



(NAIROBI (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Uganda announced plans on Thursday for a bill that would impose the death penalty on homosexuals, saying the legislation would curb a rise in unnatural sex in the east African nation.

The bill - colloquially known as “Kill the Gays” in Uganda - was nullified five years ago on a technicality and the government said it plans to resurrect it within weeks.)

BURUNDI :

**La France veut renouer avec le Burundi , sans véritable franchise**

October 10, 2019/By admin

BUJUMBURA, Mercredi 9 octobre 2019 – Dans le cadre de la Politique Etrangère, Diplomatique des Burundi, l’Hon. NYABENDA Pascal , Président de l’Assemblée Nationale du Burundi, a reçu , en audience, M. Stéphane Gruenberg, nouvel Ambassadeur de la France au Burundi.

L’Ambassadeur Gruenberg a présenté la conception de la France concernant le développement de sa coopération avec le Burundi. La France veut jouer un rôle important dans le secteur de l’éducation.

Depuis 2015 jusqu’aujourd’hui, au niveau de la géopolitique régionale des grands lacs africains, la France joue un rôle d’ – agresseur – envers le Burundi. Que ce soit : au Conseil de sécurité de l’ONU; au Conseil des Droits de l’Homme de l’ONU à Genève ; à l’Union Européenne; au niveau Médiatique (AFP, RFI, Jeune Afrique , le Monde Afrique etc), etc.

La France est une ancienne puissance Esclavagiste et Coloniale en Afrique. L’Esclavage et la Colonisation sont des crimes contre l’Humanité. Ils ont occasionné plus de 300 Millions de victimes Amérindiennes et Africaines entre le 15ème et le 20ème siècle. Aucun responsable Français n’a jusqu’à nos jours était condamné par un quelconque tribunal international pour ces crimes.

Les Burundais ont hérité de la langue française pendant la période coloniale Belge. Actuellement, pour le Burundi, la politique éducationnelle des Burundais est une affaire intérieure propre aux Burundais. La France, le français et les Français ont leur propre valeur qui ne sont pas ceux des Burundais.

RWANDA :

**Le procès d’assises Rwanda sera scindé**

jeudi 10 octobre 2019/lalibre.be

Le premier dossier sera jugé le 4 novembre. Le deuxième procès, avec deux accusés, se tiendra en 2020.

Les trois défenses l'avaient dit au cours de l'audience préliminaire de la cour d'assises de Bruxelles : il n'y a aucun lien entre le dossier Fabien Neretsé et le dossier Emmanuel Nkunduwimye-Ernest Gakwaya. Elles avaient demandé une disjonction. Mercredi, la cour d'assises les a suivis, estimant que le seul lien est que les faits ont été commis au Rwanda à la même époque.

En conséquence, le seul Fabien Neretsé (62 ans) sera jugé à partir du 4 novembre. Son procès devrait durer 6 semaines.

Ce haut fonctionnaire originaire de Ruhengeri était considéré comme un homme d'influence sous le régime Habyarimana. Avant son arrestation en 2011 à Angoulême où il s'était réfugié, il faisait l'objet d'une plainte en Belgique pour l'assassinat de Claire Beckers et de sa famille. Cette Belge de 47 ans, son mari Isaïe Bucyana et leur fille Katia, âgée de 18 ans, ont été tués à Kigali trois jours après le début du génocide rwandais, le 9 avril 1994.

Se sentant menacée, la famille avait tenté de fuir sa maison et de rejoindre le contingent des Nations unies. La famille avait été arrêtée à un barrage par des hommes en armes dirigés par un officier. La famille Beckers a été fusillée. Martine Beckers, sœur de Claire Beckers, s'est beaucoup mobilisée pour faire éclater la vérité sur la mort de sa sœur.

Le parquet fédéral estime que Fabien Neretse, qui habitait sur la même colline, les aurait dénoncés et serait impliqué dans d'autres assassinats. Il aurait exercé des responsabilités au sein des Interahamwe.

RDC CONGO :

**RDC : Facebook lance son outil de Fact-checking pour lutter contre le Fake news**

9 octobre 2019/zoom-eco.net

La plateforme Facebook vient de lancer son programme de vérification des faits par des organismes tiers (Third-Party Fact-Checking) en Rd Congo. La cérémonie officielle a été organisée, ce mercredi 9 octobre 2019 dans la salle de conférences de Fleuve Congo by Blazon à Kinshasa.

