

AFRICA : 6 JANVIER 2020 : [L'annonce de la visite du Ministre chinois des Affaires Étrangères au Burundi / GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS - RDC : Risque de balkanisation de la RDC - les FARDC et le cardinal Ambongo inquiets / ANC condemns America's recent attack on Iraq, calls it inhumane / 3 Americans Die in Shabab Attack on Kenyan Base / Turkish Military Units Have Started Moving to Libya, Erdogan Says / Ghana Targets Its Diaspora for \$3 Billion in Investments]

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IMAGES : nytimes.com ; digitalcongo.net ; haaretz.com ; aljazeera.com - AP ; diaspoint.nl

BURUNDI :

Burundi : Vers une visite du Ministre chinois des Affaires Étrangères

<http://burundi-agnews.org/diplomatie/burundi-vers-une-visite-du-ministre-chinois-des-affaires-etrangees/>

GEOPOLITIQUE GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS, DIPLOMATIE, DEFENSE – Le Ministre chinois des Affaires Étrangères en visite mardi 7 janvier 2020 au Burundi.

GITEGA (Capitale du Burundi), Vendredi 3 janvier 2020 – Dans la cadre des Politiques Etrangère, Globale, Diplomatique, de Défense, et Intérieure, Socio-économique des Burundi, M. WANG YI, Ministre chinois des Affaires Etrangères, a prévu une visite de travail au Burundi ce mardi 7 janvier 2020.

Avant tout, cette visite a été annoncée par M. GENG SHUANG, porte parole de ce ministère et fait suite à une invitation de M. NIBIGIRA Ezechiel, Ministre burundais des Affaires Etrangères, en vue de renforcer la coopération bilatérale Sino-Burundaise.

De fait, ces dernières années, la Chine est devenu l'un des plus grands partenaires socio-économique du Burundi.

Ainsi, le Burundi a subi depuis 2015 une guerre géopolitique menée par l'occident, anciennement colonialiste et esclavagiste, dans la Région des Grands Africains contre la Chine. Parce que, la Chine, première puissance économique mondiale, a débuté depuis novembre 2019 ses deux nouvelles "routes de la soie africaine".

Les rumeurs disent que "ces fameux occidentaux (+ OTAN & AFRICOM : <http://burundi-agnews.org/securite/burundi-defense-la-guerre-technologique-arrive-dans-les-grands-lacs-africains/>)" cités plus haut , avec l'aide du Rwanda, veulent mettre à feu et à sang toute la Région des Grands Lacs Africains, en commençant par la RDC (sa balkanisation) et le Burundi.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Samedi 4 janvier 2020 / Photo : <http://fr.cctv.com>

Burundi / Génocide : Bilan humain des fosses communes trouvés à Kamenge

<http://burundi-agnews.org/1993/burundi-genocide-bilan-humain-des-fosses-communes-trouves-a-kamenge/>

JUSTICE, HISTOIRE – La CVR réalise un travail bilan de 7 jours sur les fosses communes de Kamenge liés au Génocide Régicide du Burundi

BUJUMBURA, Samedi 4 janvier 2020 – Dans le cadre de la Politique Intérieure, Judiciaire des Burundi, M. NDAYICARIYE Pierre Claver , Président de la Commission Vérité et Réconciliation (CVR) du Burundi, organise , pendant 7 jours, une séance d'évaluation, concernant les exhumations de restes humains des nombreuses fosses communes trouvées à l'ex marché de Kamenge.

En bref, le Burundi a vécu entre 1965-66 à 2005 une des dictatures militaires qui aura été parmi les plus féroces et sanguinaires au 20ème siècle. Cette dictature militaire HIMA burundaise (Micombero, Bagaza, Buyoya) [1] a fait plus de 4,5 Millions de victimes Burundi en 40 ans sur une population aujourd'hui de plus de 9 Millions d'habitants : Le fameux Génocide Régicide du Burundi [2]

Ainsi, la CVR, une institution judiciaire étatique burundaise, tente d'aider les victimes de ce génocide régicide à pouvoir entreprendre leur propre chemin vers la résilience.

Burundi : La Belgique préparerait un Génocide dans les Grands Lacs

<http://burundi-agnews.org/diplomatie/burundi-la-belgique-preparerait-un-genocide-dans-les-grands-lacs/>

GEOPOLITIQUE DES GRANDS LACS, SECURITE, GUERRE HUMANITAIRE, REVOLUTION DE COULEUR, DIPLOMATIE – Une journaliste Belge a révélé les intentions de la Belgique – de préparer un Génocide – dans la région des Grands Lacs Africains dans les mois à venir .

BUJUMBURA, Samedi 28 Décembre 2019 – Dans le cadre des Politiques Etrangère, Globale, Diplomatique , de Défense, et Intérieure, Sécuritaire des Burundi, l’Ambassadeur M. NYAMITWE Willy , Conseiller Sénior du Président du Burundi, a réagit à un article haineux qu’a sorti ce vendredi 27 décembre 2019 le journal Belge -LA LIBRE- envers le Burundi.

En effet, la journaliste Mme Marie-France CROS de LA LIBRE (anciennement LA LIBRE BELGIQUE, journal CATHOLIQUE) a sorti les 27 et 28 décembre 2019 deux articles injurieux en “guerre humanitaire”[<http://burundi-agnews.org/guerre-humanitaire/>] contre le Burundi : “Burundi: comment prévenir un génocide?” [1] et “La présidentielle de 2020 aura-t-elle lieu au Burundi? [2]“

Voici la réponse de l’Amb. NYAMITWE Willy sur son compte Twitter aux propos haineux de cette journaliste Belge envers le Burundi, : ” Média de la haine et de propagande en Belgique, LA LIBRE poursuit sa descente aux enfers dans une infructueuse campagne de mensonges sur le Burundi par le truchement d’âneries d’une certaine Marie-France Cros. Faut-il encore perdre son temps en lisant de telles élucubrations de Marie-France Cros? Le budget pour les élections de 2020 a été largement dépassé, et PLUS JAMAIS le Burundi ne tendra la main pour que son Peuple aille aux urnes. Honte à LA LIBRE et à LA BELGIQUE“

Apparemment, selon les spécialistes géopoliticiens panafricains [<http://burundi-agnews.org/globalisation-mondialisation/burundi-defense-rencontre-des-services-secrets-des-grands-lacs-a-dar/>] , en décryptant les propos des 2 articles de Mme Marie-France CROS, il s’agit de réelles pièces à convictions. La Belgique ,ancien pays qui pratiquait la COLONISATION qui est un CRIME CONTRE L’HUMANITE, et qui n’en a jamais été condamnée par une quelconque cour internationale pour ce crime imprescriptible, “serait entrain d’organiser un Génocide dans cette région des grands lacs africains qui empêcherait en même temps la présidentielle de 2020 au Burundi”. Cela est à comprendre dans le sens du rapprochement de la Belgique ces derniers mois avec le RWANDA du dictateur KAGAME. Il y a d’abord l’affaire des renseignements militaires belges qui ont signé un accord confidentiel avec le Rwanda sans en informer leur Parlement [<https://www.burundi-forum.org/37404/> , <https://www.burundi-forum.org/37161/>] et le fameux procès bidon [3] a eu lieu en Belgique où un vieux RWANDAIS a été condamné par la Justice étatique belge pour génocide sans aucune preuve avérée. L’idée était d’ouvrir le cœur du “Dictateur Africain” pour laisser la Belgique, la France, et l’OTAN [4] venir s’installer militairement au RWANDA pour aider à déclencher une GUERRE dans cette Afrique déjà longuement meurtrie, où l’occident néocolonialiste (anciennement esclavagiste et colonial) combat ouvertement la nouvelle route de la soie chinoise installée dans cette localité. Enfin, l’article du samedi 28 décembre 2019 -“Burundi: comment prévenir un génocide?”– démontre le lien avéré entre Mme Marie-France CROS et le réseau occidental qui a été à l’origine du coup d’état militaire raté du mercredi 13 mai 2015 au Burundi [<http://burundi-agnews.org/revolution-de-couleur/>].

Le Burundi va prendre les dispositions nécessaires et informer URGEMMENT de ce PLAN MACABRE OCCIDENTAL les ETATS AFRICAINS panafricanistes et les NATIONS UNIS pour dénoncer et réagir rapidement face à cette agression sans nom.

[1] <https://afrique.lalibre.be/44956/burundi-comment-prevenir-un-genocide/>

[2] <https://afrique.lalibre.be/44946/burundi-la-presidentielle-de-2020-aura-t-elle-lieu/>

[3] ” Procès Rwanda: Fabien Nereyse reconnu coupable de crime de génocide”

https://www.rtb.be/info/societe/detail_proces-rwanda-fabien-neretse-reconnu-coupable-de-crime-de-genocide?id=10392172 –

[4] <http://burundi-agnews.org/afrique/des-elements-armees-venus-du-rwanda-ont-attaque-le-burundi/> – <https://www.burundi-forum.org/37090/> – <https://www.burundi-forum.org/37099/> – <https://www.burundi-forum.org/37705/> – <http://burundi-agnews.org/diplomatie/la-menace-du-burundi-lalliance-du-rwanda-avec-les-anciens-colons-esclavagistes/> – <https://www.burundi-forum.org/37128/>

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Lundi 30 décembre 2019

TANZANIA :

US embassy issue security alert for its citizens in Tanzania

<https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/news/US-embassy-issue-security-alert-for-its-citizens-in-Tanzania/1840386-5408474-jjuav6/index.html>

Monday January 6 2020

New airport in Tanzania is to be funded by the African Development Bank

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/news/109733/msalato-international-airport-tanzania-project-loan/>

Msalato Airport, a new international airport, is to be built in the region of Dodoma, 12km from the capital city of Tanzania.

The African Development Bank's Board of Directors has approved a \$272.12 million loan to Tanzania which will be used in the construction of a new international airport in the capital city of Dodoma; Msalato International Airport.

The new site will be built within the district of Msalato, 12km from the capital.

The funding is comprised of a \$198.6 million loan from the African Development Bank, \$23.52 million from the African Development Fund (ADF) and \$50 million in co-financing with the Africa Growing Together Fund (AGTF).

The project will focus on the construction of high-capacity airport infrastructure in order to meet and accommodate the predicted growth in air transport due to the city's new role as the administrative capital of Tanzania.

Construction is expected to take four years and will include a passenger terminal, a runway and the installation of air navigation equipment. Other operational features – a fuel distribution company, water supply systems, electrical power distribution substations and a fire-fighting service – will also be included.

Expected annual capacity for the new Msalato International Airport is approximately 50,000 aircraft and one million passengers, most of which are predicted to be international. The airport will benefit over 200 million passengers in East Africa, as well as international trade networks – particularly business travellers and tourists.

The Director of the Bank's Infrastructure and Urban Development Department, Amadou Oumarou, said: "An expanded air transport network in Dodoma, together with the ongoing high-speed railway construction on the central corridor, are necessary infrastructure investments to help unlock and disperse spatial development in the countryside. This will strengthen the city's potential as a strategic growth pole in keeping with Tanzania's national development aspirations of fostering shared growth for all the regions."

RWANDA :

Rwanda: Le dossier de l'attentat du 6 avril 1994 sera instruit par le Tribunal de Paris!

<http://www.veritasinfo.fr/2020/01/rwanda-le-dossier-de-l-attentat-du-6-avril-1994-sera-instruit-par-le-tribunal-de-paris.html>

Publié le 5 janvier 2020 par veritas

Le 15 janvier 2020, la Chambre de l'Instruction du TGI de Paris examinera l'appel interjeté - étrangement - par les seules parties civiles dans le dossier de l'attentat du 6 avril 1994. Quels en sont les enjeux ?

Le 6 avril 1994, l'attentat perpétré contre l'avion présidentiel rwandais a assassiné deux chefs d'état africains et leur suite mais aussi les membres d'équipage qui se trouvaient être de nationalité française. On se souvient que le TPIR a cru pouvoir se trouver compétent pour instruire sur ce crime qui, outre la mort des deux chefs d'état ci-dessus, déclencha un génocide qui aurait coûté la vie à plus d'un million de rwandais. Cet attentat a aussi causé indirectement la déstabilisation du Zaïre/ Congo où les guerres et les massacres se poursuivent encore aujourd'hui.

On se souvient également du refus de poursuivre l'enquête sur cet attentat qui fut décidé par le procureur près le TPIR après que l'enquêteur australien HOURIGAN eut apporté les preuves de culpabilité du FPR. On sait par CARLA DEL PONTE, procureure devant le TPIR, que le président KAGAME s'est longtemps opposé à ce qu'une enquête sur ce crime soit effectuée. Il a refusé à Louise ARBOUR puis à CARLA DEL PONTE les moyens de travailler. Il [Paul Kagame] a fait pression pour qu'elles ne travaillent pas. Louise ARBOUR s'est couchée, a mis fin à l'enquête qu'elle avait pourtant ordonnée et a été promue au sein de l'ONU. Carla del Ponte a persisté et a été virée par nos « amis » anglo-saxons.

