



(Kenya's opposition said late on Tuesday it would defy a ban imposed by the government on its protests against the electoral commission after an escalation of deadly violence at rallies held every Monday since early April.)

BURUNDI :

BURUNDI : Nkurunziza toujours maître du jeu

Date: 07 juin 2016/lepays.bf

Le dialogue politique interburundais est-il mort-né ? C'est la question que tout le monde se pose au regard des positions très tranchées des deux camps : pouvoir et opposition. On se rappelle, en effet, que lors de la première rencontre tenue à Arusha, en Tanzanie, du 21 au 24 mai dernier, sous les auspices du médiateur Benjamin Mkapa, les membres de l'opposition, réunis au sein de la plateforme dénommée CNARED, n'avaient pas été officiellement invités pour la simple raison que le pouvoir du pasteur Pierre Nkurunziza ne voulait pas les voir, même en peinture. Mesurant toute l'immensité de la tâche qui est la sienne face à l'intransigeance dont font montre les protagonistes de la crise burundaise, le médiateur Mkapa avait promis de prendre langue avec les « grands absents » d'Arusha. Il s'agissait de dégager une ligne de conduite claire. Mais en attendant, les membres du directoire du CNARED se sont réunis le 5 juin dernier à Bruxelles et ont décidé de boycotter le dialogue en cours, tant que la plateforme ne sera pas invitée en tant que bloc politique. Surpassant leurs ego et leurs intérêts individuels, les responsables de la coalition de l'opposition burundaise ont compris qu'ils auraient tort de se laisser diviser, au risque de jouer le jeu du boucher de Bujumbura qui, envers et contre tous, continue de massacrer son peuple. Si fait que chaque jour qui passe apporte son lot de cadavres sur les collines de Musaga et Kamesa, du nom de ces quartiers réputés hostiles au pouvoir de Nkurunziza. En effet, même l'ancien opposant, Agathon Rwaswa devenu premier vice-président de l'Assemblée nationale a fait les frais des « dérives totalitaires » de

Nkurunziza. Car, en plus de l'arrestation de certains de ses militants, des mesures administratives ont été prises pour limiter les déplacements de cet ancien adversaire politique dont « la popularité suscite la crainte des autorités ». Et ce n'est pas tout. Se repaissant de l'incurie de la communauté internationale, le président Nkurunziza a franchi le Rubicon en menaçant d'écraser, "tels des cafards", les rebelles de la commune de Mugamba, qui refuseraient de déposer les armes dans les deux semaines qui suivent. C'est la preuve que Nkurunziza, pour ceux qui en doutaient encore, est toujours maître du jeu. Peut-être est-il même soutenu souterrainement par certaines grandes puissances qui, ont le sait, ne lésinent pas sur les stratagèmes pour protéger leurs intérêts.

Le médiateur Mkapa est plus à plaindre qu'à envier

A preuve, aucune de ces grandes puissances qui tirent publiquement à boulets rouges sur Nkurunziza, et ce depuis plus d'un an, n'a jusque-là pris la courageuse décision de rappeler son ambassadeur en poste à Bujumbura. Tout le monde parle mais personne n'ose le faire. Toute chose qui pourrait être perçue comme un encouragement au dictateur dans ses dérives. En tout cas, le temps joue en faveur de Nkurunziza ; lui qui aura réussi là où a échoué Adolphe Hitler, c'est-à-dire tenir tête à la communauté internationale. Ayant fait de la terreur son arme favorite, Nkurunziza tue et massacre au vu et au su de tout le monde. D'ailleurs, comment pouvait-il en être autrement quand on sait que l'homme a vu ses voisins faire pire sans que le ciel ne leur tombe dessus. Il s'agit, pour ne pas les nommer, de Sassou Nguesso du Congo Brazzaville, de Joseph Kabila de la République démocratique du Congo, de Paul Kagamé du Rwanda et de Yoweri Museveni de l'Ouganda, qui, non seulement ont beaucoup de cadavres dans leurs placards mais aussi continuent à se comporter en dictateurs de la pire espèce. C'est ceci donc qui pourrait expliquer cela. Nkurunziza n'est donc pas un cas isolé. Sa dictature a grandi et mûri en terrain favorable. Et c'est peu dire. C'est pourquoi le médiateur Mkapa est plus à plaindre qu'à envier. Car, on voit mal comment il pourra faire fléchir Nkurunziza.