Ce programme, conduit en partenariat avec l'Agence France Presse (AFP), Les Observateurs de France 24 et Pesa Check, s'inscrit dans le cadre de l'intensification des efforts engagés par la plateforme pour aider à évaluer l'exactitude et la qualité des informations qu'on trouve sur Facebook et réduire la propagation des fausses nouvelles.

Selon les organisateurs, le lancement de cet outil s'inscrit dans le cadre de l'extension du programme de vérification des faits par des organismes tiers à dix nouveaux pays d'Afrique subsaharienne dont fait partie la Rd Congo.

Dès lors qu'un média de vérification aura rédigé un article donnant davantage d'informations sur une actualité, Facebook le fera apparaître dans les articles connexes sur le fil d'actualité, sous la publication concernée.

Les administrateurs de la page recevront également une notification s'ils partagent des actualités qualifiées fausses et les personnes qui ont partagé cette information ou sur le point de le faire seront également averties, pour pouvoir décider d'eux-mêmes, en connaissance de cause, de ce qu'ils lisent, partagent et ce à quoi ils se veulent se fier.

En élargissant son programme de vérification des faits par des organismes tiers à 15 pays d'Afrique en un peu plus d'un an, couplé au récent développement du même programme dans les langues locales africaines, témoigne de l'engagement de Facebook envers le continent africain.

D'aucuns estiment qu'« agir pour contribuer à la lutte contre les fausses nouvelles sur Facebook est une responsabilité que la plateforme prend au sérieux ».

Conscient de la problématique de la désinformation, Facebook estime que la vérification des faits par une tierce partie n'est pas la seule solution mais plutôt une des nombreuses initiatives dans lesquelles la plateforme investit pour aider à améliorer la qualité de l'information que les visiteurs voient sur Facebook.

Ce programme de vérification des faits de Facebook est désormais disponible en Rd Congo avec la collaboration du réseau d'organisations de Fact-checking certifiées par l'IFCN (International Fact-Checking Network).

UGANDA :

**Uganda plans bill imposing death penalty for gay sex**

October 10, 2019/reuters.com

NAIROBI (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Uganda announced plans on Thursday for a bill that would impose the death penalty on homosexuals, saying the legislation would curb a rise in unnatural sex in the east African nation.

The bill - colloquially known as "Kill the Gays" in Uganda - was nullified five years ago on a technicality and the government said it plans to resurrect it within weeks.

"Homosexuality is not natural to Ugandans, but there has been a massive recruitment by gay people in schools, and especially among the youth, where they are promoting the falsehood that people are born like that," Ethics and Integrity Minister Simon Lokodo told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"Our current penal law is limited. It only criminalises the act. We want it made clear that anyone who is even involved in promotion and recruitment has to be criminalised. Those that do grave acts will be given the death sentence."

African countries have some of the world's most prohibitive laws governing homosexuality. Same-sex relationships are considered taboo and gay sex is a crime across most of the continent, with punishments ranging from imprisonment to death.

Earlier this year, Brunei sparked international outcry over plans to impose the death penalty for gay sex, backtracking only after intense criticism.

Now Uganda wants to follow suit.

Lokodo said the bill, which is supported by President Yoweri Museveni, will be re-introduced in parliament in the coming weeks and is expected to be voted on before the end of the year.

He was optimistic it would pass with the necessary two-thirds of members present - a shortfall in numbers killed a similar bill in 2014 - as the government had lobbied legislators ahead of its re-introduction, Lokodo added.

“We have been talking to the MPs and we have mobilised them in big numbers,” said Lokodo. “Many are supportive.”

Uganda’s constitutional court overturned the law - formerly known as the “Kill the Gays” bill because it includes the death penalty - on a technicality in 2014.

Even without it, Uganda is one of the hardest countries in Africa to be a sexual minority. Under British colonial law, gay sex is punishable with up to life imprisonment and activists said the new bill risked unleashing attacks.

“Bringing back anti-gay legislation would invariably lead to a spike in discrimination and atrocities,” said Zahra Mohamed of the Toronto-based charity Stephen Lewis Foundation.  
FEARFUL

Moves to restrict LGBT+ rights and criminalise gay sex in other countries have sparked protests and sanctions.

In May, Brunei was forced to extend a moratorium on the death penalty for gay sex after celebrities such as actor George Clooney condemned a law allowing whipping and stoning to death.