Seules les plaintes portées en France en 1998 par les familles des membres français de l'équipage ont permis qu'une instruction judiciaire soit menée sur ce crime hors norme. Or, depuis qu'en 2004, la justice française a lancé neuf mandats d'arrêts contre des proches du général Kagame, les manipulations les plus grossières ont été tentées. Les fake news ont fleuri afin de brouiller la compréhension du dossier. Kagame a lancé des contre-feux sous forme d'accusations plus imaginaires les unes que les autres contre l'Armée française et ses officiers, etc. etc.

Souhaitant empêcher la poursuite de l'enquête française comme il était parvenu à le faire de l'enquête amorcée par le TPIR, Kagame a toujours refusé que le juge Bruguière initialement saisi, vienne instrumenter au Rwanda. Il pourra ainsi lui reprocher de ne pas être venu enquêter sur le lieu des faits... Mais, curieusement et après tractations et négociations diverses avec le gouvernement Sarkozy/Kouchnér, ce même Kagame ouvrira toutes grandes les portes du pays des Mille Collines au successeur de Bruguière, le juge Trevidic. Ce magistrat français présidera sur place – et en présence des experts britanniques de l'université de Cranfields, co-auteurs du rapport « Mutsinzi » - à diverses gesticulations aboutissant à ce qui est communément appelé « l'expertise Trevidic » - rendue publique en janvier 2012.

On se souvient que ce document - dont la presse de Kigali et certains titres français se sont fait l'écho avant même que le juge l'ait communiqué aux parties civiles — a été résumé à grands cris par tous les blancs menteurs en une seule phrase : « Les missiles sont partis du camp de Kanombe ». Dès lors, déduction hâtive oblige, ils en concluaient triomphalement que des hutu radicalisés - à défaut d'être déséquilibrés - avaient commis cet attentat. Pour beaucoup, le dossier de cet attentat

semblait donc clos. Curieusement, si les parties civiles exigeaient de connaître la vérité et de poursuivre l'instruction jusqu'au bout, les partisans de Kagame ne demandaient que le prononcé immédiat d'un non-lieu. Nul n'était besoin pour Kigali de savoir qui étaient les tireurs de missiles ni les commanditaires de ce crime déclencheur de génocide.

Les six années qui suivirent (2012-2019), furent marquées par l'arrivée de nouveaux éléments dans le dossier d'instruction, désormais alimenté par les seules parties civiles. On découvrit ainsi que de nombreuses preuves dormaient encore dans les archives du TPIR tandis que, les uns après les autres, des soldats de Kagame de tous grades, en rupture de ban avec leur ancien chef de guerre devenu un dictateur sanguinaire, venaient apporter leur témoignage. Accessoirement, on vit intervenir un nouveau magistrat instructeur..... et de nouveaux chefs d'état français. Ces derniers furent habilement courtisés ou menacés par Kagame.

Interrompant soudainement ce flux de preuves et de témoignages, les magistrats décidèrent de clore le dossier puis de rendre une ordonnance de non-lieu. Celle-ci fut rendue publique par twitter à la veille des fêtes de fin d'année, le lundi 24 décembre 2018. Pour faire court, on retiendra de ce document que le juge estime qu'une seule piste était raisonnablement à suivre et que, dans cette piste, les charges étaient insuffisantes pour renvoyer les mis en examen devant les Assises. Il n'est pas surprenant de constater qu'il a été fait appel de cette ordonnance. Ce qui paraît surprenant, c'est de constater que, seules les parties civiles ont fait appel.

Que reste-t-il de l'expertise Trévidic ?

On aurait du mal à oublier que le rapport d'expertise, improprement appelé « rapports Trevidic », dont Kigali et ses idiots utiles nous rabattent les oreilles depuis janvier 2012, leur permettrait d'affirmer - c'est du moins ce qu'ils prétendent- que les missiles sont partis du camp de Kanombe. Et bien soit ! Et après ? N'importe quel OPJ en formation, n'importe quel lecteur de polar à deux balles, vous diront que s'il est établi que les tireurs étaient au camp de Kanombe, voilà une piste intéressante à exploiter.

Et là, dans ce dossier instruisant sur un crime d'une telle importance, personne n'est allé voir ce qui se passait au camp de Kanombe le soir des faits ? Bien mieux, non seulement personne n'est allé voir mais tout le monde a refusé d'aller voir ! Dans une instruction « normale » dont le but est généralement de découvrir les auteurs du crime, QUELS QU'ILS SOIENT, on aurait été en droit de s'attendre à ce que, dès lors qu'il était prétendument établi que les missiles seraient partis d'un territoire placés sous leur autorité, les responsables du camp de Kanombe soient recherchés et, pour le moins, entendus,

Étrangement, il n'en fut rien.

Pourtant, en janvier 2012, dès la publication du rapport acoustique dit « Expertise TREVIDIC » le commandant du camp de Kanombe, le colonel Félicien MUBERUKA a spontanément écrit au juge Trévidic pour demander à être entendu, mais le juge n'a jamais donné suite. De guerre lasse, cet officier supérieur a décidé de témoigner devant des chercheurs. Si la Justice refuse qu'il la serve, il servira au moins l'Histoire. Son témoignage, particulièrement autorisé par sa parfaite connaissance des lieux autant que par sa présence au moment des faits, est formel:

«Les coups doivent être partis de la colline de Masaka. J'ai été informé par mes enfants qui jouaient encore au jardin et qui ont vu un avion en feu venant de Masaka. Si les missiles avaient été tirés à partir du camp Kanombe ou de ses environs immédiats comme semblent l'affirmer les rapports Mutsinzi et Trévidic, j'aurais sans aucun doute entendu et senti la forte détonation qu'ils auraient occasionnée, car ma résidence se trouvait au camp même. Je le dis parce que lorsqu'une grenade

explosait au camp ou dans ses environs immédiats, puisque cela était devenu monnaie courante depuis la guerre, je l'entendais de ma résidence. A plus forte raison, je ne pouvais pas ne pas entendre la détonation de deux missiles sol-air. Aussi, les ondes de détonation auraient provoqué la panique au camp peuplé de plus de deux mille âmes y compris les femmes et les enfants des militaires. Or, j'ai constaté que la situation était relativement calme à mon arrivée au PC., peu après que l'avion avait été abattu. Enfin, si les missiles étaient partis du camp, ils n'auraient pas atteint l'avion qui est venu tomber entre la piscine et la clôture de la résidence, car un avion en atterrissage n'est vu du camp qu'après avoir dépassé la résidence du Président. ».

Un autre officier des FAR, le lieutenant Seyoboka, qui a recueilli plusieurs témoignages de ses collègues dès le 7 avril, y compris émanant des éléments de la garde présidentielle rwandaise, a lui aussi écrit au juge Trévidic. Le 16 septembre 2010, c'est à dire bien avant la publication du rapport acoustique, il indique : « Monsieur le Juge, la présente a pour objet de solliciter une entrevue dans le dessein de contribuer à l'enquête dont vous êtes en charge. Le 06 avril 1994 vers 20h23, j'étais au[15]... etc, etc. » Il n'a semble-t-il jamais été entendu, comme ne l'ont pas davantage été certains officiers rwandais présents dans les environs du camp de Kanombe et cités dans le livre de Charles ONANA.

Encore mieux, certains témoins de ce crime ont été assassinés après avoir témoigné (KAREGEYA) ou même avant de témoigner (GAFIRITA). D'autres, nombreux, tels le colonel belge MARCHAL, responsable pour l'ONU de la consignation des armes rwandaises au camp de Kanombe, ont vu leurs offres de témoignage traitées par le même mépris. Cette instruction judiciaire a été déclarée close et a fait l'objet d'une ordonnance de non-lieu alors que quelle que soit celle des deux pistes qu'on examine, tout n'avait pas été fait pour rechercher la vérité. Il a semblé plus aisé de prétendre que les charges étaient insuffisantes pour que se tienne un procès en Cour d'Assises. Et cela, bien qu'on sache que beaucoup de charges dorment encore ici ou là, dans les archives du TPIR ou les archives US ainsi que dans la mémoire des témoins.... Pourquoi close si vite une instruction si manifestement incomplète?

Pourquoi aussi, seules les parties civiles ont-elles fait appel de ce non-lieu ? Pourquoi, alors que cette fameuse « expertise Trévidic » semble désigner les « extrémiste hutu », la défense des mis en examen ne s'est-elle pas emparé de cette piste autrement que devant les médias ? Pourquoi n'a-t-elle, à notre connaissance, déposé aucun acte exigeant l'audition, voire même le placement en garde à vue et l'incrimination des responsables du camp de Kanome? Cela signifie-t-il que, même à Kigali, on considère que la piste du camp de Kanombe soi-disant déterminée par un improbable expertise n'était qu'un leurre destiné à masquer la vérité et arracher un non-lieu en faveur des officiers de Kagame mis en examen? Quoi qu'il en soit, c'est peu dire que Kigali se soucie peu que ce les auteurs du crime soient condamnés et se satisfait que la poussière reste dissimulée sous le tapis.

Ce non-lieu signifiant arrêt de toute investigation susceptible de mettre au grand jour les vraies culpabilités convient fort bien à la défense des officiers de Kagame mis en examen. Ceux-ci, comme on l'a vu, ne sont pas très soucieux de voir la vérité mise au jour. Pourtant, lorsqu'on clame son innocence, n'y-a-t-il pas plus belle preuve à apporter que de démontrer la culpabilité du véritable auteur ? Non, Kagame et sa bande se satisfont du doute. Bien mieux, ils préfèrent que le doute sur leur grande culpabilité habite les esprits. Cela participe à inspirer la terreur par laquelle ils gouvernent depuis 25 ans.

Espérons que la justice française prendra conscience du mépris dans lequel elle renvoie deux chefs d'état africains assassinés et leur suite, mais aussi toutes les victimes du génocide déclenché par ce crime, et encore toutes les victimes du drame congolais perdurant depuis 25 ans, en refusant de parachever cette instruction et rendre enfin justice...

Source : blogs.mediapart (des images dans cet articles ont été triées par veritasinfo)

Rwanda : Cachez- moi ces pauvres que je ne saurais voir !

<https://www.jambonews.net/actualites/20191230-rwanda-cachez-moi-ces-pauvres-que-je-ne-saurais-voir/>

Constance Mutimukeye , décembre 30, 2019

Aux alentours du 10 décembre 2019, les habitants des « zones à risque », celles que la ville de Kigali considère comme inondables ou marécageuses, ont reçu l'ordre ferme de quitter les lieux sous quinze jours. Deux jours plus tard, selon les témoignages d'une partie d'entre eux, la police rwandaise, le personnel du DASSO (Organe d'appui à la sécurité administrative du district en français) ainsi que les autorités locales ont rendu visite aux personnes concernées vers minuit pour les avertir qu'ils devaient partir dès le lendemain matin au plus tard. Le 13 décembre 2019, très tôt dans la matinée, la démolition des maisons a commencé. A partir de ce moment-là, de nombreuses images ont commencé à circuler sur les réseaux sociaux. Sur celles-ci on voit des civils munis d'outils de fortune (pics, marteaux, houes...) en train de détruire avec acharnement les maisons d'autres civils sous la discrète surveillance de policiers armés et ceci en présence du public ébahi par ce qui se passe. On voit aussi des personnes détruire eux-mêmes leurs maisons afin d'obéir aux autorités et récupérer les matériaux de fortune (portes, fenêtres, tôles). Les images montrent aussi des personnes allant d'enfants en bas âge à des nonagénaires, certains en train de cuisiner alors que d'autres s'endorment dans la rue près des décombres de leurs maisons, en compagnie des matériaux récupérés. Jambonews revient sur ces démolitions qui semblent être l'aboutissement d'un programme décidé du plus haut sommet du pouvoir rwandais, sur les témoignages des personnes expulsées et les différentes réactions des acteurs de la société rwandaise.

RDC CONGO :

Risque de balkanisation : les FARDC emboitent les pas au cardinal Ambongo
<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5e131ff432d2240004c3bb87/>

Kinshasa 06-01-2020 Politique - Les Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) confirment l'existence d'un plan de balkanisation du pays. C'est ce qu'affirme le porte-parole de l'armée dans un communiqué dont une copie est parvenue à DIGITALCONGO.NET.

"L'État-major général des FARDC tient à rappeler à l'opinion tant nationale qu'internationale que dans le cadre de la guerre non conventionnelle menée dans le grand Nord, les FARDC font face à des insurgés dont le but final est la balkanisation de la partie Est du territoire national", a écrit le 4 janvier 2020, le porte-parole de l'armée, le général major Léon-Richard Kasonga.

Le général major Léon-Richard Kasonga affirme que les FARDC font face à des individus qui ne visent que la balkanisation de l'Est de la République démocratique du Congo, n'ayant aucune revendication claire. En outre, le porte-parole de l'armée affirme que pour légitimer leurs activités insurrectionnelles, ces insurgés s'appuient sur des causes de mécontentement réelles ou imaginaires, diffusées à travers toutes les couches sociales et par divers canaux de communication.

