the development project funds for the energy sector," Prof Muhongo reported.

"REA is now in the process of getting a contractor who will supply power to 121 villages where the Iringa-Shinyanga Grid passes through," he added. Prof Muhongo explained that the government is going on with the implementation of electricity supply industry reform strategy and roadmap in a move aimed at transforming energy sector.

He asserted that by 2019/2020, there were some power projects that are due for completion and which will greatly help increase power accessibility in the country. The projects are Singida-Arusha-Namanga (400kV), Bulyanhulu- Geita (220kV), Geita-Nyakanazi (220kV), North-East Grid (400kV) and Somanga-Kinyerezi (400Kv).

The minister also noted that completion of the 542km Mtwara-Dar es Salaam gas pipeline project has, among other things, helped rein in the cost of electricity generation. The government has also

earmarked some 800m/- for setting up the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant in the coming financial year.

Prof Muhongo informed the House that the ministry was in the final stages of putting in place a Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA) to control all issues related to petroleum products. PURA, according to the minister, is set to be a full regulatory body by July. Prof Muhongo also affirmed that the government has completed establishment of Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency (PBPA) since January.

The agency, among other assignments, is tasked with handling all activities that were being done by the Petroleum Importation Coordinator Limited (PICL). PICL's key role was to manage petroleum bulk procurement system.

"In 2016/2017, the agency will as well start overseeing importation of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) through bulk procurement system. Prof Muhongo said that the government's shares in PUMA Energy Tanzania Limited, Tanzania-Zambia Pipeline Limited, TAZAMA, and Tanzania International Petroleum Reserve (TIPER) have remained intact.

The government has 50 per cent shares in PUMA Energy Tanzania Limited, 30 per cent in TAZAMA and 50 per cent in TIPER. Meanwhile, Tanzania will own the stake in the Uganda refinery being part of an agreement for all East African countries to own shares in the plant.

Prof Muhongo said that Uganda agreed that every EAC member state will own eight per cent (approximately 335bn/-) of shares in the project in line with strategies of integrating the regional economies.

On the 1,443km Uganda-Tanga Crude Oil Pipeline Project, Prof Muhongo said that talks on the implementation of the multi-billion shillings project have started. Parties involved in these talks are the governments of Tanzania and Uganda, TOTAL (France), CNOOC (China) and Tullow (UK). The minister also affirmed that the government has intensified war against smuggling of minerals.

For instance, he said, such efforts have helped the ministry to seize minerals worth 3.3bn/- in 2015. Meanwhile, the Opposition Camp has challenged the government to ensure that it properly manages minerals, which the country is endowed with for the benefit of all Tanzanians.

Presenting the opposition's views, Shadow Energy and Minerals Minister John Mnyika, said the country was not benefiting much from its natural resources due to lack of proper management and dubious deals the government was inking with foreign investors. Mr Mnyika also wanted the government to honour resolutions reached by the National Assembly relating to the controversial Tegeta escrow account.

"We are saddened that some of the resolutions are yet to be implemented. TANESCO are still paying a lot of money to IPTL... we need the government to act now and respect the resolutions," he demanded.

The Chairman of the Energy and Minerals Committee, Mr Dotto Biteko, advised the government to chart out strategic plans that would help the country in proper management of natural gas resource.

KENYA :

ANGOLA :

Yellow fever spread from Angola 'serious,' says WHO

dw.com/20/05/2016

A yellow fever outbreak in Angola with cases exported to DR Congo, Uganda and Kenya have prompted the World Health Organization to urge travelers to get vaccinations. Few of Africa's populations are immunized.

WHO officials meeting in Geneva Thursday said the yellow fever outbreak first identified in Angola in December was "serious" but decided against declaring a global emergency.

Since December, the potentially deadly virus (pictured above) spread by mosquitoes - that also transmit Zika and dengue fever - has killed nearly 300 people in Angola, among 2,267 cases of reported infection.

Doctors without Borders' director of operations Dr. Bart Janssens described the disease's pattern of spread from Angola as "very unusual" and warned that a potential worst-case scenario should not be dismissed.

University of Minnesota infectious diseases expert Michael Osterholm said "Africa is like a gas can waiting for the yellow fever match to hit it."

In Paris, Institut Pasteur entomologist Paul Reiter warned that the situation could spiral into something "globally catastrophic."

Mosquito counts had risen dramatically, but the world's ability to control them was "absolutely zilch," said Reiter.

'Intensive control measures' needed

Emerging from the WHO expert committee meeting in Geneva, the UN agency's emergency chief Bruce Aylward said the Angola-centered outbreak was "serious and of great concern and requires intensified control measures."

It could spread rapidly in urban areas, Aylward said, referring to the outbreak's predominance in Luanda, Angola's capital.