Boundi OUOBA

RWANDA :

Rwanda: UN Evaluates Police Peacekeepers Ahead of Deployment
8 June 2016/The New Times (Kigali)

Officials from the United Nations are in the country to assess the operational skills and readiness of Rwanda National Police (RNP) officers trained for peacekeeping missions.

The week-long evaluation exercise is taking place at the Police training school in Rwamagana District.

The exercise, that started Monday, involves various tests including language, crowd control, driving and shooting skills.

The UN officials spearheading the evaluations include Eko Budman from the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), and Silviu Octavian from the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

A contingent of 240 peacekeepers is scheduled to depart for South Sudan while 160 others will be deployed in Haiti to replace the officers who are about to complete their mission.

Chief Supt. Toussaint Muzezyo, from RNP's Peace Support Operations, explained that the assessment is a prerequisite required by the UN prior to deployment.

"They are assessing their ability to perform peacekeeping assignments in mission areas," Chief Supt. Muzezyo said.

"They test their language proficiency, either in English or French depending on the preference of the officers and the mission where they will be deployed, their shooting skills, their capacity and ability in crowd control, police techniques and driving skills for the selected drivers, among other peacekeeping aspects," he added.

Rwanda maintains five police contingents of 820 police officers in three missions; Haiti, South Sudan and the Central African Republic.

Rwanda, South Africa bilateral ties returning to normal - Mushikiwabo

By: Athan Tashobya/newtimes.co.rw/June 08, 2016

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Louise Mushikiwabo, has said that bilateral relations between Kigali and Pretoria are "unquestionably normalising".

She told journalists, on Tuesday in Kigali, that despite some of the bilateral aspects taking longer to be reinstated, there was no question that both countries had moved forward and beyond some of the tension that had been there since 2010.

"The normalisation of relations between Rwanda and South Africa has been implemented over the last year and a half or 2 years. There is no question as to the decisions by both countries to move forward and beyond some of the tension that had been there since 2010," said Mushikiwabo.

Rwanda and South Africa, have since 2010, been embroiled in a diplomatic row sparked by Rwandan fugitives using South Africa as their base for subversive operations.

The 'bilateral frost' escalated in 2014, leading to the expulsion of diplomats from both Rwanda and South Africa.

However, Mushikiwabo says that, the two countries have since decided to normalise relations, including fostering intra-trade and diplomatic ties.

"Normalisation is a process, and it includes a number of things. You can see that a number of commercial activities between the two countries are ongoing," the Minister said.

"Many South African companies operating in Rwanda, RwandaAir flying to Johannesburg daily, South African officials coming to Rwanda for business, including a very large delegation which attended the World Economic Forum led by the Vice president of South Africa".

During his visit to Kigali, in May, South African Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa said his country and Rwanda's bilateral relations can "only deepen" further after the two countries' recent row strained ties.

Leading "Team South Africa," a high-level government and business delegation to the annual WEF Africa, Ramaphosa, said: "Our mere presence here in Kigali, means that South Africa and Rwanda are embracing the African notion of working together to achieve our 2063 objective as a continent".

However, Mushikiwabo noted that, as much as Rwanda had been quick to work on the normalization actions agreed upon by the two parties, much was still expected from South Africa.

“We are normalising, but some other things need to happen. For example, on our side, we are waiting on the promised reinstatement of visa facilities for ordinary Rwandans.

We, the officials travel very easily to South Africa, but we want ordinary Rwandans to have the same kind of access. So these are some of the things that we keep discussing both ways,” she said.

Mushikiwabo added that, in a bid to reinstate normal diplomatic business between countries, Rwanda was working on re-appointing diplomats to South Africa.

“We are in the process of selecting and deciding what diplomats should be serving our mission in South Africa. Our Ambassador has been in South Africa. It’s only the junior and mid-level diplomats that need to be appointed,” she said.

Teens' drone gives Rwandan wildlife officials an eye in the sky

June 7, 2016/csmonitor.com

After Max Alger-Meyer visited Akagera National Park, he decided to create a drone the rangers could use to track the animals. The use of drones in conservation is growing.

A Denver teen visiting the Akagera National Park in Rwanda noticed that rangers protecting the park's lions, elephants, and leopards often patrolled on foot, occasionally making difficult trips into the park's swamps to check on rare birds.

So the teen, Max Alger-Meyer, had an idea: what if he could build an affordable drone so rangers could keep an eye on wildlife from the air?

