

AFRICAN NEWS SOURCES

Oil pipeline: Which way for Uganda? (Analysis)

7 March 2016

Frederic Musisi

Kampala. The long-awaited pronouncement on a deal between Uganda and Tanzania to develop a crude export pipeline via the Southern route came on Tuesday last week. Not surprising though, the development did not draw a lot of excitement.

At least three senior technical people in the oil industry contacted on the matter, each referred to the other, understandably seeming to decline to comment on a decision of the presidency. But they had a point. Last August, the presidents of Uganda and Kenya meeting at State House, Entebbe, reached a similar agreement to develop a pipeline that would snake from Uganda's Albertine Graben in south western Uganda via the north East en route to the Lokichar basin; where Kenya is currently in the exploration stage for cumulative commercial oil quantities.

President Museveni and his Kenyan counterpart inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to that effect. There was a problem though. In the communiqué issued by Uganda, there were four clauses that had been sneaked in, which the Kenyan technocrats fervently contested.

The clauses, for the pipeline to go to Kenya, its government had to guarantee upfront financing for the project and other supporting infrastructure required; guarantee transit fees/tariffs not higher than any of the alternative routes; guarantee no delays, and most crucially guarantee security in the security restless Turkana sub region where the Lokichar basin is located.

This left the Kenyan deal hanging. The government technical people, still, were lukewarm in discussing a decision announced by the President.

Due to the sensitivity of the matter, one official, however, said much as the Kenyan route was the most "preferred politically, discussions with Tanzania for the Southern route had been kick started.

Indeed, two months later, Uganda's technical team led by the permanent secretary in the Energy ministry, Mr Kabagambe-Kaliisa and his Tanzanian counterpart Ngosi Mwiwaha signed an MoU for a crude export pipeline framework.

At the signing of the MoU in October, Mr Kaliisa said the framework would enable the parties to continue working together to fine-tune studies and fieldwork on the Tanga route in order to further appraise the merits of a crude export pipeline option through Tanzania with a view to achieving the lowest unit transportation cost for crude oil from Uganda. This time around, however, one of the three international oil companies (IOCs) licenced in Uganda, Total E&P, was party to the framework.

Mr Ernest Rubondo, the executive director Petroleum Directorate, the government's technical arm overseeing the oil sector, was not readily available for comment as he was reported away in Arusha for the East African Community (EAC) summit.

The Kenya-Tanzania conundrum

Uganda is good neighbours with both Kenya and Tanzania. However, comparatively, Uganda is very good neighbours with Kenya.

More than 90 per cent of Uganda's cargo, for example, goes through Mombasa port while only two per cent goes through the Dar-es-Salaam port, according to the Ministry of Trade statistics.

Kenya and Uganda [including Rwanda] under the 'Coalition of the Willing' a loose outfit of the EAC, have collaborated on several infrastructural projects among others, prominently the multi-billion dollar Standard Gauge Railway.

The presidents of the three countries have held many bilateral meetings in which they had agreed on 14 key regional projects without the participation of Tanzania.

Therefore, when the government and IOCs signed an MoU in February 2014 that set down a framework for a pipeline refinery and development of oil fields, the odds were that the pipeline was going to Kenya.

With the brewing oil bonanza in South Sudan, Kenya and Uganda, later that year, the Japanese consulting and engineering firm Toyota Tsusho snagged tender for a feasibility and engineering study of a 1,300 km pipeline running from Hoima via Lokichar to Lamu Port at the Indian Ocean coast; where Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan had conceived the ambitious LAPSETT infrastructure corridor.

Rwanda, similarly, came on board and expressed interest in investing in \$4.5 billion (Shs15 trillion) Uganda-Kenya pipeline. Earlier on, Uganda had been looking at a pipeline route from Hoima-Eldoret to Mombasa but in April last year, Toyota presented a study to the government indicating that the Hoima-Lamu route was more feasible than the Hoima-Nairobi-Mombasa route, and is the "cheapest option" of transporting Uganda's oil to the international market.