Committee chair Oyewale Tomori said the outbreak did not meet conditions for it being declared an international health emergency.

Assist local populations, urges RC

Also from Geneva, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent said vulnerable populations in Africa must be helped to reduce the risk.

Red Cross health director Julie Hall said Red Cross branches in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda were helping communities eliminate mosquito breeding grounds.

The existing vaccine is regarded as effective but global stocks are limited.

Pharmaceutical companies have reportedly been urged by the WHO to boost stockpiles of yellow fever vaccines, from currently five million doses to up to 18 million within a few months.

Toxic cases fatal

About 15 percent of victims of the flu-like disease suffer a more toxic phase that can lead to kidney problems and even death.

Previous cases had been confined to tropical parts of Africa and Latin America. Until this year, yellow fever was never known to have jumped to Asia.

Eleven people have tested positive for yellow fever in China after returning from Angola.

AU/AFRICA :

Nigeria: une deuxième lycéenne otage récupérée par l'armée
le 20 mai 2016/AFP

Abuja (AFP)

L'armée nigérienne a annoncé jeudi avoir retrouvé une deuxième rescapée parmi les 219 lycéennes de Chibok kidnappées par Boko Haram, peu après que le président Muhammadu Buhari eut considéré avoir "de nouveaux espoirs" de retrouver d'autres otages, deux ans après le rapt.

Selon le porte-parole de l'armée nigérienne, le colonel Sani Usman, la deuxième otage de Chibok se trouvait parmi 97 femmes et enfants libérés jeudi lors d'une opération conjointe de l'armée et des miliciens à 11h (10h00 GMT) aux alentours de Damboa, dans l'Etat de Borno (nord-est).

"Son nom est Serah Luka, elle est au numéro 157 de la liste des filles enlevées. On pense qu'il s'agit de la fille du pasteur Luka", a ajouté M. Usman, précisant que la jeune fille recevait des soins médicaux dans une caserne de Biu, dans l'Etat de Borno.

Quelques heures plus tôt, Amina Ali, la première rescapée de Chibok, découverte mardi par des milices locales et par l'armée, est arrivée à Abuja par avion depuis Maiduguri, la capitale de l'Etat de Borno (nord-est), avec sa mère, Binta, pour rencontrer le président.

Au terme de la rencontre, M. Buhari a assuré que le gouvernement ferait "tout ce qu'il peut pour sauver d'autres jeunes filles de Chibok". "Le sauvetage d'Amina nous donne de nouveaux espoirs, et nous offre une opportunité unique en termes d'informations vitales", a-t-il poursuivi.

La mère d'Amina, une femme d'une soixantaine d'années au visage marqué, s'est dite "reconnaissante envers Dieu et tous ceux qui ont participé au sauvetage et à la découverte" de sa fille.

Amina, qui avait 17 ans au moment du rapt, est la plus jeune d'une fratrie de 13 enfants, dont 11 sont morts entre quatre et cinq ans, a expliqué via une interprète sa mère, qui ne parle pas anglais.

Le 14 avril 2014, Boko Haram avait enlevé 276 jeunes filles d'un lycée de Chibok. Cinquante-sept d'entre elles avaient réussi à s'échapper dans les heures suivant leur rapt par le groupe islamiste.

Ce kidnapping sans précédent avait provoqué une vague d'indignation au Nigeria et dans le monde entier. Mais malgré cette mobilisation, jusqu'à la découverte d'Amina Ali puis de Serah Luka, on était toujours sans nouvelles des 219 captives.

- D'autres otages à Sambisa? -

Selon des responsables locaux, Amina Ali, aujourd'hui âgée de 19 ans, a affirmé à sa famille, lors de brèves retrouvailles à Mbalala, près de Chibok, que la plupart des autres victimes se trouvaient toujours dans la forêt de Sambisa, un bastion de Boko Haram, mais que "six d'entre elles sont déjà mortes".

Cela fait des semaines que l'armée nigérienne traque les islamistes et leurs otages et détruit des camps de Boko Haram dans la savane de cette ancienne réserve naturelle.

A un moment, on affirmait y avoir repéré les filles de Chibok sur des images satellites fournies par les Etats-Unis et la Grande-Bretagne. Mais l'ancien ambassadeur de Grande-Bretagne au Nigeria, Andrew Pocock, a déclaré en mars au Sunday Times que l'armée nigérienne n'avait rien fait de ces renseignements.

L'ancien président nigérien Goodluck Jonathan a été très critiqué dans sa gestion de la lutte contre Boko Haram, ce qui lui a sans doute coûté sa défaite à la présidentielle, l'année dernière.