Pour l'armée, "l'effet recherché est l'effondrement des institutions légales en les discréditant aux yeux de l'opinion nationale et internationale dans le but de prendre le contrôle politico-administratif de cet espace et ainsi concrétiser la balkanisation, pourtant désavouée par la population du Grand Nord", ajoute le général major, Léon-Richard Kasonga.

Cependant, l'armée appelle la population à plus de vigilance et à se désolidariser de ces insurgés, et en soutenant totalement l'armée. Les FARDC réaffirment aussi leur engagement à soutenir la population civile qui a "tant souffert des affres de "cette barbarie" par des actions de reconstruction des infrastructures socio-économique de base".

Une position de l'armée qui rejoint carrément celle du cardinal Fridolin Ambongo qui, dans la restitution de son séjour dans le Grand nord à la presse vendredi 3 janvier, a alerté l'opinion nationale et internationale sur le plan de balkanisation de la RDC. Condamnant la position ambiguë de la Monusco et le silence de la communauté internationale sur les atrocités dans l'Est du pays. L'archevêque métropolitain a plaidé pour que l'armée ait suffisamment des moyens pour venir à bout de ces rebelles. « Il ne faut pas ridiculiser l'armée », a interdit Ambongo, estimant que c'est l'unique armée que possède la RDC et qu'il faut la soutenir.

Dido Nsapu / (DN/PKF)

Situation sécuritaire de la RDC: après le Catholique Ambongo, l'ECC Bokundoa hausse le ton et plaide pour l'implication du président de la République
<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5e13168432d2240004c3bb84/>

Kinshasa 06-01-2020 Société - Le Président National de l'ECC propose la convocation des consultations nationales en vue d'impliquer toutes les forces de la société à la démarche des solutions durables et consensuelles aux problèmes de l'insécurité en RDC.

Après l'Archevêque de Kinshasa, le Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo, le Président National de l'Eglise du Christ au Congo (ECC) le Dr André Bokundoa-bo-Likabe, a profité de la commémoration de la journée des Martyrs de l'indépendance, célébrée le 4 janvier de chaque année, pour tirer une sonnette d'alarme, en ce qui concerne la situation sécuritaire du pays.

« J'exhorte le Président de la République, en sa qualité de garant de la Nation, à un dépassement personnel aux fins de convoquer en toute urgence des consultations nationales en vue d'impliquer toutes les forces de la société à la démarche des solutions durables et consensuelles aux problèmes susmentionnés », propose-t-il.

Pour le numéro un de l'ECC, le Pays court un grand danger. « Je dirai même le plus grand danger de son histoire depuis 1885 à la Conférence de Berlin », insiste-t-il avant de relever :

« L'heure est sans précédent et la situation devient sans appel. Le sort du destin de notre Nation et celui de nos futures générations dépendent de notre héroïsme collectif ».

Par ailleurs, appelant à la solidarité nationale, il poursuit :

« Par conséquent, comme prophète, je lance un appel pathétique d'éveil de conscience patriotique aux dirigeants du Pays, à la classe politique, aux leaders religieux, aux acteurs des mouvements de la société civile, aux syndicalistes, aux étudiants, aux artistes et à toute la population de manière générale. Nous devons tous être inventifs en vue d'anticiper les événements qui profilent déjà à l'horizon. Le tableau sociopolitique et sécuritaire du Pays est très inquiétant. Ainsi nous devons nous unir et nous réconcilier pour sauver notre mère Patrie ».

Lors d'une conférence de presse qu'il a animée à Kinshasa le week-end dernier à l'issue d'une tournée de 5 jours à Beni et à Butembo au Nord-Kivu à l'Est du pays où l'insécurité bat son plein, le Cardinal Ambongo qui a dénoncé les tentatives de balkanisation de la RDC a pour sa part appelé à la conscience nationale.

Pour l'archevêque métropolitain de Kinshasa, il faut que l'exécutif national mette tout en œuvre pour convaincre les pays voisins de la RDC à ne plus déverser leurs populations au pays.

Pour mettre fin aux massacres des civils dans la partie Est de la RDC, ce prélat catholique estime que la solution se trouve notamment dans le volet diplomatique.

Boni Tsala / (BT/Yes)

Troubles à l'Unikin suite à la hausse des frais académiques
<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5e12fd1f32d2240004c3bb82/>

Kinshasa 06-01-2020 Société - En colère contre la hausse des frais académiques, les étudiants de l'Unikin font face à la Police qui s'emploie à les contenir afin d'éviter tout débordement.

La tension est vive depuis ce lundi matin à l'Université de Kinshasa (Unikin) où les étudiants, manifestant contre la révision à la hausse des frais académiques ont brûlé des pneus et jettent des projectiles sur les éléments de la Police dépêchés sur les lieux qui tentent de les empêcher de sortir du campus, apprend-on.

Pour leur part, les policiers ripostent en faisant usage des bombes lacrymogènes. S'exprimant sur un média de la place, le Commissaire provincial de la Police ville de Kinshasa, Sylvano Kasongo, explique que ces étudiants tentent de manifester en dehors du site universitaire et c'est ce qui a motivé le déploiement de la police. L'usage des gaz lacrymogènes a été motivé par le fait que certains parmi les manifestants jetaient des pierres et aux policiers.

Les étudiants veulent aller au rond point (Ngaba NDRL). Nous disons qu'ils ont le droit de manifester, mais à l'intérieur du campus universitaire. Nous avons anticipé l'opération parce qu'on savait qu'il y aurait manifestation. Jusque-là, il n'y a aucun dégât et nous espérons qu'il n'y en aura pas. Nous tentons d'éviter que certains voyous du voisinage en profitent pour créer du désordre ».

Rappelons que sous la plume de notre confrère Raymond Okeseleke, DigitalCongo.net avait annoncé la semaine dernière la décision des autorités de l'Unikin de revoir à la hausse les frais académiques dans son article intitulé « Les frais académiques revus à la hausse à l'Université de Kinshasa » et dont le contenu ci-dessous.

L'argumentaire en faveur de la révision à la hausse des frais académiques est émis par les autorités de cet alma mater. Un communiqué signé par son secrétaire général académique indique que les frais sont passés de 268 000 à 490.500 fc.

Les étudiants de l'Université de Kinshasa devront désormais honorer les frais académiques revus à la hausse pour l'année 2019-2020. L'Institution académique décidé de l'application de la nouvelle tarification pour toutes les promotions.

Les étudiants de la Colline inspirée de la classe préparatoire et du premier graduat verront les frais académiques fixés à 490.500 francs congolais.

Mais pour la classe montante, les frais académiques ont été augmentés à 485.500 francs congolais.

Par contre l'année passée, les frais académiques étaient à 268.000fc pour la classe préparatoire et le premier graduat. La classe montante payait 253.000 francs congolais.

Boni Tsala T./ (BTT/PKF)

SOUTH AFRICA :

ANC condemns America's recent attack on Iraq, calls it inhumane Read more:

<https://briefly.co.za/48687-anc-condemns-americas-attack-iraq-calls-inhumane.html>

<https://briefly.co.za/48687-anc-condemns-americas-attack-iraq-calls-inhumane.html>

- The ANC, along with the rest of the world, has condemned America's attack on Iraq - The party calls the airstrikes that claimed the life of General Qassem Soleimani inhumane - Ace Magashule said the attack has the potential to plunge the Middle East and the world into a full-scale war PAY ATTENTION: Click "See First" under the "Following" tab to see Briefly.co.za News on your News Feed! The ANC has spoken up against the American airstrikes against Iraq that led to the death of General Qassem Soleimani. The party shared a statement on social media and called the attack 'inhumane' and 'international terrorism'. News24 reports the ANC has called on the United Nations to take action so there will be peace between the countries Read more: <https://briefly.co.za/48687-anc-condemns-americas-attack-iraq-calls-inhumane.html>

ANC condemns US airstrike that killed Iranian General Qassem Soleimani

<https://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/anc-condemns-us-airstrike-that-killed-iranian-general-qassem-soleimani-40075347>

Politics / 5 January 2020, 09:25am / ANA Reporter

An Iranian man holds a picture of late General Qassem Soleimani, head of the elite Quds Force, who was killed in an airstrike at Baghdad airport, during a gathering to mourn Soleimani in Tehran. Picture: Nazanin Tabatabaee/WANA (West Asia News Agency) via Reuters

Cape Town - The African National Congress (ANC) on Saturday, condemned a series of airstrikes, reportedly by the United States, that killed the Commander of Iran's elite Quds Force, General Qassem Soleimani.

Soleimani -- a top general and one of the most powerful men in Iran -- was killed in a drone strike at Baghdad airport on Friday. One of his adviser's, top Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis was also killed in the attack.

"We view this latest in-humane episode as an attack on the sovereignty and self-determination of the people of Iran. The ANC rejects this raw aggression against the people and government of Iran, which has the potential to plunge the Middle East and the World into a full-scale war. History has shown that the majority of the victims of this kind of international terrorism are the elderly, women and children. Young people also suffer serious displacement with the prospect of a bleak future," ANC secretary-general Ace Magashule said in a statement.

"The ANC and all progressive formations of the world cannot afford to remain silent while the actions of the U.S appear to be undermining peace and security with impunity - a clear and deliberate erosion of Iran's national stability. We urge the nations of the world, through the United Nations, to act firmly and expeditiously against this act of international terrorism. We urge all parties to this conflict to give peace a chance. We appeal for maximum restraint."

Thousands of people took to the streets in Iraq and Iran on Saturday to mourn Soleimani at services before his burial on Tuesday in his hometown Kerman.

Related Articles

According to reports, American President Donald Trump ordered the strike and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the airstrikes disrupted an "imminent attack" in the region that put American lives at risk. The US was reportedly sending thousands of additional troops to the Middle East in response.

Magashule said the ruling party would continue to "play a critical role in the continent and the Global Progressive Movement".

"The ANC rejects right-wing and populist-led unilateralism that undermines collective global decision-making. These are an affront to multilateralism by which peace and social justice will be created within and between countries. We reiterate our call to the international community and the progressive people of the world to defend any nation against the unilateral imposition of economic sanctions, unilateral military attacks and disrespect of its territorial integrity and sovereignty," the statement read.

"The ANC-led government will utilise its [United Nations] UN Security Council membership to focus on the resolution of Regional and Global conflicts. We urge the US to take a leaf out of the African Union (AU) book on its commitment to silence the guns through a progressive call dubbed "silencing the guns by 2020" as part of Agenda 2063 aiming to create a better Africa - a trajectory that South Africa will openly advance and advocate for as it assumes the Chair of AU through President Cyril Ramaphosa this year.

"Together, we carry a responsibility to build, preserve and maintain peace in the world. The ANC stands ready to work with all peace-loving nations of the world to find lasting continental and global peace."

On Friday night, International Relations and Cooperation Minister, Dr Naledi Pandor, called for calm in Iraq saying the South African government was alarmed by the "escalating tension in Iraq, which has far-reaching ramifications not only for the Middle East region, but also for international peace and security".

In a statement, her department said the country recalled and reaffirmed the UN Security Council statement from December 13, in which the members of the Security Council had "called for maximum restraint and urged all to refrain from violence or the destruction of critical infrastructure".

"It is crucial for all sides to remain calm and desist from taking any further action that will exacerbate the already fragile situation. South Africa emphasises its principled view that conflicts should be resolved through political dialogue rather than resorting to the use of force," Pandor said.

African News Agency (ANA)

UGANDA :

Uganda's Amb. Ayebare delivers Museveni 's message to Rwanda's Kagame

<https://www.softpower.ug/ugandas-amb-ayebare-delivers-musevenis-message-to-rwandas-kagame/>

Heavy rainfalls hit Uganda, 16 confirmed dead in west

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/heavy-rainfalls-hit-uganda-16-confirmed-dead-in-west/1667346>

Earlier, state minister said floods, landslides killed 8 others in eastern parts of Uganda

Mariam Abele | 08.12.2019

KAMPALA, Uganda

At least 16 were confirmed dead in western Uganda after heavy rains caused landslides in the East Africa country, said a local aid team on Sunday.

“One more dead body has just been discovered this morning in Bundibugyo town council bringing the total number to 16,” according to the Uganda Red Cross Society.

An aid team was deployed to search and recover bodies of residents in Bundibugyo district which was affected by the landslides after days of heavy rainfall.

Irene Nakasita, the Red Cross spokeswoman said: “We have provided body bags and blankets to manage the dead in a dignified manner before handing them over to families and hospitals.”

So far, one body of a middle-aged woman is yet to be identified and claimed. Community members say the woman had gone to buy grasshoppers before she went missing.

The displaced people have been gathered in schools and churches.

The Uganda Red Cross is now working together with the district leadership and police to gather all people displaced as humanitarian aid is being delivered.

Uganda is undergoing its second rainy season which has reached its peak in most parts of the country. The Uganda National Meteorological Authority predicts heavy rainfall will continue throughout December.

The heavy rains have caused destructive floodings in several low-lying parts of the country and landslides in the mountainous parts of the country. Destructive wind and hailstorms have ravaged plantations and crops across the whole country.

The eastern parts of the country have also been suffering floods and landslides around the Mt. Elgon region.