He set to working on the project with friend Nathan Lepore, also 18, discovering that making the drone themselves was cheaper than buying one. They're now donating the drone, which cost just over \$1,000 to build, to the park. Rangers "deal with a lot more difficult problems than we do, and with very limited resources," he told the Associated Press.

Drones are often associated with their use as weapons, with aerial photography, or for delivering supplies to remote regions. Increasingly, conservationists are also using them to monitor wildlife and even crack down on poaching in Africa.

Last year, the Minnesota-based Lindbergh Foundation began a program called Air Shepherd, to pair up drones with predictive analytics technology developed at the University of Maryland.

Using camera and GPS, the foundation says, the drones could help parks silently keep an eye on poachers at hours when rangers couldn't track them. In initial tests, the technology was able predict poaching activity with 93 percent accuracy, The Christian Science Monitor reported.

There also need to be best practices to avoid alarming wildlife spooked by the silent humming eyes in the sky, researchers at the University of Adelaide's Unmanned Research Aircraft Facility noted in a paper earlier this month.

"In our experience, the vast majority of [unmanned aerial vehicle users] both biologists and

hobbyists, do not want to disturb wildlife and will often seek advice from experts," Jarrod Hodgson, a PhD candidate who co-authored the article published in the journal *Current Biology*, noted in a press release.

Particularly, the authors suggest adhering to civil aviation rules, such as restrictions on flying above a certain altitude, at night, or near people. They also suggest drones should be quiet and even embrace particular color schemes to "mimic non-threatening wildlife" native to the area, the Monitor's Story Hinckley reported.

For Max and Nathan, the two Denver teens, designing a drone for Akagera also offered a challenge: building it with parts that the park rangers could easily replace with improvised materials.

Jes Gruner, the park's manager, says the teens' drone means the park could avoid the expense required to monitor rare birds in Akagera's swamps, or possibly help track brushfires.

Currently, the park brings in a helicopter for animal counts, but it's costly, Mr. Gruner told the AP. "We don't have the luxury of playing with money."

Max and Nathan also credit the experience with teaching them more about building a project frugally. Nathan has been accepted to Stanford's mechanical engineering program, while Max will begin studying aeronautical engineering at the University of Colorado next year.

For Max, the project also led to a new-found interest in conservation.

"Seeing how (rangers) operated such a vast park with limited resources, that kind of problem solving they do intrigues me," he told the AP.

RDC CONGO :

RDC: le conclave de Bruxelles divise l'opposition congolaise

[lalibre.be/Marie-France Cros/mardi 07 juin 2016](http://lalibre.be/Marie-France-Cros/mardi-07-juin-2016)

Le parti au pouvoir l'a avoué rondement, samedi dernier, par la voix du secrétaire général du parti présidentiel (PPRD) Henri Mova, ex-ambassadeur à Bruxelles. A l'issue d'une marche de 5 000 personnes réunies à Kinshasa par le PPRD pour célébrer le 45e anniversaire de Joseph Kabila - car le temps est passé où ce dernier évitait le culte de sa personne - M. Mova a proclamé qu'à cet âge, le chef de l'Etat était "trop jeune pour aller à la retraite".

En attendant le Dialogue

Et de réaffirmer l'attachement de son parti au "Dialogue" appelé depuis plus d'un an par M. Kabila sans effet. Car, si beaucoup en appuient l'idée, chaque camp le conçoit différemment.

Pour la plus grande partie de l'opposition, c'est une nouvelle manœuvre pour maintenir Joseph Kabila au pouvoir. Ils appellent celui-ci à d'abord mettre en œuvre les résolutions adoptées au dernier conclave de ce type (Concertations nationales de 2013) et refusent de participer à sa réédition.

L'UDPS d'Etienne Tshisekedi appelle à participer au "dialogue". Mais, pour elle, ce dernier est

destiné à "régler le contentieux de 2011" (les élections de cette année-là, frauduleuses, ne permettent pas de dire qui, de Kabila et Tshisekedi, a gagné la présidentielle mais chaque camp a proclamé son candidat vainqueur). Il faut aussi s'entendre sur "un processus électoral crédible" qui nécessitera une transition. Selon l'UDPS, celle-ci doit être dirigée par Etienne Tshisekedi - bien que ce ne soit pas ce que prévoit la Constitution. Pour l'UDPS, il n'est pas question de prolonger Joseph Kabila au pouvoir.