Selon l'armée, Amina Ali a été transportée à Maiduguri dans un hélicoptère militaire, depuis une caserne de Damboa, à 90 km de là, avec son bébé de quatre mois, Safiya, et un homme qu'elle présente comme son mari.

"Avant cela, ils ont été examinés par un médecin de l'armée de l'air et leur état de santé a été jugé stable, avec une tension normale", a indiqué mercredi le colonel Sani Usman, dans un communiqué.

La jeune fille, très mince, a les traits tirés. Sur une des photos transmises par l'armée, son mari, que l'armée considère comme "le terroriste présumé de Boko Haram" Mohammed Hayatu, est assis sur un lit d'hôpital et tient l'enfant dans ses bras.

Selon le colonel Usman, M. Hayatu "fait l'objet d'une enquête approfondie au Centre Conjoint de Renseignements" et il est "bien traité".

Depuis 2009, Boko Haram est tenu responsable de l'enlèvement d'au moins 2.000 personnes, dans une insurrection qui a fait quelque 20.000 morts.

Certaines des otages ont été mariées de force et transformées en esclaves sexuelles. De jeunes hommes ont aussi été conscrits de force.

Des ONG dénoncent régulièrement l'absence de programmes de réinsertion des otages de Boko Haram, dont plusieurs centaines ont déjà été libérés ces derniers mois.

Des experts de l'ONU avaient souligné en janvier "un besoin urgent et pressant de mesures concrètes pour assister ces femmes et ces enfants stigmatisés, ostracisés et rejetés" par une société généralement très conservatrice.

Mali: cinq Casques bleus tchadiens tués dans une embuscade revendiquée par Ansar Dine
le 20 mai 2016/AFP

Bamako (AFP)

Cinq Casques bleus tchadiens ont été tués et trois autres grièvement blessés mercredi lors d'une embuscade tendue par les jihadistes d'Ansar Dine dans le nord-est du Mali, où le déploiement des Nations unies est le plus coûteux en vies humaines depuis 20 ans.

Cette attaque est la plus meurtrière visant la Mission de l'ONU au Mali (Minusma) depuis celle du 12 février contre sa base de Kidal, dans la même région, qui avait coûté la vie à sept Casques bleus guinéens, dont une femme. Toutes deux ont été revendiqués par le groupe jihadiste Ansar Dine, du Touareg malien Iyad Ag Ghaly.

"Hier vers 17H00 locales (mercredi vers 17H00 GMT), cinq Casques bleus de la Minusma ont été tués et trois ont été grièvement blessés lors d'une embuscade au nord d'Aguelhok", a annoncé la Minusma, évoquant "un nombre indéterminé d'assaillants" non identifiés.

"L'attaque s'est déroulée alors que les soldats de la paix escortaient un convoi logistique. Après avoir heurté un engin explosif, le convoi a été la cible de tirs", a ajouté la Minusma, en précisant qu'ils appartenaient au contingent tchadien.

"Suite à l'attaque, trois suspects ont été capturés", a indiqué la Minusma.

L'attaque a été revendiquée jeudi soir par un responsable d'Ansar Dine dans une déclaration à l'AFP.

"Nos moujahidine ont attaqué sur notre terre d'islam de l'Adrar des Ifoghas (région de Kidal) des militaires qui travaillent dans le regroupement international contre nous", a déclaré ce responsable, Nourredine Ag Mohamed, qui a déjà revendiqué de précédentes opérations au nom d'Ansar Dine.

Selon une source militaire africaine au sein de la force de l'ONU, quatre soldats ont été tués sur le coup et le cinquième a succombé à ses blessures.

"L'attaque a été faite grâce à des complicités. Des gens proches de nous ont communiqué nos positions, notre itinéraire, ça, c'est très sûr", a estimé cette source sous couvert d'anonymat.

- Une soixantaine de tués en 3 ans -

Le secrétaire général de l'ONU, Ban Ki-moon, dans une déclaration de son porte-parole, a demandé que "les auteurs de ce crime odieux soient rapidement traduits en justice", et rappelé que les attaques contre des Casques bleus "constituent un crime de guerre selon le droit international".

"Les Nations unies continueront à soutenir la stabilisation du Mali et la mise en place de l'accord de paix" signé en mai-juin 2015, a-t-il assuré.

Selon une source au sein de la Minusma, les corps des Cinq casques bleus tchadiens étaient attendus dans la nuit de jeudi à vendredi à Bamako, où ils doivent recevoir un hommage lors d'une cérémonie avant d'être rapatriés à N'Djaména.

Déployée depuis juillet 2013, la Minusma est la mission de maintien de la paix de l'ONU la plus

coûteuse en vies humaines depuis la Somalie en 1993-1995, avec à ce jour une soixantaine de Casques bleus tués en opération.