Why it is getting difficult

Total E&P which is involved in Tanzania's vast natural gas reserves, however, put the spanner in the works. The company, with its big financial chest, undertook feasibility studies for a southern route ((Hoima-Masaka-Bukoba-Shinyanga-Siginda-Tanga).

After a sequence of meetings, sometimes between Total officials and the Energy ministry technical team, the MoU was signed in October.

Total's main reservations about the Lamu route is the security situation in northern Kenya which is not "guaranteed", according to some quarters in government. That part of the country borders Somalia, a hub of the militant al-Shabaab.

According to government's official position, in looking at both the North eastern and Southern routes for the pipeline, the objective is to select a route that will result in the lowest unit transportation cost and constitutes the most viable option for the project.

The key phrase in the MoUs with the two neighbours is "lowest unit transportation cost for crude oil from Uganda". But to some industry players the argument does not add up.

It is about balancing regional interests delicately which explains why, notwithstanding the pile of technical assessments that have been undertaken, Uganda is still moving at leisure.

Project economics is secondary, an official in the Ministry of Energy said. However, he added, the Tanzania route makes a lot of sense in that "currently all our eggs are in one basket by relying on Kenya which has its political ups and downs compared to Tanzania."

In announcing the Southern route, a statement from State House indicated President Museveni was "reciprocating" the role Tanzania played in the guerilla war that helped him capture power in 1986. The project cost whichever way it goes is estimated at \$4.5b.

The pipeline is supposed to be developed by the IOCs which has complicated the situation. UK's Tullow Oil plc which operates in Kenya has its weight behind the Lamu route so does China's Cnooc, according to insiders, for reasons of economies of scale from the Lapsset while Total, which is the biggest of all, is routing for the Southern route.

How to harmonise the companies' interests remain a big issue at hand and likely to cause delay to the next stage of production.

The pipeline project will be developed under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) because regional governments cannot finance such an ambitious project. Uganda is already also toiling with the idea of a \$4.5b refinery infrastructure.

At the dawn of last year, the global Total CEO, Mr Patrick Pouyanné, was in the country and held meetings with Mr Museveni, where he underscored his company's interest for the pipeline going to Tanga.

And with the gloom hanging over the oil sector world made worse by the falling oil prices, Mr Pouyanné, indicated they were ready to leap to the next stage of production. What is evident for now is that the oil industry is being slowed by infrastructure deficits and long delays in government making decision which explains why Ugandans might wait a little longer to see the first drop of oil.

Between \$10billion (Shs33.7 trillion) and \$15 billion (Shs50.5 trillion), about the size of Uganda's Budgets for the next two financial years is required to start production.

The refinery

The pipeline will supplement the 30,000 bpd oil refinery that government is pushing. The greenfield refinery, whose tender, was already awarded RT Global Resources a consortium, led by Russia's Rostec, a defence and technology corporation, is also estimated to cost about Shs15 trillion.

Current oil reserves stand at 6.5 billion barrels with a recoverable rate (what can actually be got out of the ground) of 1.4 billion. There are indications the reserves could soon hit 8 billion barrels.

musisif@ug.nationmedia.com

(Source: **The Monitor** (Uganda) – <http://www.monitor.co.ug/Business/Commodities/Oil-pipeline-way-Uganda/-/688610/3105368/-/tdqa9lz/-/index.html>)

Brazil endorses Ethiopia's bid for a non-permanent seat at the UNSC

13 March 2016

Brazil has expressed its support to Ethiopia's bid for a non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council.

External Relations Minister of Brazil, Mauro Vieira told ENA that his country believes that Ethiopia can make significant contribution to the council if elected to get a non-permanent membership seat.

The minister indicated Ethiopia's reach experience in peacekeeping missions and its active role for ensuring world peace enable it to play a pivotal role in the council.

Ethiopia was nominated for membership of the council by the 26th AU Summit in January 2016.

According to the minister, Brazil and Ethiopia share the international campaign for the structural change of the UN Security Council to become a participatory international body.

Vieira revealed that he had conferred with Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalgen and Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom on the issue.

The minister stated that Brazil is committed to bolster its multifaceted relations with Ethiopia, and support it in agricultural technology in particular.

Brazil is also ready to share its experiences in education and health sectors as well as its inclusive social development program that have proved successful during the past two years in the country, he added.