Faire sauter l'article 220

L'Onu, l'Union africaine, l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie et l'Union européenne sont pour un "dialogue", elles aussi, en vue d'élections "apaisées", ont-elles répété lundi. L'Onu et l'UE semblent avoir laissé tomber les mots "dans les délais constitutionnels" (soit une présidentielle en novembre 2016 au plus tard) qui accompagnaient toujours, jusqu'ici, l'expression de cette position.

Bref, c'est l'impasse. "Si vous ne passez pas par ce dialogue, en face de vous il y a le peuple et le peuple souverain s'exprime au travers d'un mode de scrutin universellement connu, c'est le référendum", a dit Henri Mova samedi. Et d'expliquer que les kabilistes étaient prêts à en organiser un, à l'exemple du Congo-Brazzaville (où sa régularité a été contestée) et du Rwanda. Il s'agirait, selon le journal "Le Phare", de "faire sauter le verrou de l'article 220 de la Constitution", qui interdit toute modification de la loi fondamentale, notamment sur les articles touchant au "nombre et à la durée des mandats" présidentiels.

Joseph Kabila, au pouvoir depuis 2001, arrive le 19 décembre 2016 à la fin de son second et dernier mandat, selon la Constitution.

L'UDPS réunit l'opposition en conclave à Genval

Annoncé le 27 mai par l'UDPS à Bruxelles, le conclave de l'opposition congolaise organisé par le parti d'Etienne Tshisekedi doit s'ouvrir ce mercredi pour deux jours au Château du Lac à Genval. Selon les déclarations à "La Libre Belgique" de Félix Tshisekedi, secrétaire national aux Relations extérieures du parti, les participants - "une centaine de personnes" - ont pris à leur charge le coût du voyage et de leur logement "et nous nous chargeons de la location du lieu".

Malgré les divisions de l'opposition congolaise, une grande partie de celle-ci devrait être présente à Genval. Parmi les figures annoncées les plus connues, on compte Moïse Katumbi, l'ex-gouverneur du Katanga, candidat à la présidence accusé de recrutement de "mercenaires" et libéré pour soins à l'étranger; Gabriel Kyungu, ex-président de l'assemblée provinciale du Katanga (qui a serré la main à Tshisekedi pour la première fois depuis qu'il déclencha les pogroms anti-Kasaïens de 1992); Charles Mwando et Olivier Kamitatu, chefs, comme le précédent, du G7 (partis dissidents de la majorité présidentielle opposés à une prolongation inconstitutionnelle de Joseph Kabila à la présidence); Martin Fayulu, candidat à la présidence.

On note cependant l'absence du MLC de Jean-Pierre Bemba (dont la secrétaire générale, Eve Bazaïba, a été blessée par balle lors de la répression de la manifestation d'opposition à Kinshasa le 26 mai) et de l'UNC de Vital Kamerhe - qui semble ne pas être unanime sur ce point puisqu'un membre de ce parti est annoncé à Genval.

La délégation de l'UDPS venue de Kinshasa comprendra le secrétaire général Bruno Mavungu, "mais certains membres n'ont pas reçu le visa", précise Félix Tshisekedi.

L'ordre du jour "n'est pas encore fixé; il doit être proposé aux participants", nous a précisé Félix

Tshisekedi. "Il est question de se mettre d'accord sur un front commun d'opposition et sur des actions communes. Il faut rassembler l'opposition, arrêter de tirer chacun dans un sens différent." Une déclaration finale est annoncée pour jeudi.

RD Congo : Kinshasa présente un bilan officiel de l'opération Likofi contre les Kuluna

08 juin 2016/Par Jeune Afrique avec AFP

Les autorités congolaises ont présenté mardi le rapport sur le bilan officiel de l'opération antibanditisme Likofi ("coup de poing" en lingala), menée à Kinshasa entre novembre 2013 et février 2014, refusant de révéler le nombre de morts et portés disparus.

« Nous ne pouvons, en aucun cas, brandir le nombre de morts au titre de trophée pour une opération réalisée avec professionnalisme », a déclaré le 7 juin le ministre congolais de l'Intérieur, Évariste Boshab, lors de la présentation du rapport de l'opération Likofi, lancée par la police de Kinshasa en novembre 2013 afin de mettre un terme aux agissements des groupes délinquants armés, appelés « Kuluna », au risque de commettre des bavures et de créer la polémique en RDC.

La police prévoit une autre opération

« Cette opération, qui avait pour objectif de mettre au pas les Kuluna, les membres des bandes criminelles, a été émaillée de quelques accrocs », a-t-il concédé. Mais, « la cruauté des Kuluna n'a pas de commune mesure. Les Kuluna défient l'autorité de l'État, constituent une véritable menace à la paix sociale, sèment la désolation », a-t-il ajouté.