Last November, anti-gay remarks by a senior official in Tanzania led to the east African nation’s second biggest donor, Denmark, withholding \$10 million in aid.

Uganda faced widespread international condemnation when the previous bill was signed off by Museveni in 2014.

The United States reduced aid, imposed visa restrictions and cancelled military exercises. The World Bank, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and the Netherlands also suspended or redirected aid.

Lokodo said Uganda was prepared for any negative response.

“It is a concern,” he said.

“But we are ready. We don’t like blackmailing. Much as we know that this is going to irritate our supporters in budget and governance, we can’t just bend our heads and bow before people who want to impose a culture which is foreign to us.”

Pepe Julian Onziema from Sexual Minorities Uganda, an alliance of LGBT+ organisations, said its members were fearful.

“When the law was introduced last time, it whipped up homophobic sentiment and hate crimes,” said Onziema.

“Hundreds of LGBT+ people have been forced to leave the country as refugees and more will follow if this law is enacted. It will criminalise us from even advocating for LGBT+ rights, let alone

supporting and protecting sexual minorities.”

Onziema said three gay men and one transgender woman had been killed in homophobic attacks in Uganda this year - the latest last week when a gay man was bludgeoned to death.

### Zimbabwe's Leader Mnangagwa starts State visit to Uganda

Tuesday, October 8, 2019/mediacentre.go.ug

President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe has this evening arrived in Uganda on a 2-day State Visit at the invitation of his host, President Yoweri Museveni.

President Mnangagwa is expected to grace Uganda's 57th Independence anniversary celebrations that will take place on Sironko District in Eastern Uganda.

President who was received by his host at State House, Entebbe this evening was treated to a 21-gun salute among other receiving ceremonies. The 2 leaders later held tete-a-tete talks.

The two leaders are expected to sign a joint communiqué later this evening at State House, Entebbe after which, President Museveni will host his guest to a State Dinner. ENDS

### SOUTH AFRICA :

#### Prominent psychologist found brutally murdered in South African home

Oct 10, 2019/9news.com.au

A prominent South African psychologist who grew up in Australia has been brutally murdered in her family home in Johannesburg.

Dr Mirah Wilks, 69, was found dead on Sunday morning after a group of men broke into her home and repeatedly stabbed her in the chest.

South African Police believed the men committed the ambush to steal two laptops and a mobile phone, reports the Times Live.

Dr Wilks was a highly-regarded psychologist in South Africa, renowned for her work in helping the LGBTIQ+ community develop resilience tactics as a means of survival.

Born in Israel, Dr Wilks moved to Australia as a young girl before settling in South Africa with her husband Frank and her two children, Tarryn and Brett.

It's believed the men who broke into her home waited for Dr Wilks' husband to leave the property before launching their attack.

The Psychological Society of South Africa said Dr Wilks would be remembered as a mensch.

"It is probably one of the greatest honours to be called a mensch: A good soul; a person with integrity and honour; kind and considerate; someone who always treats others with the utmost respect and dignity; someone who is admired and emulated," the society said in a statement.

"Indeed, Mirah was well respected and much loved and these memories of her will stay with us."

The Society said her work impacted the lives of many people and that her experiences as an immigrant allowed to connect on a deeper level with her patients.

"She was often the identified 'outsider', among others, as an immigrant to South Africa to avoid war in another country; due to her religion; and as a survivor of childhood polio and adult kidney cancer," it said.

"Her study promised to make a seminal contribution to the lives of many, especially in the LGBTIQ+ community."

## Dozens of foreigners camp outside UN offices, want to leave South Africa

2019-10-10/news24.com

Dozens of foreign nationals on Wednesday camped outside the Cape Town offices of the UN refugee agency demanding to be removed from South Africa, and saying they were no longer safe.

Around 250 foreigners, many claiming to be asylum seekers from various African countries, vowed not to leave the premises until the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) addressed their concerns.

Wrapped in blankets, women and children lay on mats, while men paced up and down, according to AFP journalists.

"We are here because we want the UN and other organisations to help... refugees, to take us somewhere safe," said Radjab Mugemangango 47, a Rwandan Uber driver.

"There is no peace in South Africa, it's not safe!" said an emotional Mugemangango.

### Xenophobic violence

In August and early September, the country saw a wave of xenophobic violence that left 12 people killed, most of them South Africans, when mobs descended on foreign-owned stores in and around Johannesburg, destroying properties and looting.