Vieira said his country, besides government-to-government relation, will encourage Brazilian businesspersons to invest in Ethiopia.

The minister stated that the various discussions held between Ethiopian and Brazilian investors during his visit in the country is the manifestation of Brazil's government desire to increase the involvement of investors in Ethiopia's market.

According to the minister, the memorandum of understanding signed between Ethiopia and Brazil last week is a strong foundation for the economic relation of the countries.

Minister Vieira indicated that Brazil is working to create strong relation with the African Union and member countries.

(Source: **Geeska Afrika Online** – <http://www.geeskaafrika.com/16584/brazil-endorses-ethiopias-bid-for-a-non-permanent-seat-at-the-unsc/>)

Morocco, AI Agree on Continuing Constructive Dialogue On Human Rights

19 March 2016

Rabat – Justice minister Mustapha Ramid and secretary general of Amnesty International Salil Shetty agreed on the importance of continuing positive interaction and constructive dialogue in the service of human rights and the large-scale reforms in Morocco.

Ramid, who met with Shetty and his delegation on Friday in Rabat in the presence of representatives of the concerned government departments, affirmed that the protection and promotion of human rights are a strategic choice for Morocco under the leadership of HM the King, said on Saturday a statement by the ministry of justice and liberties.

Morocco undertook major structuring reforms seeking to reinforce human rights and democracy, said Ramid, reaffirming the Kingdom's openness on all international organizations and bodies and his readiness to cooperate with them.

The secretary general of Amnesty International, who is on a visit to Morocco on March 17-19, said that the country made huge strides concerning human rights and is witnessing a real progress in this area, adding that Morocco's initiatives deserve to be taken into consideration and supported.

He also said that AI is convinced that torture is no longer the state's systematic policy, hailing the crucial work done by the equity and reconciliation committee, the adoption of the new constitution and adherence to international treaties on human rights mainly the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

(Source: **Morocco World News** – <http://www.morocoworldnews.com/2016/03/182462/morocco-ai-agree-on-continuing-constructive-dialogue-on-human-rights/>)

IFAD lift 80m people out of poverty worldwide

20 March 2016

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has dedicated \$3billion to lift 80million people out of poverty between 2016 and 2018 worldwide, the Regional Director for West and Central Africa, (IFAD) Mr Ides de Willebois has said.

He spoke in on the sidelines of the 9th Annual IFAD Regional Workshop for West and Central Africa tagged: 'Investing in Rural Youths; How Do We Plant the Seed for the Future.'

Willebois said IFAD currently has 50 operational projects in the region, saying that additional 18 projects will be developed within the three years.

"For 2016 to 2018, what we have pledge to do for our member states is to lift 80million people out of poverty, reaching out and working together with 130million people worldwide."

"The funds we have made available for this is three billion dollars over those three years; this include the ongoing projects from which the impart will come out from in West and Central Africa. We at the moment have 50 projects, some will close and some new ones will be added; roughly you can say every year we design six new projects on the average so about 18 projects will be added within the period," he said.

Willebois said for West and Central Africa, roughly \$600 million had been made available for new projects for the three years explaining that \$200 million would be disbursed yearly.

The director said IFAD was discussing with Governments of Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea who are recovering for Ebola outbreak on how to accelerate and make up for time lost in project implementations in those countries.

He said similar dialogue was ongoing in Mali and the Central African Republic where civil unrest and violence had hampered free flow of project implementation.

Speaking on the workshop, Willebois hoped that the workshop would mark the beginning of a sustained conversation of the relevant authorities within the region to ensure increase youth involvement in agriculture.

“We have shared the best experiences we have from country to country and the people will start thinking and talking as they continue their work; discussing with their governments on how they can improve and do better.

“It is a process but what we hope to see after this workshop with this particular theme, is a kind of kick-start in giving more attention to the areas of youths which is so pressing in all the countries.

“We hope that this year, we can notice a better support, a better participation in the projects we already have and a better participation for the new projects,” he said.