In a statement on Friday, Musa Ecweru, Uganda’s minister of state for disaster preparedness, said: “Four people were killed in Bududa district and another four including two children in Sironko district.”

“Over 10,000 people have been displaced in eastern Uganda alone and we are currently reviewing villages’ household registers to establish the number and names of missing persons,” said Ecweru.

The government has now released over \$5.4 million for emergency procurement.

These include inflatable boats, tarpaulins, blankets, relief food, drugs for water-borne diseases and culverts for fixing washed away bridges under the life-saving and rescue phase of the flooding and landslide situation.

Uganda debt burden worsens, loans worth Shs 6tn approved in 2019

<https://observer.ug/news/headlines/63025-uganda-debt-burden-worsens-loans-worth-shs-6tn-approved-in-2019>

December 28, 2019 / Written by URN

Parliament approved loans to a tune of Shs 6.15 trillion this year, the annual performance report of the house has revealed.

This included a Shs 768 billion (\$210 million) loan from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for the upgrade of Rwekunye-Apac-Lira-Acholibur road, Shs 402.5 billion (\$110 million) also from IDB for the upgrade of Muyembe-Nakapiripirit road, Shs 18.29 billion (\$5 million) from the Export-Import Bank of India and Shs 54.89 billion (\$15 million) from the African Development Bank (AfDB) as guarantee for credit lines to Uganda Development Bank Limited (UDBL) The others included Shs 1.39 trillion (\$379.71 million) in promissory notes to FINASI/Roko Construction SPV Limited for the construction of the International Specialized Hospital of Uganda at Lubowa in Wakiso, Shs 380 billion (\$100 million) from the domestic market to finance classified expenditure under the Defense and Veteran Affairs ministry for the financial year 2018/2019, Shs 731.8 billion (\$200 million) from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group to support the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers Program (UgIFT) for results in education and health sectors among others.

According to the report, 11 loan request proposals were tabled by the Finance Planning and Economic Development ministry. The loan requests were first scrutinized by the parliament's National Economy committee chaired by Nakaseke North MP, Syda Bbumba before they tabled before the house for discussion and final approval.

Lawrence Bategeka, the National Economy committee vice chairperson told URN that all approved loans requests were important and majorly meant to finance the national budget especially due to inadequate revenue collection.

He pointed out the approved loans for the construction of oil roads and Lubowa Specialized hospital as one of the key loan decisions parliament made in the year.

While presenting his 2018 audit report to the speaker Rebecca Kadaga in January this year, the auditor general John Muwanga noted that Uganda's rate of borrowing had increased the public debt by 22 per cent from Shs 33.99 trillion as at June 2017 to Shs 41.51 trillion on as of June 30, 2018.

"Although Uganda's debt to GDP ratio of 41 per cent is still below the International Monetary Fund (IMF) risky threshold of 50 per cent and compares well with other East African countries, it is unfavorable when debt payment is compared to national revenue collected which is the highest in the region at 54 per cent," read the audit report.

Muwanga then said that payment of loans worth Shs 3.9 trillion, which are part of those he had studied, expire in 2020. He said if government is to service the loans as projected in the current financial year 2019/2020, it would require more than 65 per cent of the total revenue collections, which is over and above the sustainability levels of 40 per cent.

He also noted that some loans absorption levels are as low as 10 per cent. Keto Nyapendi Kayemba, the deputy auditor general, says that their office carried out a special audit on public debt management and that government needs to pay more attention to the indebtedness.

Bategeka insists that the loans approved are well intentioned since his committee wants the economy to do well.

KENYA :

Extremists attack Kenya military base, 3 Americans killed

Abdi Guled, Tom Odula and Cara Anna The Associated Press Published Sunday, January 5, 2020 7:16AM EST

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/extremists-attack-kenya-military-base-3-americans-killed-1.4753572>

NAIROBI, KENYA -- Al-Shabab extremists overran a key military base used by U.S. counterterror forces in Kenya before dawn Sunday, killing three American Department of Defence personnel and destroying several U.S. aircraft and vehicles before they were repelled, U.S. and Kenyan authorities said.

The attack on the Manda Bay Airfield was the al-Qaida-linked group's first attack against U.S. forces in the East African country, and the military called the security situation "fluid" several hours after the assault.

Five attackers were killed, Kenyan military spokesman Paul Njuguna said.

Al-Shabab, based in neighbouring Somalia, claimed responsibility for the assault.

One U.S. serviceman and two contractors with the U.S. Department of Defence were killed in the fighting, according to a statement issued late Sunday by the U.S. Africa Command, or Africom.

The attack on the compound "involved indirect and small arms fire. After an initial penetration of the perimeter, Kenya Defence Forces and U.S. Africa Command repelled the al-Shabab attack," said the AFRICOM statement. "Reports indicate that six contractor-operated civilian aircraft were damaged to some degree. Manda Bay Airfield is utilized by U.S. forces whose missions include providing training to our African partners, responding to crises, and protecting U.S. interests in this strategically important area."

Al-Shabab claimed that there were 17 U.S. casualties, nine Kenyan soldiers killed and seven aircraft destroyed. The U.S. Africa Command dismissed the al-Shabab claims as exaggerated and said U.S. and Kenyan forces repelled the attack.

Kenya is a key base for fighting al-Shabab, one of the world's most resilient extremist organizations. A large plume of black smoke rose above the airfield Sunday and residents said a car bomb had exploded. Lamu county commissioner Irungu Macharia told The Associated Press that five suspects were arrested and were being interrogated.

An internal Kenyan police report seen by the AP said two fixed-wing aircraft, a U.S. Cessna and a Kenyan one, were destroyed along with two U.S. helicopters and multiple U.S. vehicles at the military airstrip. The report said explosions were heard at around 5:30 a.m. from the direction of the airstrip.

The Kenya Civil Aviation Authority said the airstrip was closed for all operations.

The military's Camp Simba in Lamu county, established more than a decade ago, has under 100 U.S. personnel, according to Pentagon figures. U.S. forces at the adjoining Manda Bay airfield train

and give counterterror support to East African partners. A U.S. flag-raising at the camp in August signalled its change "from tactical to enduring operations," the Air Force said at the time.

According to another internal Kenyan police report seen by the AP, dated Friday, a villager that day said he had spotted 11 suspected al-Shabab members entering Lamu's Boni forest, which the extremists have used as a hideout. The report said Kenyan authorities didn't find them.

Al-Shabab has launched a number of attacks inside Kenya, including against civilian buses, schools and shopping malls. The group has been the target of a growing number of U.S. airstrikes inside Somalia during President Donald Trump's administration.

The latest attack comes just over a week after an al-Shabab truck bomb in Somalia's capital killed at least 79 people and U.S. airstrikes killed seven al-Shabab fighters in response.

Last year, al-Shabab attacked a U.S. military base inside Somalia, Baledogle, that is used to launch drone strikes but reportedly failed to make their way inside. The extremist group also has carried out multiple attacks against Kenyan troops in the past in retaliation for Kenya sending troops to Somalia to fight it.

This attack marks a significant escalation of al-Shabab's campaign of attacks inside Kenya, said analyst Andrew Franklin, a former U.S. Marine and longtime Kenya resident.

"Launching a deliberate assault of this type against a well-defended permanent base occupied by (Kenya Defence Forces), contractors and U.S. military personnel required a great deal of planning, rehearsals, logistics and operational capability," he said. Previous attacks against security forces have mainly been ambushes on Kenyan army or police patrols.

The Sunday attack came days after a U.S. airstrike killed Iran's top military commander and Iran vowed retaliation, but al-Shabab is a Sunni Muslim group and there is no sign of links to Shiite Iran or proxies.

"No, this attack was no way related to that incident" in the Middle East, an al-Shabab spokesman told the AP on condition of anonymity for security reasons.

One analyst, Rashid Abdi, in Twitter posts discussing the attack, agreed, but added that Kenyan security services have long been worried that Iran was trying to cultivate ties with al-Shabab.

"Avowedly Wahhabist Al-Shabaab not natural ally of Shia Iran, hostile, even. But if Kenyan claims true, AS attack may have been well-timed to signal to Iran it is open for tactical alliances," he wrote.

But a former member of the U.N. committee monitoring sanctions on Somalia, Jay Bahadur, said in a tweet that "the attack is far more related to AS wanting a do over on their spectacular failure at Baledogle four months ago."

When asked whether the U.S. military was looking into any Iranian link to the attack, U.S. Africa Command spokesman Col. Christopher Karns said only that "al-Shabab, affiliated with al-Qaida, has their own agenda and have made clear their desire to attack U.S. interests."

The al-Shabab claim of responsibility said Sunday's attack was part of its "Jerusalem will never be Judaized" campaign, a rarely made reference that also was used after al-Shabab's deadly attack on a luxury mall complex in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, in January 2019.

Somalia's government, which is fighting al-Shabab with the help of a multinational African force, The Federal Republic of Somalia joins the rest of the world in condemning the cowardly attack that targeted joint Kenyan and U.S forces based at Manda Bay Airfield, Kenya earlier today.

Anna contributed from Johannesburg

Kenyan officials say extremist attack on bus convoy kills 4
By TOM ODULA January 2, 2020
<https://apnews.com/d925513c59b4373d457755327771142c>

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Kenyan officials say four people were killed on Thursday when a convoy of passenger buses was fired on by Islamic extremists in the country's eastern coastal area.

Somalia's al-Shabab rebels have claimed responsibility for the attack.

The gunmen fired at a convoy of three buses and two vans that was being escorted by police to Lamu, said Lamu County Commissioner Irungu Macharia.

The four were killed when the vehicles were sprayed with gunfire by attackers in the Nyongoro area of Lamu county along Kenya's Indian Ocean coast, he said.

The first bus was hit with bullets on its side and tires but the driver managed to speed away, he said. Other vehicles in the convoy stopped and the gunmen opened fire at passengers fleeing on foot into the bushes, he said.

The police escort had been delayed and was behind the convoy but arrived in time to prevent a massacre, he said. Police escorts for passenger vehicles in the area became mandatory after 2014 when al-Shabab killed nearly 90 people in two attacks in Lamu county.

Al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack on its Andalus radio station, saying its fighters spared Muslim passengers and only killed Christians.

When the extremists opened fire three passengers were shot at close range and died instantly, said a police report on Thursday's attack seen by the Associated Press. The fourth fatality was a conductor of one of the buses, it said. It said two other passengers were wounded.

Mombasa county Governor Ali Hassan Joho condemned the attack. "This is unacceptable in this day and age. We have no choice but to be accommodating and tolerant to one another," he said in a tweet.

In recent weeks, ahead of the New Year, Somalia's al-Shabab rebels have stepped up attacks in Kenya whose troops are in Somalia fighting the extremists. The militants have vowed retribution on Kenya for sending its troops to Somalia.

"Its unfortunate but to be expected," said security analyst Andrew Franklin, a former U.S. Marine who is a longtime resident of Kenya.

“There is low-intensity conflict going on and they (government officials) are not treating the situation in the five front-line counties with the seriousness it deserves,” he said, referring to Tana River, Lamu, Wajir, Mandera and Garissa counties, which neighbor Somalia and have been listed by the government as hot-spots for extremist activity.

The Kenyan government does not have adequate measures in place to rapidly respond to ambushes, he said. Police are not properly equipped and trained and the vehicles they use are not appropriate for use in rural areas, he said. Nor do police have enough personnel to respond effectively, he said.

“Al-Shabab has the tactical initiative. It decides when and where to launch an attack and all we do is react,” he said.

Al-Shabab stepped attacks in Kenya in December. The group killed 11 people in Mandera county, eight of them police officers returning to duty, who were pulled from a bus on December 6. The group killed two non-Muslim construction workers in Garissa county on December 17 and on Dec. 22 burned construction equipment owned by a Muslim contractor that was being used to develop a road in Mandera.

On Dec 27, two security officers died and seven other policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb tore through their patrol vehicle in Wajir county.

Of the five countries contributing troops to the African Union forces in Somalia, Kenya has born the brunt of numerous al-Shabab attacks since 2011, including the Westgate Mall attack in 2013, in which 67 people were killed, and the Garissa University attack in 2015 in which 148 people were killed. In January, 2019, al-Shabab attacked a hotel and shopping complex in Nairobi killing 21 people.

The series of attacks show a different picture than the government’s claims that extremist threat the is being controlled, said security analyst Franklin.

“It flies in the face of what the government is saying, which is that things are getting better or that al-Shabab is a ragtag militia on its back-foot.”

AP journalist Abdi Guled contributed to this report.

3 Americans Die in Shabab Attack on Kenyan Base

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/05/world/africa/al-shabab-camp-simba-kenya.html>

A service member and two contractors became the first American military-related deaths in Africa since 2018.

Thomas Gibbons-Neff / By Eric Schmitt and Thomas Gibbons-Neff / Jan. 5, 2020

WASHINGTON — A United States service member and two American military contractors died on Sunday in an attack on a Kenyan military base that the Pentagon said was carried out by the Islamic extremist group the Shabab.

The attack at the military airstrip at Manda Bay, Kenya, early Sunday involved small-arms and other hostile fire, according to a statement by the military’s Africa Command. Fighters from the

Shabab, an East African terrorist group affiliated with Al Qaeda, fought their way onto the base before Kenyan and American troops drove them back.