South Africa is a magnet for economic migrants searching for better job prospects and asylum seekers looking for safety.

The continent's most industrialised economy attracts people from neighbouring Lesotho, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Others come from farther afield including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria and South Asian countries.

Seen as competing with locals for jobs, they are often the first to come under fire when South Africa's chronic unemployment, inequality and poverty boils into xenophobic outlash.

"They are saying foreigners are taking our jobs, ... foreigners are taking our women," said Papi Sukami, from the DRC.

"Everywhere we are facing discrimination, there is no dignity for refugees in this country. We are tired," said Sukami, pleading with the UNHCR to "find peace for us".

UNHCR officials were not immediately reachable for comment.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari last week denounced recent xenophobic violence in South Africa as an "embarrassment" for the continent, as he wrapped up a state visit here.

The violence sparked fury in Nigeria and saw hundreds of migrant workers repatriated.

TANZANIA :

### Tanzania's Press Freedoms Under Legal Threats

October 8, 2019/voanews.com

DAR ES SALAAM - Tanzania's President John Magufuli is known as the "bulldozer" for refusing to tolerate criticism of himself and his policies. Since coming to office in 2015, critics say Magufuli's government has squeezed press freedoms through harsh media laws and intimidation.

Tanzanian authorities arrested TV journalist Joseph Gandye in August for "publishing false information" after he broadcast a story alleging police abuse of detainees.

Gandye was held for three days, then released on bail.

He stands by his reporting and says the charges are politically motivated.

Gandye says, "When you want to try to report an issue which has the truth and involves authorities, sometimes a journalist, you'll end up arrested. You'll end up being told that you have written a false story, even if the story is true."

Gandye's arrest came a month after police charged reporter Erick Kabendera with tax evasion, money laundering and organized crime.

Kabendera denies the charges and says they are connected to his critical reports of the Magufuli government.

Rights groups say the arrests are part of a pattern in which Magufuli uses the new media laws in order to silence critics.

Anna Henga is the executive director for Legal and Human Rights Center.

"I would recommend amendment of these laws because even the Universal periodic reviews of the United Nations are recommending that these laws should be amended," said Henga. "They should remove the restrictions, which are put in place by these laws."

Under Magufuli, Tanzania enacted strict laws on cyber crimes and "media services." The laws allow authorities to suspend media outlets and charge journalists with sedition for publishing information deemed a threat to peace, false, or even just misleading.

Tanzania's authorities deny cracking down on freedom of the press and argue the laws are needed to prevent media abuse. Harrison Mwakyembe is the minister of information.

He says, "We insist there is press freedom. Myself, I'm a journalist. I am deeply concerned with media houses. I will not allow limiting press freedoms, no. For a journalist, you report your story, criticize the government - but for the purpose of building the country."

Media groups say the laws are encouraging self-censorship and fueling fears among Tanzania's journalists that they are a target.

Salome Kitomari is the chairperson for Media Institute of Southern Africa.

She says, "We have the case that happened two years ago, our colleague Azory Gwanda. Until now we don't know about his whereabouts. This is something scary in journalism."

Meanwhile, Tanzania's journalists do what they can in an increasingly risky profession. For Gandye, that means waiting for his day in court.

KENYA :

**Kenya : la communauté Sengwer marche sur Nairobi pour la défense de ses "terres ancestrales"**  
francetvinfo.fr/ 09/10/2019

Des membres de cette communauté de l'ouest du Kenya manifestent contre leur expulsion de leurs forêts et pour la reconnaissance de leur tribu, selon le site VOA.

Des centaines de membres de la communauté Sengwer, peuple autochtone de l'ouest du Kenya vivant dans la forêt d'Embobut, ont marché deux jours durant à travers leur territoire dans la vallée du Rift pour rejoindre la capitale, dans l'espoir de rencontrer le président Uhuru Kenyatta. C'est revêtus de leurs costumes traditionnels et en chantant, que ces chasseurs-cueilleurs sont entrés le 7 octobre 2019 dans Nairobi, où ils ont présenté une pétition au gouvernement réclamant leur reconnaissance comme tribu et le retour sur leur terre.