(Source: **The Nation** (Nigeria) – <http://thenationonlineng.net/ifad-lift-80m-people-out-of-poverty-worldwide/>)

Amid drought, fish disappear from Zimbabwe's markets

1 April 2016

Marko Phiri

With fish stocks declining as water levels fall in drought-hit reservoirs across the country, Zimbabwe's fish sellers and buyers are struggling to cope, raising concerns about the long-term sustainability of fisheries as a source of income and nutrition.

Experts agree that climate change is having an impact on fishing, but Zimbabwe has yet to study precisely how it is affecting supplies that for years have supported thousands of families across the country.

For Thandi Ncube, however, who sells fish around the densely populated townships of Bulawayo, business clearly is no longer what it used to be.

"The fishermen say their catch is getting low," Ncube said.

Normally she buys in bulk, mostly kapenta and bream, from fishermen just outside Bulawayo, a city where consumers have for years turned to fish as a cheaper alternative to beef and chicken.

Ncube used to sell a kilogram of bream for around \$3, while the same amount of beef costs up to \$5. But fish is no longer available in the quantities that Ncube and her customers want.

"It is all kinds of fish that we do not get anymore. I have to sell other items such as tomatoes to survive," she said.

In a country where the United Nations says millions survive on less than \$1 a day, the usual laws of supply and demand do not always apply: raising the price of fish risks leaving vendors with unsold perishable stock if customers cannot afford the higher prices.

Rudo Sanyanga, the Africa programme director for International Rivers, a non-governmental organisation, said fish stocks normally surge in periods of high rainfall and fall when the water goes down.

But downpours that pounded Bulawayo in the first half of March weren't enough to significantly replenish water levels in severely depleted reservoirs and ponds, Bulawayo municipality officials said.

The heavy rains were the first since last September, and the previous year's rainy season was equally poor, officials say.

In an update issued at the end of February, the Zimbabwe National Water Authority said reservoir levels stood at 51 percent countrywide, with Upper Ncema dam, previously a site of thriving fisheries in Matebeleland South province, almost empty at just 1.8 percent of capacity.

'DRIED UP'

"Ponds that used to provide us with fish have dried up," said Thamsanqa Mloyi, a farmer in Filabusi, about 150km (90 miles) south of Bulawayo.

Sanyanga believes that climatic change, as well as regular variations in the weather, are contributing to changes in fish populations. That echoes concerns voiced by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The agency said people dependent on fish as a major source of food are bearing the brunt of climate change impacts, and are seeing their incomes affected. Changes in the availability and quality of fish are also raising health risks, the FAO said.

Wilson Mhlanga, a researcher at the University of Zimbabwe's Lake Kariba Fisheries Research Institute, said the country needs to do more to protect its fisheries.

Although Zimbabwe has laws aimed at protecting fish stocks - including a \$3 per kilo fine for poaching - Mhlanga said they are not effective.

"The challenge is the effective enforcement of this legislation," he said.

More research is also needed, bringing in both the government and fishermen, to understand clearly what is happening, he said.

"There is need for long-term stock assessments in rivers to base our conclusions not on anecdotal evidence but scientific research," Mhlanga said.

"Another solution would be to raise awareness among populations who subsist on fisheries on the need to protect fish resources," he said. Funding for all the initiatives, however, is in short supply, he said.

Sanyanga, of International Rivers, called for catchment restoration programmes to help stabilise fish stocks, but warned that the threat to fish in Zimbabwe extends beyond climate change and dwindling reservoir levels to human activity.

"Over-fishing is a symptom of poverty and, at times, greed. As long as fisheries resources are common, it will be difficult to eliminate overfishing practices," she said.

But without action, she said, "it is probably too late to protect some of our fish populations."

(Source: **Sunday Times** (Zimbabwe) –

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/sundaytimes/stnews/international/2016/04/01/Amid-drought-fish-disappear-from-Zimbabwes-markets>)

Education: building the soul of the society

4 April 2016

The recent pronouncement by the leadership of this country that by 2018 the government will introduce free university education in The Gambia demonstrates a clear vision for national development, albeit the ways and means of accomplishing such a target.

“My Government will also continue to work strenuously towards making university education free in 2018, as well as fulfillment of our desire for free Universal education for all our children,” the President said

The importance of education cannot be overemphasised as it is the soul of a nation which determines its level and pace of development.