In the past several years, Manda Bay was used by Army Green Berets as an outpost where they both trained Kenyan Rangers — who had their own training center there — and supervised them as they crossed over the border into neighboring Somalia to fight the Shabab.

But recently, the Green Berets were replaced with units from both the Navy SEALs and Marine Special Operations teams. According to military officials, the base has been problematic at best, with cross-border operations rarely going ahead as planned, prompting American officials to consider ending their use of parts of the base altogether.

ANGOLA :

Gel des avoirs de Sindika Dokolo : le gouvernement angolais n'interfère pas dans les affaires judiciaires

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5e133feb25d85b00048e1ee7/>

Kinshasa 06-01-2020 Politique - Le gouvernement angolais n'interfère pas dans les affaires judiciaires, notamment celles liées au gel des avoirs du Congolais Sindika Dokolo et de son épouse Isabel Dos Santos, a dit le président angolais Lourenço à son homologue congolais Félix Tshisekedi.

Le Président congolais Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, qui séjourne depuis dimanche 5 janvier 2020 à Benguela en Angola avec son épouse Denise Nyakeru Tshisekedi, a été reçu en audience par son homologue angolais Joao Lourenço. Ce dernier lui a assuré au sujet du gel des avoirs de Sindika Dokolo que le gouvernement angolais n'interfère pas dans les affaires judiciaires. C'est particulièrement le cas pour l'affaire liée au gel des avoirs de l'initiateur du mouvement " Congolais debout", Sindika Dokolo et de son épouse Isabel Dos Santos, la fille aînée de l'ex-président Edourdo Dos Santos.

Les deux hommes d'Etat ont parlé de la lutte contre la corruption et, ont fait des analyses sur les conséquences de la décision du tribunal provincial de Luanda qui est en train de geler depuis le 30 décembre dernier, les comptes bancaires personnels du Congolais Sindika Dokolo, ceux de son épouse et de 9 sociétés dans lesquelles la femme d'affaires est actionnaire, selon un communiqué de la Maison civile du chef de l'Etat congolais, qu'il a rendu public après la rencontre entre les deux Présidents.

Pour sa part, le président angolais a précisé qu'un an après la fin de la période de grâce, l'Etat angolais a maintenant toute la légitimité d'assurer le rapatriement effectif des capitaux placés illicitement hors du pays et pour assurer la récupération des biens sur le territoire national.

João Lourenço a appelé son homologue congolais à une coopération internationale, une façon pour l'Angola de soutenir l'effort de lutte contre la corruption et l'impunité. Les deux Chefs d'Etat ont souligné que le meilleur moyen de se défendre pour les personnalités ciblées serait une collaboration maximale avec les autorités compétentes de l'Etat et la justice angolaise.

Il sied de noter que les deux chefs d'Etat ont profité des premières alternances dans leurs pays respectifs pour s'engager à poursuivre les processus de transition politique, dans leurs pays d'une manière pacifique et harmonieuse, pour l'intérêt des deux peuples.

« Les deux personnalités ont estimé qu'il y avait une grande magnanimité de la part de l'Etat angolais » en établissant un délai de six mois pour le rapatriement des capitaux. C'est une opportunité non saisie en temps voulu par les concernés, a conclu le communiqué.

Gisèle Mbuyi / (GMM/PKF)

Isabel dos Santos to launch legal fight against Angola asset freeze

<https://www.ft.com/content/74f43f82-2e3d-11ea-a126-99756bd8f45e>

Daughter of former president accuses Lourenço government of political 'witch-hunt'

Angolan President assures assistance to flood victims

<https://reliefweb.int/report/angola/angolan-president-assures-assistance-flood-victims>

from Government of Angola / Published on 06 Jan 2020 — View Original

Luanda - The President of the Republic, João Lourenço, affirmed last Sunday, that the Angolan authorities will make all efforts to help the victims of the floods caused by last Saturday's rains, in several cities and localities of the country.

"Our solidarity goes to the Angolan families victims of the flood as result of last Saturday's heavy rains that poured on many cities and localities of the country, with particular intensity in Luanda", the statesman refers on his Twitter account.

President João Lourenço, also through Twitter, reassured all affected families and underlined that authorities will provide all necessary assistance.

A current survey indicates that Saturday's rain, which lasted 12 consecutive hours, caused 140 inundations, evicted 250 families and killed a seven-year old child, all in Luanda.

In the City of Sumbe, centre-west Cuanza Sul Province, at least 200 houses became flooded.

In this region of the country, the villages of São João, Londa and Sandino were the most affected places by the downpour.

**** AFRIQUE DU NORD ****

EGYPTE :

Egypt, Saudi Arabia condemn Turkish interference in Libya

By: Egypt Today staff / Mon, Jan. 6, 2020

<https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/2/79397/Egypt-Saudi-Arabia-condemn-Turkish-interference-in-Libya>

CAIRO – 6 January 2020: Egyptian and Saudi foreign ministers on Monday voiced rejection to the Turkish escalation in Libya as it represents a violation of international law, and urged boosting efforts to reach a comprehensive settlement to the Libyan crisis, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

As they met on the sidelines of the ministerial meeting of the African and Arab States bordering the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud, discussed growing tensions in the war-torn country, especially in light of Turkey's parliament's approval for the dispatch of Turkish troops to Libya, Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Hafez said.

They also reviewed the situation in Iraq, as well as Iranian and Turkish interference in the region. In this regard, they discussed threats facing the Arab countries in the Gulf and agreed on the need to prevent these regional developments from affecting the security and stability of the Gulf.

The two ministers exchanged visions regarding a number of other issues and current crises, and the way to coordinate to work on achieving security and stability in the region.

They highlighted the depth of strategic relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia and reviewed ways to foster various cooperation fields during the next period.

On January 2, 2020, the Turkish Parliament voted on Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's bill to send Turkish troops to Libya after Erdogan and Head of the so-called Government of National Accord (GNA) Fayeze al-Sarraj reached a deal in February 2019 on drawing maritime borders in the Mediterranean Sea- one of the largest natural gas resources in the region- and on enhancing military cooperation.

The deal provoked anger in Egypt, Cyprus and Greece, which voiced their rejection of the deal as it contradicts with the international agreements.

"Egypt affirms that such memoranda possess no legal effect, as they cannot be recognized in light of the fact that Article 8 of the Skhirat Political Agreement on Libya, widely accepted by Libyans, defines the competences conferred to the Council of Ministers, expressly stipulating that the Council of Ministers as an entity – and not the president of the council alone – has the power to conclude international agreements," the Egyptian Foreign Ministry earlier said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the Libyan Parliament held Saturday an emergency session, in which it voted on a bundle of decisions, including the rejection of the deals inked between the GNA and Turkey.

The parliament voted unanimously on authorizing the General Commander of the Libyan National Army Khalifa Haftar to disable airports, ports, and land gates that are controlled by the militias.

The parliament further agreed to address the UN Security Council, the League of Arab States, the African Union, the European Union and other international organizations to withdraw the recognition of the GNA.

Fleeing war and poverty, African migrants face racism in Egypt
At least two dozen sub-Saharan Africans, including 4 children, tell The Associated Press they have endured racist insults, including sexual harassment, over past 3 months alone By Samy Magdy
Today, 5:37 am
<https://www.timesofisrael.com/fleeing-war-and-poverty-african-migrants-face-racism-in-egypt/>

ALGERIE :

Turquie : Le ministre des Affaires étrangères en visite en Algérie
La rédaction Par La rédaction 6 janvier 2020
<https://www.dzairdaily.com/turquie-ministre-turc-mevlut-cavusoglu-abdelmadjid-tebboune-algerie/>
Turquie – Le ministre Turc des Affaires étrangères effectue une visite de deux jours en Algérie, moins d’une semaine après la vote du Parlement Turc en faveur de l’intervention militaire en Libye.

En effet, selon un communiqué rendu public par le ministère des affaires étrangères de la République de Turquie, le ministre turc des affaires étrangères, Mevlut Cavusoglu, a décidé de rendre visite à l’Algérie pour une durée deux jours.

« Le ministre des Affaires étrangères Mevlut Cavusoglu effectuera une visite en Algérie les 6 et 7 janvier 2020. », peut-on lire dans un communiqué rendu public par le MAE de la République de Turquie.

« Lors de réunions qui auront lieu à cette occasion, tous les aspects des relations bilatérales turco-algériennes seront discutés et l’on procédera également à un échange de vues sur les développements régionaux et les questions internationales. », précise le communiqué.
Quid de la question Libyenne ?

Même si le communiqué du Ministère Turc des Affaires étrangères ne mentionne nulle part la question Libyenne; la visite de Mevlut Cavusoglu en Algérie pose plein d’interrogations.

Le timing de cette « visite surprise » coïncide avec le contexte qui marque la Libye, caractérisée par un conflit fratricide qui déchire le pays, et qui risque de s’accroître par l’imminente intervention militaire des soldats de Recep Tayyip Erdogan sur le sol libyen.

La crise dans le pays pose également le risque de propagation dans les pays limitrophes dont l’Algérie; qui rappelons le, partage une frontière continue de 982 kilomètres avec la Libye.

À ce propos, le ministre des Affaires étrangères turc, Mevlut Cavusoglu avait averti les pays du Maghreb sur ce risque le 28 décembre dernier. « Si aujourd’hui la Libye devient comme la Syrie; les autres pays de la région ne tarderont pas à suivre », avait-il affirmé.

Arms race between Morocco and Algeria intensifies

The US Department of State announced in November that it approved a possible multibillion-dollar sale of AH-64E Apaches and related equipment to Morocco.

Sunday 05/01/2020

<https://thearabweekly.com/arms-race-between-morocco-and-algeria-intensifies>

CASABLANCA - The arms race between Morocco and Algeria is escalating amid deteriorating ties between the two North African countries despite Rabat’s calls to ease tensions.

Algiers reportedly signed contracts with Moscow to acquire 42 Sukhoi fighter jets. The Algerian Air Force signed contracts for 14 Su-34 bombers and 14 Su-35 fighters. An option for two other squadrons of 14 aircraft for each type was signed to compensate for the natural withdrawal of aircraft from the air force fleet in the future, Algerian defence website Menadefense.net stated.

Algeria signed another contract to acquire 14 Su-57 stealth fighters, the first customer to which the Russian aircraft manufacturer will export such jets, the website reported. The contract should be concluded by 2025.

The Algerian military plans to deploy two squadrons of Su-30MKA jets and one squadron each of Su-57s, Su-35s and Mig-29M2s. There are also plans for two squadrons of modernised Su-24s and one Su-34 squadron for the bomber fleet.

Military experts expressed scepticism over Algeria’s acquisition of the Su-57, saying the radar-evading jet has not completed flight testing and lacks key systems. No Russian official has confirmed the reported deal, raising further doubts about the Algerian defence website’s report.

The National Interest, a US magazine, reported that the Su-57 was not ready for export because development of the fighter was slowed by lack of funding and the collapse of Russia’s co-development and production deal with India.

Russian Army Chief of Staff and First Deputy Defence Minister General Valery Gerasimov said in December that the Su-57 was undergoing flight tests. An Su-57 crashed December 24 in Russia’s Far East during a test.

The reports came nine months after the United States approved a \$3.8 billion sale of Block 70/72 F-16 fighter jets, equipped with state-of-the-art electronic systems and weaponry, to Morocco in addition to the modernisation of 23 F-16s already part of the Moroccan Air Force for \$983 million.

Morocco was the largest Middle East and North Africa region customer for US arms in 2019, reported Forbes magazine. Washington agreed to arms deals with Rabat worth some \$10.3 billion last year

Morocco is among 22 countries that are to acquire Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM) from the Raytheon Missile Systems Company in a contract worth \$768 million and which is to be completed by February 2023, the US Department of Defence said.

“The contract provides for the production of the AMRAAM missiles, captive air training missiles, guidance sections, AMRAAM telemetry system, spares and other production engineering support hardware,” the department in a news release December 27.

The US Department of State announced in November that it approved a possible multibillion-dollar sale of AH-64E Apaches, the world’s most advanced multi-role combat helicopters, and related equipment, including advanced Hellfire and Stinger missiles, to Morocco.

“The \$4.25 billion sale of 36 Apache helicopters would also include 551 new and optional AGM-114R Hellfire missiles and 200 AIM-92H Stinger missiles, as well as 558 Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) kits and myriad related equipment, support, training and logistics,” said the US Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) in a news release.

“This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a major non-NATO ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in North Africa,” said the DSCA.

Moroccan arms expert Abderrahmane Mekkaoui told news site Le360.ma that the US arms sale to Morocco advances the interests of both Rabat and Washington.

Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune insisted that Algeria would not open its borders with Morocco unless Rabat apologised to the Algerian people for

“violating their dignity.”

Algeria closed its border with Morocco in 1994 after Rabat accused Algerian intelligence services of complicity in the deadly attack on the Atlas Asni hotel in Marrakech.