"Être reconnus comme propriétaires de notre terre ancestrale"

Agé de 85 ans, Moses Leleu a pris part à la marche. "En tant que communauté, nous ne sommes pas encore reconnus comme une tribu kényane. C'est l'une des principales raisons pour lesquelles nous sommes ici", explique-t-il à Voice of America (VOA). "La seconde est que nous avons été expulsés à plusieurs reprises de notre terre ancestrale. Nous vivons actuellement dans une petite partie de ces terres et faisons toujours face à une expulsion imminente. Nous voulons retourner dans les régions d'où nous avons été expulsés et être reconnus comme propriétaires de notre terre ancestrale", a-t-il ajouté.

Sa communauté est en effet confrontée à une menace d'expulsion par le gouvernement, qui a en charge la gestion des forêts et des zones de captage d'eau dans le pays. Et la forêt d'Embobut est l'une des cinq zones de captage les plus importantes du Kenya.

"Nous sommes une communauté marginalisée et oubliée dans notre pays depuis le colonialisme. Notre pétition appelle à la levée des restrictions, l'arrêt des incendies des maisons, des arrestations et des expulsions forcées afin que le peuple Sengwer puisse vivre librement et en paix sur ses terres ancestrales dans la forêt d'Embobut", a indiqué de son côté à Capital FM Yator Kiptum, le secrétaire général du conseil des anciens de Sengwer.

Ce sont des Kényans et ils ont des droits comme les autres

Selon Amnesty international, lors des expulsions de 2017, la police a incendié plus de 300 maisons. Un membre de la communauté a été tué et plusieurs centaines de personnes ont été blessées.

Pour Irungu Houghton, le directeur d'Amnesty Kenya qui a pris part à la marche, les économistes n'accordent ni valeur économique, ni importance politique à cette communauté, pourtant ce sont des Kényans et ils ont des droits comme les autres. "En plus, ce sont des peuples autochtones, ce qui signifie qu'ils ont une responsabilité envers la Terre très différente de nous. Leur terre est ancestrale. Depuis des siècles, ils s'occupent des forêts dans des endroits comme Embobut à Elgeyo



Marakwet", a-t-il déclaré à VOA.

Contestant cette version des choses, un haut responsable du Kenya Forest Service estime pour sa part qu'Embobut est "une forêt classée par le gouvernement et non pas une terre ancestrale". Pour lui, les Sengwer ne sont pas une tribu mais "un clan au sein d'une communauté qui, elle, ne revendique pas la forêt".

Pour le gouvernement, ce sont des "envahisseurs" responsables de la déforestation

La forêt d'Embobut n'est d'ailleurs pas la seule cause de conflit entre le peuple Sengwer et le pouvoir. En août 2019, le gouvernement a annoncé son intention d'expulser des milliers de personnes considérées comme des "envahisseurs" dans certaines parties de la forêt kényane, pour sauver l'écosystème de la forêt de Mau, menacée par une forte déforestation.

Dans un rapport publié en septembre 2019, Human Rights Watch a demandé au gouvernement de mettre fin aux "expulsions abusives" et à "l'usage excessif de la force" dans la forêt de Mau.

Le ministère de l'Environnement et des Forêts du Kenya a mis en place un groupe de travail à la fin de l'année dernière afin de conseiller le gouvernement sur la façon de résoudre ces différends. Le groupe de travail doit présenter ses conclusions au ministère au mois d'octobre.

ANGOLA :

**RDC-Angola : Début du rapatriement des réfugiés congolais par le HCR**

Mercredi 9 octobre 2019/actualite.cd

Le HCR a débuté ce mercredi 9 octobre 2019 le rapatriement des réfugiés congolais qui vivent en Angola. Le premier convoi de 380 réfugiés congolais a quitté aujourd'hui le camp de Lovua (Angola) pour la RDC. Ils ont pris place à bord des camions affrétés par l'agence onusienne.

« Ils vont transiter par la localité de Mungamba en RDC avant d'arriver à Tshikapa », explique à ACTUALITE.CD François Kamuabo, réfugié congolais chargé de sensibilisation au camp de Lovua.

Ce premier convoi concerne les réfugiés qui regagnent la RDC par le Kasai. Ceux du Kasai Central sont en attente ajoute la source.

« Ils ont reçu la nourriture pour 4 mois au départ du camp de Lovua (Angola), des bouteilles d'eau minérale et des repas chauds, des couvertures des bidons d'eau, des savons et des moustiquaires », indique Kamuabo qui révèle que les réfugiés recevront chacun la somme 80\$ comme frais de motivation retour, 27 \$ pour la nourriture et 20.000 FC comme frais de transport.

4000 congolais encore réfugiés au camp de Lovua sont concernés par ce retour qu'organisent le HCR avec l'appui du PAM.