À ce titre, le ministre de l'Intérieur a annoncé que « le gouvernement a chargé mardi la police de monter rapidement une nouvelle opération contre les gangs armés dans le strict respect des principes cardinaux de la nouvelle doctrine de la police de proximité ». « Cette décision a été prise face à la résurgence des agressions dues aux Kuluna, face aux pleurs de la population, face aux chantages de quelques ONG financées par l'étranger », a-t-il expliqué.

Au moins 51 morts, selon HRW

« Des policiers de la RDC ont abattu au moins 51 hommes jeunes et garçons et fait disparaître de force 33 autres dans le cadre de cette opération de police brutale », a déclaré à l'AFP Ida Sawyer, de Human Rights Watch (HRW), rappelant les chiffres révélés dans un rapport par l'ONG américaine, le 18 novembre 2014. « Les autorités congolaises devraient veiller à ce que les principaux responsables des violences fassent l'objet d'une enquête (...) y compris le commandant de l'opération, le général Célestin Kanyama », a-t-elle ajouté.

Plusieurs familles se sont plaintes que leurs fils ont été enlevés par l'équipe du général Célestin Kanyama (à l'époque colonel) et ne sont jamais rentrés. « Les familles continuent à les réclamer jusqu'aujourd'hui », a déclaré Dolly Ibefo, directeur de La voix des sans voix, l'une des principales ONG congolaises de défense des droits de l'Homme.

Un habitant de Kinshasa, Michel Soki, a témoigné auprès de l'AFP que son neveu a été abattu gratuitement le 22 novembre 2013, et son corps a disparu. « Il y a effectivement un problème d'insécurité à Kinshasa mais l'État ne peut pas tuer les gens sommairement », a-t-il dit.

Le représentant de l'ONU renvoyé

Selon un rapport de l'ONU publié en octobre 2014, au moins 41 personnes ont été tuées ou ont

disparu du fait de l'action de policiers lors de ce grand coup de filet. La réaction de Kinshasa à ces chiffres a d'abord été d'expulser le chef du Bureau de l'ONU aux droits de l'Homme en RDC, puis de crier au lynchage médiatique, avant de faire part de sa volonté de continuer d'enquêter pour s'assurer qu'aucune bavure policière commise pendant l'opération ne reste impunie.

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

Bank M Tanzania eyes Kenyan market

Wed, June 8th 2016/standardmedia.co.ke

A Tanzanian bank is set to enter the Kenyan market after applying for a licence from the Central Bank of Kenya. Bank M Tanzania now seeks to spread its tentacles even further into the country, after its mother company, M Holdings, last year received a go-ahead from the Competition Authority of Kenya to acquire 51 per cent of Oriental Bank. The Tanzanian lender, which was started in February 2007, has made it clear that it is targeting family owned businesses. "Our business is focused on family owned enterprises and this strategy has provided us with a very clear direction on understanding the business requirements of the Kenyan market which, even in our original market in Tanzania, are family-owned businesses," Chief Executive Officer Jacqueline Wiso said while outlining the bank's entry plan into Kenya. The entry of Bank M into the country marks the first significant admission of a Tanzanian bank into the Kenyan competitive local banking industry. The lender is ranked among the top 10 banks in Tanzania. Records show that it is owned by 15 shareholders, with Vimal Mehta as its largest shareholder with a 16 per cent stake. Mr Mehta is the chairman of Negus group of companies, which formerly held a controlling stake in Serengeti Breweries.

Oriental Commercial Bank was formed from the ashes of Delphis bank, which was owned by imprisoned billionaire businessman Ketan Somaia. Delphis in 2001 was placed under statutory management, when it failed to meet its obligations to other banks, a process that eventually led to the formation of Oriental Commercial Bank in its place.

Created shares

Last year, the shareholders of Oriental declared a willingness to invite strategic investors to help with the lender's expansion plans, after its profits in 2014 dropped by 49 per cent to Sh72 million. This was a result of the bank being weighed down by higher interest expenses and reduced income from transactions. During last year's general meeting, Oriental Bank declared plans to issue new shares to accommodate new investors seeking equity in the company. The lender therefore decided to create 50 million new shares worth Sh1 billion. Ultimately, Bank M Tanzania took up the newly created shares at a cost of Sh1.3 billion to takeover a controlling stake.