Tebboune’s declaration dashed hopes for improved relations after Moroccan King Mohammed VI’s called for “the opening of a new page in relations between the two neighbouring countries, based on mutual trust and constructive dialogue.”

Written By Saad Guerraoui

Libya's UN-backed PM visits Algeria to discuss Libyan situation

Source: Xinhua| 2020-01-06 21:07:18|Editor: Shi Yinglun

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/06/c_138682839.htm

ALGIERS, Jan. 6 (Xinhua) -- Prime Minister of Libya's UN-recognized Government of National Accord Fayez al-Sarraj is in Algeria on Monday to discuss developments in Libya, the presidency said in a statement.

Heading a high-level delegation, the Libyan official is due to meet with Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune "to discuss the developments in Libya and ways to overcome these hard circumstances."

Algeria vowed to make every effort, except military intervention, to restore peace and security in Libya, while encouraging UN-backed political process.

MAROC :

EU supports Morocco with new programs worth €389 million

Monday, 06 January 2020

<https://www.brusselstimes.com/belgium/87506/eu-launches-programs-worth-e389-million-to-support-morocco/>

The European Commission has launched new programs worth a total of €389 million in support of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Building on an already existing partnership between the EU and Morocco, the cooperative programs have been launched in order for the EU to support reforms, inclusive development and border management in Morocco, as well as to work towards developing a 'Euro-Moroccan partnership for shared prosperity', a statement explains.

"Morocco plays a crucial role as a partner of the European Union. Together, we will contribute to the sustainable and inclusive growth of Morocco, we will fight smuggler networks which endanger the lives of vulnerable people and we will improve the protection of migrant victims from these criminal networks. Morocco can count on the EU, our partnership will continue uninterrupted during my term of office," member of the European Commission in charge of Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement, Olivér Várhelyi, explained.

The new programs include €289 million to support Morocco's reforms and inclusive development. More specifically, this money will be used to improve; access for vulnerable categories of people to education and vocational training, the health sector, care and access to medicine, transparency and the efficiency of public services, support for human rights and institutional support for the Moroccan Parliament.

In addition, the new programs include a financing agreement with Morocco for a budget worth €101.7 million to support border management and the fight against human trafficking. At the centre of this program will be respect for human rights and protection of vulnerable migrants. Part of the program will also involve analysis and collection of data on migration in order to contribute to providing the basis for a deeper partnership and dialogue between Morocco and the EU.

This budget will also support the management of land and sea borders, as well as airports, by helping Morocco to modernise, including by using new technologies and exchanging best practices with the EU agencies, Frontex and Europol.

Following the extension of the Single Support Framework between the EU and Morocco to include 2019 and 2020, these new cooperative programs were made possible.

In 2000, the EU-Morocco Association Agreement entered into force. A number of years later, in 2008, the special nature of the relationship between the EU and Morocco was recognised when Morocco was granted 'advanced status'. In 2013, an Action Plan implementing the advanced status was signed, providing specific guidelines for cooperation between the two entities. Most recently, in June 2019, the Joint political declaration was adopted at the last EU-Morocco Association Council.

Following consultations involving various different stakeholders, three sectors (equal access to basic services, support for democratic governance, the rule of law and mobility and employment and sustainable and inclusive growth) towards which financing would be prioritised during the period of 2014 to 2020 were agreed upon.

TUNISIA :

Tunisia's PM-Designate Announces Cabinet

Thursday, 2 January, 2020 - 18:15

<https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/2063526/tunisias-pm-designate-announces-cabinet>

Tunisia's prime minister-designate on Thursday unveiled a proposed government composed of independent figures, after months of negotiations between political parties to fill positions failed.

The cabinet -- comprised of 28 ministers, most of whom are unknown to the general public, including four women -- still needs to be approved by parliament.

"I am confident this government will be approved by parliament", said Habib Jemli, designated prime minister by the Islamist inspired Ennahdha party.

Ennahdha won 52 seats in a legislative election on October 6 -- more than any other party, but not enough to form a majority in the 217-seat chamber.

Jemli on December 23 announced he would form a government of independents due to "frictions" between parties over political appointments, after two months of difficult negotiations that also involved trade unions.

He said some parties had demanded conditions for their participation in government, without elaborating.

Jemli then announced several different versions of his proposed government, before a final list was signed by President Kais Saied on Thursday, according to a statement by the presidency.

Saied -- a conservative academic with no background in politics -- was elected in a presidential run-off a week after the legislative polls.

The final cabinet list identifies Hedi Guediri, a former head of the Court of Cassation, as justice minister, while tourism minister Rene Trabelsi keeps his post.

Tunisia signs deal to purchase armored vehicles by Turkey's BMC

<https://www.dailysabah.com/defense/2020/01/05/tunisia-signs-deal-to-purchase-armored-vehicles-by-turkeys-bmc>

BMC, one of Turkey's leading defense contractors, is set to produce armored vehicles for Tunisia as part of a recent deal with the country's Interior Ministry.

The contract was signed after the Turkish land vehicle manufacturer won the International Armored Vehicle Tender for the production of a total of nine 4x4 Medium Class Multi-Purpose Armored Vehicles (MPAVs).

BMC, whose product range features tracked, armored and tactical vehicles, competed against some of the world's largest military vehicle manufacturers, including those from the U.S., Germany, France and Finland.

As part of the deal, the company will for the first time produce midrange armored vehicles, which are currently used by the Turkish military, for the global market.

BMC will also provide integrated logistical support solutions to Tunisia after the delivery of vehicles.

The Turkish vehicle producer was added to the Defense News' annual Top 100 list of the world's largest defense manufacturers in 2019, having posted \$554.2 million in profits in the previous year. The company shared the 85th place with another Turkish defense manufacturer, STM, in the prestigious list.

BMC produces various types of military vehicles, including tanks and armored cars, as well as commercial vehicles, buses and trucks. The company is also one of several working on the production of Turkey's first homegrown main battle tank, Altay. Altay will be entirely produced in Turkey, with mass production likely to begin this year. The tank has already seen interest from several countries.

In November 2019, the company signed a landmark deal with Turkey's Presidency of Defense Industries (SBB) for the mass production of next-generation battle tanks.

The defense contractor currently offers tailored solutions to the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) as well as friendly and allied countries. It aims to further improve its products to venture into new markets, citing over 50 years' worth of experience in the defense and automotive sector.

LIBYA :

Libyan Warlord Declares “Jihad” Against Turkey

<https://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/libyan-warlord-declares-%E2%80%9Cjihad%E2%80%9D-against-turkey>

January 05, 2020 - 12:14 / Posted in: News / Written By:

By Ghaith Alsanusi, a Libyan-Canadian human rights activist based in Winnipeg

In what reminds us of Muammar Gaddafi during his final days in power, warlord Khalifa Haftar appears on television and declares Jihad and general mobilization as Turkey prepares to deploy troops to support the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA).

Erdogan's decision to deploy troops to assist the Tripoli-based Government of Fayeze al-Sarraj was approved by parliament on Thursday, but deployment could still be unlikely if Khalifa Haftar halts his offensive on the Libyan capital.

General Haftar's self-declared Libyan National Army (LNA) launched an offensive in April 2019, against the UN-backed government in Tripoli. The armed conflict in the southern outskirts of Tripoli has so far resulted in more than 2000 deaths and over 140 thousand people displaced.

While the GNA was left stranded, General Haftar's forces have received assistance from the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and France in the battle to take control of Tripoli, including support from foreign mercenaries and paramilitary groups from Russia and Sudan.

Tripoli's request for military assistance from Ankara comes after the increasing presence of Russian mercenaries fighting alongside Khalifa Haftar's forces. Officials in the West have revealed that over 1000 Wagner mercenaries have been deployed to the frontlines in Tripoli in recent months, fueling the conflict even further.

The United Arab Emirates which has been operating in Al-Khadim airbase in East Libya since 2015, has condemned the Turkish decision to send military forces to Libya, saying that such interference represents a clear threat to Arab national security and the stability of the Mediterranean region.

Observers warn of further escalation in the region that would attract more players and lead to stronger engagement by General Haftar's allies. An intervention by Turkey would threaten the balance that has been established in favor of warlord Khalifa Haftar and lead to further retreat of his forces from the Western region.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Libya Observer

Turkish Military Units Have Started Moving to Libya, Erdogan Says

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/turkish-military-units-moving-to-libya-erdogan-says-1.8356176>

Turkey's parliament authorized the deployment on Thursday in a vote that received 325 votes in favor and 184 against

President Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday that Turkish military units had started moving to Libya to support Fayez al-Serraj's internationally-recognised Government of National Accord (GNA), based in Tripoli.

Turkey's parliament approved a bill on Thursday that allows for the deployment of troops in Libya to protect Ankara's interests in North Africa and the Mediterranean and to help achieve peace and stability in Libya.

"There will be an operation centre (in Libya), there will be a Turkish lieutenant general leading and they will be managing the situation over there. (Turkish soldiers) are gradually moving there right now," Erdogan said in an interview with CNN Turk.

The GNA last month requested Turkish support as it fends off an offensive by General Khalifa Haftar's forces, which are backed by Russia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan.

On Saturday, at least 30 people were killed and 33 others wounded in an attack on a military academy in the Libyan capital. Turkey condemned the attack and called for international steps to achieve a ceasefire.

GNA officials and forces allied with the government declined to comment on the arrival of the Turkish troops.

Senior Turkish military personnel will coordinate with the combatant forces in Libya as well as provide training and expertise on the ground, Erdogan said.

"There will be different units over there as combatant forces, they will not be from our military. Our top-level military personnel will be coordinating the situation over there," he added, without elaborating.

**** AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST ****

CÔTE D'IVOIRE :

Cote d'Ivoire: The divorce chronicles of Ouattara & Soro

<https://www.theafricareport.com/21731/cote-divoire-the-divorce-chronicles-of-ouattara-soro/>

By André Silver Konan Posted on Thursday, 2 January 2020

The ongoing battle between Guillaume Soro and Alassane Ouattara has reached a boiling point. The dispute finally came to a head on Monday, 23 December, when the former rebel leader unsuccessfully attempted to return to Côte d'Ivoire.

Here are the events that led up to this moment.

On February 2019, Guillaume Soro resigned from the presidency of the National Assembly, after succumbing to pressure from President Alassane Ouattara.

This came after Soro refused to join Ouattara's new party – The Rally of the Houphouëtists for Democracy and Peace (RHDP) – and lead to a major dispute between the two politicians.

Soro wanted an alliance with Henri Konan Bédié, the leader of the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI), in the run-up to the October 2020 presidential election. Bédié also broke off ties with Ouattara by refusing to join the RHDP.

Côte d'Ivoire : Issiaka Ouattara, alias Wattao, est mort

NÉCROLOGIE. L'ancien chef rebelle des Forces nouvelles, homme fort de Bouaké et proche de Guillaume Soro, est décédé le 5 janvier des suites d'une maladie à New York. Par Le Point Afrique / Modifié le 06/01/2020 à 15:34 - Publié le 06/01/2020 à 14:53 | Le Point.fr

https://www.lepoint.fr/afrique/cote-d-ivoire-issiaka-ouattara-alias-wattao-est-mort-06-01-2020-2356316_3826.php

La nouvelle ne pouvait pas tomber plus mal. Selon l'Agence ivoirienne de presse (AIP), le colonel major Issiaka Ouattara, plus connu sous le surnom de Wattao, ancien chef de corps de la garde républicaine ivoirienne et figure emblématique de l'ex-rébellion ivoirienne des Forces nouvelles (2002-2011), est décédé dans la nuit de dimanche à lundi aux États-Unis à l'âge de 53 ans.

L'information a été confirmée par plusieurs sources, dont des proches. Il souffrait d'un diabète aigu détecté tardivement. Mais qui était ce chef militaire controversé bras droit de Guillaume Soro ? « L'un des piliers du 19 septembre 2002 s'est effondré », a réagi ce dernier sur son compte Twitter lundi en référence à la date à laquelle avait éclaté la rébellion qui avait pris le contrôle de la moitié nord du pays jusqu'à 2011.

SENEGAL :

Sénégal : agression contre les chinois, Macky Sall rougit ses yeux

Photo of Casimir Vodjo Casimir Vodjo

<https://beninwebtv.com/2020/01/senegal-agression-contre-les-chinois-macky-sall-rougit-ses-yeux/>

Le président sénégalais Macky Sall ne saurait tolérer l'agression contre des opérateurs chinois participant à la campagne de commercialisation des graines d'arachide dans la nuit de samedi à dimanche à Sanghel, région de Kaolack. Il a condamné avec fermeté cette agression dans la matinée de ce lundi 06 janvier 2020.

Au cours de la traditionnelle cérémonie mensuelle de levée des couleurs sur l'esplanade du Palais de la République ce lundi, le président Macky Sall est revenu avec un ton ferme et rigoureux sur le vol à main armée dont ont été victimes des opérateurs chinois participant à la campagne de commercialisation des graines d'arachide. Un vol dans l'issue duquel, 20 millions de francs Cfa auraient été emportés par des individus armés qui ont attaqué le point de collecte de graines d'arachide appartenant à des opérateurs chinois. Pour le chef de l'Etat sénégalais qui condamne avec la dernière rigueur cette agression, le Sénégal est un Etat de droit qui ne saurait tolérer de tel acte.