Près de 17000 congolais qui avaient fui les violences de la milice Kamuina Nsapu ont regagné de leur propre volonté la RDC depuis le 20 août dernier par la localité de Kalambambuji au Kasai Central où le gouvernement provincial a transporté une partie jusqu'à Kananga avant d'être relayé par le HCR et le PAM qui distribuent depuis le Week end passé des kits de réinsertion pour leur retour dans leurs milieux de vie respectifs.

AU/AFRICA :

Alpha Condé : « Personne ne peut me faire peur... »

[africaguinee.com/2019/10/10](http://africaguinee.com/2019/10/10)

CONAKRY- Le Président Alpha Condé va-t-il reculer face à la pression de ses adversaires politiques ? Alors que le Front National pour la Défense de la Constitution appelle à une manifestation le lundi 14 octobre prochain, Alpha Condé a prévenu qu'il n'a pas peur.

Contrairement à son Premier Ministre Kassory Fofana, le locataire du Palais Sékoutoureya a reconnu que manifester un droit.

« Je n'ai peur de rien. On se connaît. Personne ne peut me faire peur, encore moins aux guinéens. Je n'ai pas eu peur de Sékou Touré, ni de Lansana Conté, encore moins les militaires. Je n'ai peur que de Dieu », a lancé Alpha Condé ce mercredi 9 octobre 2019 à Conakry.

Ce lundi 14 octobre 2019 sera déterminant pour les opposants au projet de référendum constitutionnel. Ils ont appelé à des manifestations sur toute l'étendue du territoire national.

Les partisans du Président Alpha Condé réunis au sein de la « CODENOC » ont quant à eux qualifié cette vague de protestation de « coup d'Etat » appelant ainsi le Gouvernement à prendre toutes ses responsabilités.

« La démocratie autorise la marche, mais les manifestants ne doivent pas empêcher les autres citoyens de circuler librement. Personne ne peut accepter qu'on détruise les biens d'autrui », a averti le Chef de l'Etat Alpha Condé.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

African languages are the fastest growing in the United States

[October 7, 2019/qz.com](http://October 7, 2019/qz.com)

Newly released data from the U.S. Census Bureau spotlights African languages among the top ten fastest growing languages spoken at home in the U.S. The list featured three groups of African languages: Swahili and other Central/Eastern/Southern African languages; Yoruba, Twi, Igbo, and other Western African languages; and Amharic/Somali.

Analysts credit the development to recent immigration trends. Although African immigrants make up a small share of the nation's immigrant population, their overall numbers have doubled every decade since 1970, according to the Pew Research Center. Africans now make up 39% of the total foreign-born black population, up from 24% in 2000.

Fastest growing languages in the US from 2016 to 2018

## Languages spoken at home

Swahili and other Central/Eastern/Southern African languages

22%

Malayalam, Kannada, and other Dravidian languages

16%

Bengali

16%

Tamil

13%

Yoruba, Twi, Igbo, and other Western African languages

13%

Amharic/Somali

12%

Punjabi

10%

Telugu

10%

Pennsylvania Dutch/Yiddish

9%

Hindi

8%

Source: US Census

The immigration population growth in the U.S. has slowed down in recent months. But president Donald Trump's infamous "shithole" comment about African countries and the recent rise in the removal of Africans from the U.S. has not deterred African migrants from seeking refuge in the U.S. In June 2019, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officials recorded an unprecedented rise in African migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border, arriving at a rate of 30 to 40 people a day. Majority of these asylum seekers are from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola.

This is not a trend that is expected to change drastically anytime soon. The number of Latino migrants living in the U.S. surpass sub-Saharan African immigrants and, consequently, Spanish is still the fastest-growing non-English language in terms of the population of speakers. The share of people who speak English at home fell from 78.4% in 2016 to 78.1% in 2018, according to recently released data from the US Census.

African languages, however, are among the fastest-growing languages with regards to the speed of growth, and the continued flow of Africans Westwards remains significant to the trend. The continent's mushrooming under-30 population, particularly those between the ages of 18 and 25 have considered emigrating, and North America is a top destination for the 22 percent who want to leave. This desire to migrate is highest in West and Central Africa.

Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Tanzania, Senegal and Kenya are among the principal countries of origin for sub-Saharan African migrants to Europe and the United States, which explains why Swahili, Yoruba and Igbo are leading the African cohort on the Census Bureau's list of fastest-growing languages.