KENYA :

Monkey causes nationwide blackout in Kenya

By Tiffany Ap and Lonzo Cook, CNN/June 8, 2016

Talk about monkey business.

Kenya -- yes, the entire country -- was left without power Tuesday after a rogue monkey got into a power station and triggered a nationwide blackout.

The primate fell onto a transformer at the Gitaru hydroelectric power station, according to KenGen, which owns the facility.

The company is the country's largest generator of electricity, providing around 80% of energy consumed in the east African nation.

In a statement posted to the company's Facebook page, the company said the system had been restored and that all power generating units were operating normally.

As for the offending monkey? It survived the incident, KenGen said, and has been handed over to the Kenyan Wildlife Service.

Despite being one of Africa's fastest growing economies, for the majority of Kenyans the power outage wasn't missed.

According to the World Bank, only 23% of Kenya's 45 million population have access to electricity. Solar-powered TV brings global news to rural Africa

Kenya bans protests against electoral body as violence escalates

Reuters/2016/06/08

Kenya is not due to hold its next presidential election until 2017, but clashes are becoming more frequent.

NAIROBI – Kenya's opposition said late on Tuesday it would defy a ban imposed by the government on its protests against the electoral commission after an escalation of deadly violence at rallies held every Monday since early April.

Kenya is not due to hold its next presidential election until August 2017 but clashes are becoming more frequent between security forces and opposition leaders and their supporters who say senior officials of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) favour President Uhuru Kenyatta.

The opposition coalition for reform and democracy (CORD), led by Raila Odinga, Kenyatta's main rival, says the IEBC is also incompetent, citing failure of voter verification equipment in the last poll.

In a statement on Tuesday, the government said demonstrators had destroyed both private and public property worth millions during the protests.

"To avert further violence, destruction of property and loss of life, from today the government prohibits all unlawful demonstrations in the country," the statement, issued by the interior ministry, said.

On Monday, security forces clashed with opposition supporters who were trying to march on the offices of the IEBC in the opposition stronghold of Kisumu in western Kenya.

In those riots, two people were killed and 50 people, including both civilians and security personnel, were injured, the statement said.

Dennis Onyango, CORD's spokesman told Reuters the ban meant "nothing" to them and that "protests, picketing and petitions will go on as they are protected by the Constitution".

"Kenya is ... governed by the constitution. If the Government has suspended the constitution, it is yet to make that public," he said.

Government critics and Western ambassadors have accused the police of using excessive force and have called for dialogue.

Businesses have also called for swift resolution to the row, saying the upheaval was taking a toll on an economy which was hit hard by the post-2007 election violence and tensions in the build up to the 2013 vote.

Six charged over deadly Kenya building collapse

08 Jun '16/Reuters

Nairobi - A Kenyan court charged six men with manslaughter on Tuesday over the collapse of a multi-storey building in Nairobi's Huruma district in April which left at least 51 people dead.

The six-storey structure had been built near a river and collapsed after heavy rain. People were living in the building despite authorities having condemned it as unsafe.

Edward Oonge, one of the defence lawyers, told Reuters that five of the six men had been summoned to appear in court on June 15. The sixth was present in court as the charges were read.

In May, Kenyan authorities started evicting people from poorly built buildings and demolishing those declared unsafe.

Nairobi is struggling to find homes for its fast-growing population, and developers often put up buildings to cater for the soaring demand in violation of construction codes.

Analysts say widespread corruption means few are ever prosecuted.

Several other buildings in Nairobi have collapsed in recent years but none have killed as many people.

ANGOLA :

Africa's richest woman edges towards power in Angola

By AFP/8th June 2016

Nicknamed the "Princess", 43-year-old Isabel, has been ranked by Forbes magazine as the richest woman on the continent.

Now that Isabel dos Santos, Africa's wealthiest woman, has been named head of Angola's oil company she could soon be headed for more power -- but this time in politics, experts say.

Her father, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, appointed her as boss last week of state-owned oil firm Sonangol in a move that some analysts see as the first sign of succession plans for Angola's longtime ruler.

Nicknamed the "Princess", 43-year-old Isabel, has been ranked by Forbes magazine as the richest woman on the continent with a fortune of around \$3 billion (2.6 billion euros).

Her appointment at Sonangol has political ramifications in Africa's second largest oil-producing country.

The ruling MPLA party holds a crucial congress in August to elect its leadership and her authoritarian father appears to be winding down his own political career after announcing would not seek re-election in 2017.