Sénégal : des entrepôts de ressortissants chinois attaqués pour la deuxième fois

Par PMB - 6 janvier 2020

<https://lanouvelletribune.info/2020/01/senegal-des-entrepots-de-ressortissants-chinois-attaques-pour-la-deuxieme-fois/>

Après une première attaque armée perpétrée contre un point de collecte d'arachide géré par une entreprise chinoise dans la nuit du mercredi au jeudi dernier à Mbadakhone, dans la région de Kaolack, un nouveau cas similaire est signalé au village de Sanguil sur le route de Nioro. une importante somme d'argent a été emportée par les assaillants selon Igfm qui rapporte l'information. Le gardien blessé, 20 millions emportés

Une nouvelle attaque contre un point de collecte géré également par des chinois est rapporté par Igfm dans la nuit du samedi 4 au dimanche 5 janvier. Une bande armée a attaqué le site blessant grièvement le gardien des lieux qui a été évacué à l'hôpital selon la même source. Les malfaiteurs auraient mis la main sur une somme d'argent estimée à près de 20 millions de francs CFA au cours de l'attaque.

BURKINA FASO :

Burkina Faso : l'organisation État islamique revendique l'attaque d'Arbinda

Publié le : 27/12/2019

<https://www.france24.com/fr/20191227-burkina-faso-l-organisation-%C3%A9tat-islamique-revendique-l-attaque-d-arbinda>

Le groupe État islamique a revendiqué, vendredi, dans un communiqué, l'attaque contre un détachement militaire à Arbinda, dans le nord du Burkina Faso, perpétrée en début de semaine. Le pays est en proie à des violences jihadistes depuis 2015.

Les jihadistes de la Province d'Afrique de l'Ouest de l'État islamique (PAOEI) ont revendiqué, dans un communiqué diffusé vendredi 27 décembre, l'attaque perpétrée dans la nuit de mardi à mercredi contre un poste militaire situé dans le nord du Burkina Faso, qui a coûté la vie à sept soldats et 35 civils.

Wassim Nasr, journaliste à France 24 et spécialiste des mouvements jihadistes, explique que "dans ce communiqué, le groupe État islamique parle d'un bilan de sept soldats morts et décrit son mode opératoire : une attaque kamikaze, à savoir un véhicule piégé qui leur a ensuite permis de s'attaquer directement à la base".

Le groupe État islamique n'a toutefois pas revendiqué la mort des 35 civils, dont 31 femmes, également tués dans la ville d'Arbinda. Avec 42 morts au total, il s'agit de l'attaque la plus meurtrière subie par le Burkina Faso depuis le début des violences jihadistes il y a cinq ans.

"Le nord du Burkina Faso visé depuis un moment"

"Le nord du Burkina Faso était dans le viseur du groupe État islamique depuis un moment. Ces jihadistes profitent d'une situation catastrophique pour les locaux (...) des problèmes économiques, politiques mais surtout de la porosité de cette zone transfrontalière entre le Mali, le Niger et le Burkina Faso", a ajouté le spécialiste.

Trente-cinq civils, dont 31 femmes, et sept militaires ont été tués lors de cette attaque, ainsi que "80 terroristes", selon les autorités burkinabè. Un bilan qui relève davantage de "la communication de guerre que du factuel", selon Wassim Nasr.

Plus tard, dans la nuit du mardi 24 au mercredi 25 décembre, une dizaine de soldats burkinabè ont également trouvé la mort lors d'une deuxième attaque contre un détachement militaire à Hallalé, dans la même région, ont rapporté mercredi à l'AFP des sources sécuritaires.

Le Burkina Faso est le théâtre d'attaques jihadistes régulières depuis le premier trimestre 2015, comme ses voisins sahéliens. Le Nord et l'Est sont particulièrement touchés et Ouagadougou, la capitale, a été frappée à trois reprises.

Avec Reuters et AFP

NIGERIA :

Nigerian Army captain, 3 soldiers reportedly killed in Niger community

<https://www.legit.ng/1290235-nigerian-army-captain-3-soldiers-reportedly-killed-niger-community.html>

by Nnenna Ibeh -

An Army captain has been killed on gunmen who invaded a community in Munya local government area of Niger state - The captain was killed alongside three soldiers - a staff sergeant, two corporals in the area - It was also gathered that the gunmen had ambushed the team accompanied by some Police officers in the bush A Nigerian Army captain and four soldiers have been killed by some gunmen in an ambush in Sarkin Pawa in Munya local government area of Niger state. The Nation reports that three other soldiers were also injured in the attack that left the captain who led the soldiers - a staff sergeant, two corporals in an operation in the area. It was gathered that the deceased were said to have responded to a distress call by residents of Gwar community in Munya local government area when the incident took place. Read more: <https://www.legit.ng/1290235-nigerian-army-captain-3-soldiers-reportedly-killed-niger-community.html>

Nigerian government are 'Islamic fundamentalists without bombs', says bishop

Fionn Shiner/ACNUK / 3 January, 2020

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2020/01/03/nigerian-government-are-islamic-fundamentalists-without-bombs-says-bishop/>

'The only difference between the government and Boko Haram is Boko Haram is holding a bomb,' Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah claimed

The beheading of 10 Christians by Islamist militants in Nigeria has sparked a condemnation by a bishop who accuses the government of using different methods to achieve the same goal of Islamic dominance.

In the wake of the Christmas Day attack by Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) and an attack by Boko Haram on Christmas Eve, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah of Sokoto told Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need of his disgust with the authorities.

He said: "The only difference between the government and Boko Haram is Boko Haram is holding a bomb."

He added: “They are using the levers of power to secure the supremacy of Islam, which then gives more weight to the idea that it can be achieved by violence. With the situation in Nigeria, it is hard to see the moral basis they have to defeat Boko Haram.

“They have created the conditions to make it possible for Boko Haram to behave the way they are behaving.”

On Boxing Day 2019, ISWAP released a video beheading 10 Christians and shooting one Muslim, saying they were avenging the death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, Daesh (ISIS)’s leader, and other senior Daesh members killed during a US raid in October.

This followed a Christmas Eve attack by Boko Haram in which seven were killed.

The UN estimates that over 2.2 million have been displaced by Boko Haram’s actions – between 2013 and 2015, more than 11,000 people were killed by the group.

Bishop Kukah said the Nigerian government, by packing key government positions with hardline Muslims, gives tacit approval to such groups.

“If the people in power don’t do enough to integrate Christians then they give oxygen to Islamism. If they have countries where everybody is Muslim in power then you give vent to the idea that Islam should be supreme.”

Bishop Kukah hit out against Western nations who he said are happy to mine the resources of Africa but not defend its people.

He said: “Western nations are not doing enough. They have shown that the resources of Africa are more important than the ordinary people. Clearly, the Western nations could have reduced the influence of Boko Haram by 80 or 90 percent – they have deliberately not done enough.”

Bishop Kukah said that the only thing preventing Nigeria from being engulfed in civil war was the peaceful tenets of Christianity.

He said: “Christians have every reason to feel insecure and also there is a general feeling of their marginalisation from the political process. If the principles of our religion were different, there would be a civil war by now.

“It is the glory of our religion that this hasn’t happened. It is difficult to preach peace in this context. Any resolution depends on how Christians decide to react. They won’t use violence but what will they do?” /

This article was provided by Aid to the Church in Need UK

Nigeria's energy sector faces slowdown on lack of reforms

<https://www.spglobal.com/platts/en/market-insights/latest-news/oil/010620-nigerias-energy-sector-faces-slowdown-on-lack-of-reforms>

Editor Jim Levesque

Lagos — Nigeria's oil sector may not get a much-needed revamp in 2020 as President Muhammadu Buhari's state-led economic model will likely throttle reform and blunt efforts to increase oil production in the near term and further out.

GHANA :

Ghana Targets Its Diaspora for \$3 Billion in Investments

Bloomberg-03 Jan 2020

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-01-03/ghana-targets-its-diaspora-for-3-billion-in-investments>

Ghana Targets Its Diaspora for \$3 Billion in Investments. By ... Ghana is targeting its diaspora to raise \$3 billion in funding for economic ...

UNION AFRICAINE :

Egypt to Hand African Union Presidency to South Africa in February

Monday, 30 December, 2019 - <https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/2058256/egypt-hand-african-union-presidency-south-africa-february>

Cairo - Asharq Al-Awsat

Egypt will hand over the African Union presidency to South Africa in two months during the 33rd ordinary AU summit, scheduled for Addis Ababa on February 9-10.

Egypt had taken over the presidency from Rwanda in 2019, for a one-year term. Cairo also co-chaired this year the Russia–Africa Summit and had participated in leading international forums to represent the continent.

The AU presidency post rotates annually between the five regions of the continent.

The 2020 AU summit will take place from January 21 to February 10, 2020, under the theme “Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa’s Development”.

The Summit’s 39th Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives’ Committee (PRC) is set to be held on January 21-22, while the 36th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council (Ministerial) on February 6-7.

The AU should later hold its 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union on February 9 and 10.

Separately, the MENA news agency said that Egypt and Sudan would start operating an electricity interconnection project linking the two countries’ national grids on January 12.

The news agency quoted Egyptian Electricity Minister Mohamed Shaker as saying that the project would operate with a total capacity of 50 megawatts, noting that its total cost amounted to \$31.74 million.

“The joint grid will be spanning across a distance of 1,000 kilometers,” the Minister said, adding that it was expected to reach a total capacity of 240 megawatts by the end of 2020.

Meanwhile, at a conference held in Cairo on prospects for energy investment, director of the energy sector at the African Union commission, Sheikh Bida, stressed the need to boost the establishment of power grids between nations to push economic development.

African Union chief slams interference threat in Libya

AFP, Addis Ababa, Jan 04 2020, 14:03pm ist updated: Jan 04 2020, 16:45pm ist

<https://www.deccanherald.com/international/world-news-politics/african-union-chief-slams-interference-threat-in-libya-791323.html>

African Union chief Moussa Faki Mahamat has expressed his grave concern over potential "interference" in Libya, after Turkey approved the deployment of troops to the conflict-torn North African nation. Turkish lawmakers on Thursday passed a bill app...

Libya crisis: African Union Warns Turkey

<https://menafn.com/1099508081/Libya-crisis-African-Union-Warns-Turkey>

Date 1/4/2020 2:42:42 PM (MENAFN - Somali Land Sun) Somalilandsun - "The worsening of the situation in Libya and Libyan people are deeply worried because of the ongoing suffering,' this is according to a statement released by The Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat

Different political and military intervention threats to internal affairs increase the risk of conflict with motivations that have nothing to do with the Libyan people's core interests, freedom, peace, democracy and development aspirations', the statement said.

Mahamat, who asked the international community to join Africa in search of a peaceful solution to the Libyan crisis, warned that it could have 'dangerous consequences affecting the entire continent. The African Union was founded in 2002 in Durban, South Africa. Except for Somaliland, which is not yet recognized as a state, all African countries are members of this union. In other words, the union has 55 members.

The AKP-controlled Turkish parliament gave a green light Thursday to send troops to Libya. At the end of November, the Turkish state signed two agreements with the Tripoli-based Islamist government, one aimed at enhancing military co-operation and the other setting out maritime borders.

Many neighboring countries and international forces reacted to these agreements. The maritime agreement caused a reaction especially from Greece, Cyprus, Egypt and Israel, while the UN Secretary General warned about possible Turkish intervention and demanded compliance with the arms embargo. Marshal Caliph Haftar, who is under the control of the east of Libya, called for 'mobilization' and 'jihad against the Turkish occupation. Source <https://alevinet.com/>

Europe needs a joined-up policy towards Africa

The EU should encourage free trade with a continent-to-continent deal

<https://www.ft.com/content/c291b836-2d71-11ea-a126-99756bd8f45e>

Ursula von der Leyen's first official trip as European Commission president was to Africa, specifically to the seat of the African Union in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa. The symbolism has not gone unnoticed. Europe's relations with Africa — still conducted through the prism of colonialism, aid and, more recently, illegal migration — are badly in need of a reset.

While Europe has been looking backwards, however, others have looked to the future. China's presence in Africa has been maligned, portrayed as neocolonialist, exploitative and devoid of conditionality, a policy Beijing dresses up as non-interference. There is some truth to this. But overall, if anything, Europe can learn from China's pragmatism in treating Africa as an equal partner and a business opportunity — a stance that chimes with Africa's stated goal of moving "beyond aid".

In 2019, the EU was supposed to renegotiate its comprehensive partnership with Africa, the so-called Cotonou Agreement, a 20-year pact that expires this year. Talks have stalled. The AU is unhappy that discussions are being held in the context of the African, Caribbean and Pacific group, which excludes north Africa but includes island nations in the Caribbean and Pacific. Meanwhile, the practicalities of EU-Africa trade relations are regulated by a patchwork of a dozen or so overlapping arrangements with different African trade blocs.