La force française Barkhane, qui traque les jihadistes à travers le Sahel, est intervenue en soutien de la Minusma après cette attaque, a déclaré jeudi le porte-parole de l'état-major français, le colonel Gilles Jaron.

L'armée française a envoyé "deux hélicoptères de manoeuvre ainsi qu'un détachement de forces au sol qui a sécurisé la zone et permis aux hélicoptères de récupérer les blessés tchadiens qui ont été immédiatement évacués vers Gao", a-t-il précisé.

Le nord du Mali était tombé en mars-avril 2012 sous la coupe de groupes jihadistes liés à Al-Qaïda, dont Ansar Dine, après la déroute de l'armée face à la rébellion à dominante touareg, d'abord alliée à ces groupes qui l'ont ensuite évincée.

Les jihadistes ont été en grande partie chassés par une intervention militaire internationale, lancée en janvier 2013 à l'initiative de la France.

Mais des zones entières échappent encore au contrôle des forces maliennes et étrangères, malgré la signature de l'accord de paix entre le camp gouvernemental et l'ex-rébellion, censé isoler définitivement les jihadistes

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

Agreement bringing U.S. troops to Libya could be reached 'any day'

May 19, 2016/stripes.com

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT (The Washington Post) — The U.S. military's top general said Thursday that the Libyan government is in a "period of intense dialogue" that could soon lead to an agreement in which U.S. military advisers will be deployed there to assist in the fight against the Islamic State.

"There's a lot of activity going on underneath the surface," said Marine Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "We're just not ready to deploy capabilities yet because there hasn't been an agreement. And frankly, any day that could happen."

Dunford spoke to a handful of journalists while returning to the United States from Brussels, where he met with military chiefs this week from numerous NATO nations. There is interest among some NATO nations in participating in the mission, Dunford said, but the specifics of who and what would be involved remain unclear. The operation will likely focus on training and equipping militias that pledge loyalty to Prime Minister Fayeze Sarraj, the leader of the new Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA), which is backed by the United Nations.

"There will be a long-term mission in Libya," Dunford predicted, adding that NATO will want a

request from the new government in order to get involved.

A small number of U.S. Special Operations troops have been deployed to the Libyan cities of Misrata and Benghazi to assess who could be partners for U.S. forces since late last year, U.S. officials acknowledge. Dunford declined to comment on their operations Thursday, but said the United States is looking for ways to make "a unique contribution" to the effort.

The advising mission could be complicated by not only security concerns, but political ones. Sarraj's government has not yet been accepted by either existing rival government in Libya, the Tripoli-based General National Congress (GNC) and the elected House of Representatives in the eastern part of the country. He also appears to be counting on support from militias in Misrata and forces loyal to Gen. Khalifa Hifter, a Libyan military officer who launched a campaign against the GNC and its Islamist links in 2014. The Misratans and Hifter's troops have been known to square off against each other in armed clashes.

The coalition leadership structure for the Libyan mission also isn't clear. Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter said early this month that he anticipated the Italian government would take the lead in it. However, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has ruled out a large "invasion" of Libya, and reports emerged this week that Renzi was backing out of deploying troops in support of the U.N.'s support mission in Libya.

Asked about the possibility of Italy stepping back from the Libya mission, Dunford said Thursday that he spoke to their chief of defense, Gen. Claudio Graziano, this week and did not anticipate that would be the case. Rather, the Italian government is still doing planning for the mission but has set conditions for getting involved, Dunford said. They include the unity government requesting Italian intervention and identifying who should be trained, and there being demonstrated international support, possibly through the U.N. Security Council mandate.

"The details of that aren't specific," Dunford said. "But I think with those broad details in place, the Italians have indicated to me that they are committed to the mission."

The U.S. dialogue with the unity government has been spearheaded by U.S. Ambassador to Libya Peter W. Bodde and Jonathan Winer, the State Department's special envoy for Libya. Winer tweeted Thursday to expect the unity government to ask for help to train and equip soldiers to fight Daesh, another name for the Islamic State, and to receive it.

On Monday, the United States and international partners announced in Vienna that they are prepared to provide humanitarian, economic and security assistance if requested, including weapons, and to support a request by the Libyan unity government for an exception to a U.N. embargo that was put in place in 2011 as the country faced an internal war after the fall of strongman Moammar Gaddafi.

Army Gen. David Rodriguez, the chief of U.S. Africa Command, said Tuesday that officials are now waiting to see how the U.N. examines the Libyan request, which must include details about who will receive weapons.

"The support for the GNA and how they need it and how they want it, we'll just have to see how that develops over time," Rodriguez said, speaking of the Libyan government.

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