Her new powerful role at Sonangol may position her for political office in a country ruled by her father for 37 years.

"The president wants to establish a dynasty and leave the power to his family," prominent Angolan writer and human rights activist Rafael Marques de Morais told AFP.

"One of the ideas is that Isabel steps up as vice president... and then along the way she takes over," Marques told AFP.

Paula Roque, University of Oxford researcher on Angola, says the appointment of Isabel dos Santos "is a clear indication that the president wants to put in place a plan... to hand over power and concentrate power in the hands of his family."

"For the first time, the president has made a very overt move to show what he is planning. This is the first open step in the succession plan," Roque told AFP.

Three years ago President dos Santos appointed his son Jose Filomeno dos Santos to chair the country's \$5 billion Sovereign Wealth Fund.

He has also been tipped as a potential successor to his father.

Establish a dynasty

Most of Isabel's wealth is in stocks and shares in Portugal and Angola.

According to Marques, Isabel dos Santos owns billions of dollars worth of shares through GALP Energia, an offshore oil and gas giant, which belongs to Sonangol.

It is GALP "she used to become the richest woman in Africa," said Marques, adding she never paid for the shares.

Born in Baku, Azerbaijan in 1973 where her father was studying, she grew up in London, where she

studied mechanical and electrical engineering at King's College.

She moved to Angola in 1992 when her father secured a brief civil war truce with rebel leader Jonas Savimbi.

Her first business venture was in 1995 when she opened a restaurant, Miami Beach, as a 24-year-old in Angola's capital Luanda.

Four years later she won a bid to set up Angola's private mobile operator Unitel.

From there she went on an investment spree -- including the creation of BIC Angola bank.

She now controls 19 percent of Portugal's fourth-biggest bank BPI and has bought shares in several Portuguese companies in recent years, including a cable television firm.

She has also spread her banking empire into neighbouring Namibia.

Last year she bought 65 percent of Portugal's energy and electrical engineering group Efacec, prompting calls by five European Union parliamentarians to investigate the source of her funding.

Critics say she amassed her vast fortune thanks to the state and backing of her father.

But in a interview with the Wall Street Journal early this year, she denied being bankrolled by the government.

"I'm not financed by any state money or any public funds. I don't do that," she said.

"I'm tremendously independent, I always had this wish to stand alone and not be in my parents' shadow."

The mother of three is married to art collector and businessman Sindika Dokolo who is from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

AU/AFRICA :

UN/AFRICA :

U.N. to Investigate Peacekeepers Reported of Killing Women and Children in Africa
[nytimes.com/JUNE 7, 2016](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/07/africa/peacekeepers-killing-women-children.html)

DAKAR, Senegal — The peacekeeping missions in the Central African Republic have been tainted by allegations that troops from several countries sexually abused children and adults. But on Tuesday, Human Rights Watch released a report providing new evidence that soldiers from the Republic of Congo had killed civilians.

In the report, Human Rights Watch said it had uncovered new evidence that Congolese soldiers

killed more than a dozen people, including women and children, while serving as peacekeepers from December 2013 to June 2015.

The report is the latest in a series of allegations against peacekeepers, who have been accused of rampant sexual abuse, including against more than 100 girls in a single prefecture in the Central African Republic. The United Nations has said it is investigating the sex allegations, which it called “sickening.”

The Central African Republic was torn by sectarian strife in 2013 after the ouster of President François Bozizé. Thousands of people were killed, and nearly a quarter of the population was displaced. Faustin-Archange Touadéra, a prime minister under Mr. Bozizé, was elected president this year.

The report on Tuesday offers more evidence of misdeeds that Human Rights Watch has been looking into for years. In February, remains in a grave discovered near a peacekeeping base were exhumed and identified as 12 detainees who had been rounded up more than two years ago. Peacekeepers had said the detainees escaped captivity.

The exhumed bodies are believed to be those of a group arrested after a violent episode in March 2014 between Congolese peacekeepers and a local leader in which one peacekeeper died, according to the report. Angry peacekeepers surrounded the leader’s house and arrested him and at least a dozen others, including five women, one of whom was pregnant, a 10-year-old and an infant.

Witnesses heard screams and gunshots that night and were told to stay away from an area where the grave was eventually discovered.

Human Rights Watch has also documented murders by torture, public executions and beating deaths by Congolese peacekeepers.

In March 2015, United Nations human rights investigators looked into crimes committed by peacekeepers in the area and confirmed the findings of Human Rights Watch, which says the Congolese government has yet to investigate the crimes.