The AU wants a continent-to-continent agreement. While this will obviously take time, it is a worthwhile ambition, one that should be much easier now that 54 countries are moving rapidly to

enact the African Continental Free Trade Area, an agreement that removes 90 per cent of tariffs on intra-African trade. Yet despite this progress, AU negotiators sense resistance to the idea in Brussels.

If that is true, Europe is missing a trick. Africa's free trade area could catalyse intra-continental trade, which would give its economies greater ability to attract investment and move up the value chain. Europe should be enthusiastically embracing this agenda. It is Africa's best chance of breaking out of poverty.

On a bilateral level both Germany and France have made efforts to think differently. Partly spurred by concerns over migration, Germany launched the so-called Marshall Plan with Africa in 2018, one of whose aims is to encourage more investment on the continent. Emmanuel Macron has also worked hard to recast Paris' relations with Africa, agreeing to end the CFA franc regime in west Africa and broadening France's engagement beyond francophone Africa. Soon to be outside the EU, the UK is seeking to reboot relations too, though its romantic notions about the role of the Commonwealth will gain little traction.

Beyond trade, Europe needs a coherent African policy on security, immigration and climate change. On immigration, it should work to help countries deal with intra-African migration, which accounts for 80 per cent of all flows. As far as possible, it should work with the AU on peacekeeping missions to combat the very real threat of terrorism in the Horn and the Sahel.

In general, policies must take into account the fact that the two continents' futures are likely to be ever closely entwined. Africa's population will double to 2.5bn over the next 30 years. If things go well, Africa could provide the markets and young workforce that Europe needs. If they go badly, it could be a source of instability and uncontrollable migration. The sooner Europe adopts the "comprehensive strategy for Africa" that Ms von der Leyen has called for, the better.

CHINE :

La Chine appelle les États-Unis à «ne pas abuser de la force militaire» au Moyen-Orient
<https://fr.sputniknews.com/international/202001061042711267-la-chine-appelle-les-etats-unis-a-ne-pas-abuser-de-la-force-militaire-au-moyen-orient/>

Dénonçant une «violation des principes fondamentaux des relations internationales», la Chine a mis en garde contre une escalade des tensions au Moyen-Orient après l'assassinat du général Soleimani dans une frappe américaine.

Pékin a appelé Washington «à ne pas abuser de la force militaire au Moyen-Orient» suite aux menaces lancées contre Téhéran après l'assassinat d'un haut responsable iranien.

Vendredi 3 janvier, un raid aérien des États-Unis à Bagdad en Irak a tué le général Qassem Soleimani, commandant de l'unité d'élite des forces iraniennes Al-Qods et architecte de la stratégie iranienne au Moyen-Orient. Donald Trump a ensuite menacé de frapper 52 objectifs en Iran si la République islamique attaquait du personnel ou des sites américains en guise de représailles à la mort du général.

L'Irak lance les préparatifs au retrait des troupes étrangères de son territoire

S'exprimant ce lundi 6 janvier, le porte-parole de la diplomatie chinoise Geng Shuang, a dénoncé les «récentes aventures militaires de Washington qui ont violé les principes fondamentaux des relations internationales, entraîné une escalade des tensions et une instabilité dans la région».

Il a également appelé les deux pays à la retenue pour éviter une nouvelle détérioration de la situation.

«Toutes les parties concernées doivent respecter la Charte des Nations unies. La souveraineté, l'indépendance et l'intégrité territoriale de tout pays doivent être respectées et il faut défendre la paix et la stabilité au Moyen-Orient», a déclaré le diplomate.

«Personne ne veut voir une escalade ultérieure dans le golfe Persique», a-t-il conclu.

La Chine est l'un des pays parties de l'accord sur le nucléaire iranien signé en 2015, dont les États-Unis se sont retirés unilatéralement en 2018. C'est aussi l'un des principaux importateurs de brut iranien.

Burundi : Vers une visite du Ministre chinois des Affaires Étrangères

<http://burundi-agnews.org/diplomatie/burundi-vers-une-visite-du-ministre-chinois-des-affaires-etrangees/>

GEOPOLITIQUE GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS, DIPLOMATIE, DEFENSE – Le Ministre chinois des Affaires Étrangères en visite mardi 7 janvier 2020 au Burundi.

GITEGA (Capitale du Burundi), Vendredi 3 janvier 2020 – Dans la cadre des Politiques Etrangère, Globale, Diplomatique, de Défense, et Intérieure, Socio-économique des Barundi, M. WANG YI, Ministre chinois des Affaires Etrangères, a prévu une visite de travail au Burundi ce mardi 7 janvier 2020.

Avant tout, cette visite a été annoncée par M. GENG SHUANG, porte parole de ce ministère et fait suite à une invitation de M. NIBIGIRA Ezechiel, Ministre burundais des Affaires Etrangères, en vue de renforcer la coopération bilatérale Sino-Burundaise.

De fait, ces dernières années, la Chine est devenu l'un des plus grands partenaires socio-économique du Burundi.

Ainsi, le Burundi a subi depuis 2015 une guerre géopolitique menée par l'occident, anciennement colonialiste et esclavagiste, dans la Région des Grands Africains contre la Chine. Parce que, la Chine, première puissance économique mondiale, a débuté depuis novembre 2019 ses deux nouvelles "routes de la soie africaine".

Les rumeurs disent que “ces fameux occidentaux (+ OTAN & AFRICOM : <http://burundi-agnews.org/securite/burundi-defense-la-guerre-technologique-arrive-dans-les-grands-lacs-africains/>)” cités plus haut , avec l’aide du Rwanda, veulent mettre à feu et à sang toute la Région des Grands Lacs Africains, en commençant par la RDC (sa balkanisation) et le Burundi.
DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Samedi 4 janvier 2020 / Photo : <http://fr.cctv.com>

USA :

AFRICOM responds to al-Shabaab ambush on Somalia troops with airstrike
<https://thedefensepost.com/2020/01/03/somalia-africom-airstrike-shabaab-ambush/>

Somalia special forces said they recaptured several villages from Shabaab in the lower Shabelle Staff Writer Staff Writer January 3, 2020 / U.S. Africa Command carried out an airstrike against suspected al-Shabaab militants in support of Somali government forces who came under attack west of Mogadishu on Friday, January 3.

AFRICOM initially assessed that three Shabaab militants were killed in the strike, and no civilians were wounded.

A Somali federal government spokesperson told The Defense Post that Shabaab militants “attacked Danab and Somali National Army (SNA) forces conducting patrols near the town of Bariire, around 45 km west of Mogadishu.”

The SNA’s Danab (Lightning) brigade is a commando unit credited with a number of successes recapturing territory from al-Shabaab.

“Somali security forces continue to lead operations alongside African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces to increase security and seize ground from the al-Qaeda-aligned al-Shabaab,” AFRICOM’s press release on the strike read.

Mogadishu Online quoted a 16th Somali Special Forces commander on Friday as saying his forces had killed 20 Shabaab fighters and recaptured a number of villages in the lower Shabelle region. A government spokesperson told The Defense Post that operation was not in the same area as the airstrike.

The U.S. has about 500 troops in Somalia in support of the federal government’s fight against al-Shabaab.

U.S. forces use the Baledogle (or Ballidoogle) airfield, in the Wanlawayn district roughly 95 km (60 miles) northwest of the capital Mogadishu, to launch drone strikes on al-Shabaab militants and to train Somali commandoes for counter-terrorism missions.

Shabaab has fought for more than a decade to topple the Somali government. The army, which largely relies on African Union Mission in Somalia forces for military support, is regularly targeted.

The Shabaab was routed from Mogadishu in 2011 by the 22,000-strong AMISOM mission, and has had to abandon most of its strongholds, but it still controls vast rural areas and remains the key threat to peace in Somalia and carries out attacks in neighboring Kenya.

U.S. strikes in Somalia surged after President Donald Trump declared southern Somalia an “area of active hostilities” in April 2017, according to rights group Amnesty International.

Shabaab militants attacked the U.S. base at Baledogle and European troops based nearby with vehicle bombs in September.

Fund CIOs call US-China tensions biggest challenge for 2020
<https://www.ft.com/content/d8b8b141-4afc-4aa5-9fcc-5ac530d1177a>
Investment chiefs overseeing \$19tn see risks in ultra-low interest rates

Killing of Iranian general stokes fears of heightened surveillance in U.S.
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/killing-iranian-general-stokes-fears-heightened-surveillance-u-s-n1110736>
Advocates pointed to President Donald Trump's rhetoric and a report of people being detained at the border, which U.S. officials deny
Jan. 6, 2020, 3:00 AM CET
By Tim Stelloh and Rima Abdelkader
The killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani stoked fears Sunday that people of Iranian descent in the United States would come under heightened surveillance and led to reports that Iranian Americans were being detained at the U.S.-Canada border, which Customs and Border Protection denied.

US plans for Venezuela hit turbulence as Maduro tries ...
Politico- <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/01/05/trump-venezuela-maduro-assembly-takeover-094257>
The troubles underscored the difficulties in the U.S. strategy toward Venezuela nearly a year after Trump demanded that Maduro leave office

UN :

US killing of Soleimani 'tantamount' to war, Iran's UN ambassador says

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/qasem-soleimani-killing-tantamount-to-war-iran-un-ambassador-12232934>

UNITED NATIONS: The United States' killing of Iran's most prominent military commander, Qasem Soleimani, is virtual to starting a war and "the response for a military action is a military action", Iran's UN ambassador said on Friday (Jan 3).

Ambassador Majid Takht Ravanchi said in an interview with CNN that by "assassinating" Soleimani, the United States had entered a new stage after starting an "economic war" by imposing tough sanctions on Iran in 2018.

"So that was ... a new chapter which is tantamount to opening a war against Iran," Ravanchi said.

Ravanchi, echoing Iranian leaders, said there would be harsh revenge. "The response for a military action is a military action," he said.

Earlier on Friday, the ambassador told the UN Security Council and Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that Iran reserves the right to self-defence under international law.

In a letter, Ravanchi said the killing of Soleimani "is an obvious example of State terrorism and, as a criminal act, constitutes a gross violation of the fundamental principles of international law, including, in particular ... the Charter of the United Nations".

Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations Majid Takht Ravanchi has told the Security Council that Iran cannot "alone" cannot save the nuclear deal, stepping up pressure on the Europeans, China and Russia AFP/SPENCER PLATT

The United States killed Soleimani in an overnight attack in Iraq authorised by President Donald Trump. A senior Trump administration official said Soleimani had been planning imminent attacks on US personnel in the Middle East.

The United States could seek to justify killing Soleimani under Article 51 of the UN Charter, which covers an individual or collective right to self-defence against armed attack.

Under Article 51, countries are required to "immediately report" to the 15-member Security Council any measures taken in exercising the right of self-defence. The United States used Article 51 to justify taking action in Syria against Islamic State militants in 2014.

Diplomats said no such letter had yet been received from Washington on the killing of Soleimani.

Guterres is deeply concerned by the recent rise in tensions in the Middle East, his spokesman, Farhan Haq, said in a statement earlier on Friday.

"This is a moment in which leaders must exercise maximum restraint. The world cannot afford another war in the Gulf," Haq said.

Source: Reuters

US slams Russia, China at UN for failure to condemn embassy attack

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/us-slams-russia--china-at-un-for-failure-to-condemn-embassy-attack-12238684>

UNITED NATIONS: The United States on Monday (Jan 6) slammed Russia and China for their failure to condemn an attack last week on its Baghdad embassy by pro-Iranian demonstrators.

While congratulating the 27 of the 193 member nations that did issue statements condemning the Dec 31 attempt to storm the compound, the US mission to the UN said that Russian and Chinese silence undermined the Security Council.

"Not allowing the United Nations Security Council to issue the most basic of statements underscoring the inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises once again calls the council's credibility into question," the US statement said.

Washington said that voicing support for the 1961 Vienna convention that protects diplomatic missions "should not be controversial or warrant courage."

"As we have demonstrated, we will not tolerate attacks on US personnel and facilities and will respond decisively to protect our interests, citizens and allies," it added.

The attack on the Baghdad embassy, which did not result in any injuries, was meant to protest against a US airstrike against Ketaeb Hezbollah (KH), an Iranian-backed militia which the US had blamed for rocket attacks on its facilities in northern Iraq that resulted in the death of a US contractor.

President Donald Trump responded to the attack on the embassy by ordering a drone strike in Baghdad that killed one of Iran's top military commanders, Qasem Soleimani, and the head of the KH militia.

UN sources said on Monday that no country had so far called for a Security Council meeting to address the soaring tensions that the attacks have triggered in the Middle East. Source: AFP/de

Central African Republic clashes: UN adds more troops

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/12/central-african-republic-clashes-united-nations-adds-troops-191231091648393.html>

After fighting between traders and fighters broke out over a dispute in Bangui, 40 people die.
by Ahmed Idris / 31 Dec 2019

The United Nations has sent more troops to patrol Bangui in the Central African Republic after fighting broke out between armed men and market traders on Tuesday over a dispute about money. But the UN says it needs more forces.

Youth groups have given the armed men a deadline to hand in their weapons.
Al Jazeera's Ahmed Idris reports from Bangui, CAR.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Lundi 6 janvier 2020