This trend is already having an impact on the U.S. In the upcoming 2020 census, the country will, for the first time, have printed guides in three additional African languages—Igbo, Yoruba, and Twi. The previous census in 2010 had guides printed in five African languages all of which were from East and South Africa.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

**Mozambique: EU channels further €10 million in humanitarian aid**

10 October 2019/europa.eu

Brussels,

The European Commission is mobilising an additional €10 million in humanitarian assistance for the many still dealing with the consequences of the two unprecedented tropical cyclones that hit Mozambique in 2019.

“Tropical cyclones Idai and Kenneth left a trail of destruction that is still being felt by the most vulnerable in Mozambique. The EU is reinforcing humanitarian support to deliver emergency food aid and health care. We will also step up support for communities to be better prepared for future natural disasters. We are committed to support Mozambique for as long as it takes,” said Christos Stylianides, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management.

The new humanitarian aid package announced today will increase funding for:

Emergency food aid and nutritional support.

Health care: EU funds will help the functioning of referral and emergency services in health centres that are serving cyclone-hit areas.

Disaster preparedness: stockpiling emergency kits at strategic locations throughout the country, so they are immediately available if another natural disaster strikes.

The EU had already allocated €11 million in 2019 in previous aid packages for disaster relief in the immediate aftermath of the tropical cyclones as well as for preparedness measures. In addition, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism was activated with EU Member States sending some 60,000 relief items, search and rescue teams, communications support, medical services and water treatment, and a coordination support team of EU experts. The European Union financed 75% of the transport costs of these teams and equipment, amounting to more than €4 million.

Background

The EU will also provide longer term support for reconstruction. At the International Donors Pledging Conference held in Beira, Mozambique, on 30 May and 01 June 2019, the European Union pledged €200 million in recovery support for Mozambique after cyclones Idai and Kenneth, and to help the country strengthen its resilience and preparedness for natural disasters. From this amount, €100 million will come from the European Development Fund, while the remaining €100 million will be available in loans through the European Investment Bank.

## Germany/Africa: Berlin's halfhearted overtures

Thursday, 10 October 2019/theafricareport.com

Berlin has been seeking to improve trade ties and convince the country's big companies to invest more in Africa and match government contributions. It is seen as part of a long-term plan to reduce the flow of African migrants to Europe.

[This article is part of our series on Europe-Africa relations. Follow the links for our overview on Europe's Africa stance, our UK/Africa and our France/Africa articles.]

But so far the new rhetoric is yet to be matched by reality.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's government has prioritised the links between economic growth and long-term security in Africa to stem immigration, which has become a political football in Europe and severely weakened Merkel's position.

It has seen Germany take a fresh interest in security, particularly in West Africa.

Germany has been France's main European ally in financing and contributing military support to the G5 Sahel alliance. In May, Merkel pledged more than €100m (\$110m) in funding for the Sahel region during a West Africa tour that took her to Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

Similarly, the European Union's (EU) External Investment Plan – backed by France and Germany – seeks to leverage the EU's budget to encourage private companies to invest in the region.

The bloc's €3.4bn Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, set up to help combat migration flows, meanwhile, has also been earmarked for a role concentrating resources.

Both seek to improve trade ties and convince their countries' big companies to invest more in Africa and match government contributions as part of a long-term plan to reduce the flow of African migrants to Europe.

Marshalling resources

The 'Marshall Plan with Africa' initiated by the federal ministry for economic cooperation and development, was the centre piece of Germany's G20 presidency in 2017. It sticks primarily to the blueprint promoted by the European Commission for increasing private investment in Africa but without increasing public spending commitments.

"It centres around two clearly defined objectives. One is to improve African infrastructure. The other is to increase private investment to Africa. Both will ignite a process of generating jobs for ordinary Africans," said professor Paul Collier, who advised the German government during its G20 presidency.

But progress has been slow

None of the planned bilateral 'compacts' have yet been agreed;

And the 'Marshall Plan' reference is viewed by many as clumsy paternalism.

"It is not something African leaders like very much. It gives the impression of something being done to them," says Domenico Rosa, a senior European Commission official.

At the EU level, the new German rhetoric is also yet to be truly felt on trade.

Merkel has argued that the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), which were effectively mothballed by Jean-Claude Juncker's Commission presidency, should be re-opened.

But that requires majority support among EU member states, upon whom she has put little pressure.