Stéphane Dujarric, the United Nations spokesman in New York, said at a news briefing that the organization had known about the accusations “for quite some time” and that “we’re continuing to follow up” with the Congolese authorities.

Allegations surfaced last year that French soldiers had sexually abused boys in Bangui, the Central African Republic’s capital, starting in December 2013. Troops from Chad and Equatorial Guinea, representing the African Union peacekeeping mission, were also accused of sexually abusing children. The United Nations was in turn accused of mishandling its inquiry into the charges in what became a major scandal that is still reverberating through the organization.

The United Nations human rights official who leaked the allegations against the French soldiers — and was suspended for having violated protocol but reinstated — was reported on Tuesday to have submitted his resignation.

The official, Anders Kompass, the field operations director of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, shared a confidential report about the abuse allegations with the French authorities in what his superiors said they had regarded as a violation of protocol. An independent panel appointed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon concluded that senior United Nations officials had mishandled the matter.

Mr. Kompass's resignation was first reported by IRIN, a nonprofit humanitarian news service that once was part of the United Nations. It quoted Mr. Kompass as saying he was leaving because of a lack of accountability and the "unwillingness of the hierarchy to express any regrets for the way they acted towards me."

Efforts to reach Mr. Kompass for comment were not immediately successful. Asked about the resignation, Mr. Dujarric, the United Nations spokesman, said, "We wish Mr. Kompass well."

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

EU offers carrot, stick to Africa to help curb migration

By Reuters/Wed, June 8th 2016

Europe plans to coax as well as pressure African governments to help curb migration northward using a mixture of aid and trade levers under proposals put forward on Tuesday by the EU executive.

As Africa's biggest donors, divided from the world's poorest continent by a sea that is failing to deter many from attempting risky crossings, EU leaders want to see their trade-and-aid euros used to help solve their migration crisis, though that has brought criticism from African governments and rights groups.

We propose to use a mix of positive and negative incentives to reward those third countries willing to cooperate effectively with us and to ensure that there are consequences for those who do not," Frans Timmermans, the deputy head of the European Commission, told the European Parliament in Strasbourg. One focus of EU pressure will be the reluctance of some African governments to take back their own citizens deported from Europe. The Commission said some 8 billion euros (\$9 billion) was on offer over five years for aid targeted at giving Africans more incentive to stay at home, though much of that must come from EU states and much is money already promised. Timmermans noted the deal he has negotiated with Turkey to staunch flows of Syrian refugees and other migrants to Greek islands - a deal achieved by offering Ankara financial and diplomatic concessions and criticized by human rights groups - and said there was a need to curb renewed crossings from North Africa to Italy, which have claimed nearly 3,000 lives. "We must do the same that we have done on the route through the Aegean also in the southern Mediterranean to find solutions, sustainable solutions," the former Dutch foreign minister said.

His Commission colleague, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, dismissed a suggestion from Libya's fragile, U.N.-backed government that Brussels might pressure Libyans to take back migrants who set sail from its coast, as Turkey now does.

Europe's plan was to get irregular migrants from Africa who do not qualify for asylum back to their home countries, she said, noting that few Libyans themselves make the crossing. MIDEAST, AFRICAN PRIORITIES Jordan and Lebanon in the Middle East, the main hosts along with Turkey of Syrian refugees, would be priority recipients of help under the EU's new migration "compacts", which the Commission said aimed to leverage EU funding with private investments that could reach tens of billions of euros.

Five African states - Nigeria, Senegal, Mali, Niger and Ethiopia - will also be targeted to curtail migration to Europe. Aid could be focused on easing conflicts or economic difficulties that prompt people to emigrate as well as on border security, EU officials said, while other incentives may include preferential trade terms and easier visa access to the EU. The plan is part of a strategy responding to a surge in arrivals in the past year that has divided EU governments and posed a serious threat to the Union's cohesion and credibility. On Tuesday, the Commission also proposed a revamp of its Blue Card work permit scheme to expand legal immigration options for skilled workers and support for EU governments to give migrants training and other help to integrate in Europe. The proposals will require detailed discussion and approval by EU governments and the parliament. Speaking in the chamber, Manfred Weber, conservative leader of the biggest party in the EU legislature welcomed a move to "speak clearly" to Africa and warned of "trade consequences" for states that do not cooperate.

But he cautioned on expanding the Blue Card scheme, saying the priority must be jobs for Europeans before immigrants.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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