Similarly, although Berlin is known to be uncomfortable with the France and Spain driven EU rapprochement with Morocco – which observers say undermined Germany’s former president Horst Köhler, who resigned as the UN’s envoy for Western Sahara in May – it has stayed silent on the matter.

CHINA/AFRICA :

**China is cornering Africa’s ecommerce market**  
ft.com/10/10/2019

Companies such as Transsion are using the continent as a test bed for innovation

All over Africa, in its clogged cities and fast-changing towns and villages, buildings are painted in Tecno blue and billboards offer the allure of the Tecno brand. From the Grand Marché in Mali’s capital, Bamako, to the business hub of Nairobi in Kenya, where entire 20-storey towers are slathered in the Tecno logo, aspirational Africans are being bombarded.

What is Tecno, you may ask, if you are not a frequent traveller to the continent? Tecno is an Africa-specific brand created by Transsion, a Shenzhen-based handset manufacturer. Last week, the company, founded in 2006, listed on the Star Market, Shanghai’s Nasdaq wannabe, closing up more than 60 per cent on its first day for a market capitalisation of around \$6.5bn.

The story holds lessons about Africa and its increasingly dynamic interaction with the world. Transsion, which last year sold more than 100m handsets, has proved you can make money in Africa if you work out what people want and what they can afford.

From 2008, Transsion specifically targeted the continent, skipping the crowded Chinese market to concentrate on a new frontier where the population is set to double over the next 30 years.

Starting with basic “feature” phones, Transsion developed its technological offering to cater for African tastes, gleaning intelligence from research centres established in Nigeria and Kenya.

Many Transsion phones have slots for multiple SIM cards so customers can make cheap provider-to-provider calls and bypass lapses in coverage. Battery life has been extended, vital for users in places where electricity may be intermittent. Handsets are adapted to languages including Amharic and Swahili.

As Transsion sells more smartphones, which now make up more than a third of its offering, it puts its effort on the mid-tier market, keeping the cost to around \$100 for most handsets. Unusually, it also offers aftersales service.

Transsion, whose sales in Africa zoomed past those of Samsung in 2017, saw an opportunity where others did not. While the west still too often treats the continent as a charity case, many Chinese companies see a business opportunity.

True, most people in Africa are poor. In Kenya, a relatively prosperous economy, gross domestic

product per capita is still a lowly \$3,000, even in purchasing parity terms. Yet the continent's population is growing faster than any other on earth and — in its more successful economies — income per head is doubling every decade or so.

Chinese companies are getting in on the ground. In 2018, Tecno became the fifth most admired brand in Africa, according to Brand Africa, squeezed in between Coca-Cola and Puma, with Apple sixth. Itel and Infinix, its other two brands, make 17th and 26th place.

While most companies move into Africa as an afterthought, Transsion has done things in reverse, using Africa to innovate and to test the robustness of its offering. It is now selling phones in India and Latin America.

Transsion is also testing Africa as a manufacturing centre, something that could become more feasible as the African Continental Free Trade Area comes into effect. It has opened two manufacturing facilities in Ethiopia, which is pursuing an Asia-style industrial policy, in addition to factories in China, India and Bangladesh.

Together with Huawei and ZTE, Chinese equipment makers that have wired up the continent virtually single-handedly, Transsion has helped lead the African telecoms revolution. The hardware installed, China's software developers are also coming. Alibaba has road-tested its Alipay system in South Africa and WeChat has a partnership with Kenya's M-Pesa mobile money offering.

To be fair to western companies, some, including Vodafone, Orange and Facebook, whose WhatsApp messenger service is ubiquitous, have also seen the potential of the African consumer.

And if China has been more commercially savvy, western governments have bankrolled humanitarian schemes that Beijing would never consider. There is no Chinese PEPFAR, the US President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief. And it was the CDC Group, part of Britain's aid effort, that funded the M-Pesa money-transfer system on which much of the continent's ecommerce ecosystem is built.

That ecosystem is extraordinarily inventive. Start-ups are offering services from off-grid power to farming advice, and from cut-price medicines to haulage trucks ordered up Uber-style. Jack Ma, the founder of Alibaba, has also turned his attention to Africa's potential, launching a \$1m Netpreneur prize.

When most people think of China in Africa they think of mining and construction. But things are moving on. It is no longer the highways where the main action is taking place. It is the superhighways.

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 10 Octobre 2019... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 10/10/2019