Seeing it in proper perspective, a truly intelligent and conscious individual must endeavour to acquire education, both within and outside of the classroom.

It should never be a luxury, but a necessity for human and national development, for a nation advances at the same pace as its education; hence it is a responsibility that society owes to itself.

If a nation wants to truly develop, it must endeavour to let its citizens acquire education, and this is what the President is working hard to achieve for The Gambia.

Hence no government can afford to allow anything to stand in its way to provide education for its citizens. Vices like corruption, sectionalism, ethnicity, policy discontinuity and the like should not be tolerated to reign supreme, as this will kill the dream of achieving education for all, and would also serve as neglect on the part of the powers that be.

The President has extended this extraordinary package not only to Gambians, but also to non-Gambians with permanent residence in The Gambia. This again is a show of true humanism and love for progress, oneness and development around the world.

All non-Gambians including children of foreign diplomats will also be allowed to benefit from the free university education, the President declared.

He also said renewed emphasis is being put on Technical and Vocational Education which cuts across the education sector from Basic and Secondary to the Tertiary and Higher Education, with entrepreneurship as a key element.

Education is the life of a nation, as it directly supports all sectors and industries and sustains onward growth and development.

So we must commend the President for such a declaration. If all goes well, free education in The Gambia shall be realised. Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another.

Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.

George Washington Carver

(Source: **The Point** (Gambia) – <http://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/article/education-building-the-soul-of-the-society>)

Ghana creates Counter-Terrorism Unit

19 April 2016

President John Mahama has announced the creation of a Counter-Terrorism Unit to avert any possible external attack on Ghana.

The National Security advisor to the president Baba Kamara is heading the unit and has been tasked to coordinate all security measures put in place to avert any terrorist attack on Ghana.

Speaking during a quarterly meeting with members of the Council of State in Accra, Mahama said Ghana has been in constant touch with its neighbours in the area of intelligence gathering to be on top of issues.

“The National Security has set up a Counter-Terrorism Unit which is chaired by the national security advisor,” Mahama told the council.

He added: “One of the most important thing is intelligence sharing and we are getting a lot of intelligence from our neighbours – Ivory Coast, Guinea and Burkina Faso – and we are all alert and watching to see if there are suspicious people.”

Ghana has been on red alert in recent times following extremist activities in the sub-region. The US among others have warned its nationals to be wary of their safety while traveling to the West African country.

Nationals from Mali and Ivory Coast are being monitored carefully, according to a classified security memo leaked to the media recently.

(Source: **Starr FM Online** (Ghana) – <http://www.starrfmonline.com/1.8963273>)

Art: Ethiopia's capital listening

6 May 2016

Crystal Orderson

A gallery has carved out its space in the changing Ethiopian capital and has ambitions as lofty as the cranes on the skyline for a new generation of artists.

The Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, looks and feels like a giant construction site. It is difficult to make sense of the city and its evolving landscape – even locals say they cannot keep up.

There is an excitement, however, about the scope for cultural renewal, which is why Ethiopian-born curator Rakeb Sile has seized the moment to open the Addis Fine Art (AFA) gallery.

"We decided to open a gallery emerging from a local space in the heart of Ethiopia's capital, showcasing modern and contemporary art from Ethiopia and its diaspora that simultaneously engages Ethiopian artists and the global art market," she explains.

Habesha Art Studio and Netsa Art Village have carved out an important space for contemporary Ethiopian art in the capital, but opportunities for young and upcoming artists to exhibit in Addis are still in short supply.

After three years running AFA as a consultancy, Sile and her associate Mesai Haileleul are convinced of the demand from collectors, international institutions and galleries for art from the country and the region.

Sile and her partners struggled for months to make local contractors understand the idea of a white space and a gallery's lighting demands. But finally on 8 January AFA opened its doors in the heart of Bole.

The inaugural show, 'Addis Calling', which ended on 26 March, presented seven artists aged 40 or under who live in Addis. The best known is Tamrat Gezahegne, whose abstract compositions have already been exhibited in Nairobi and Berlin. But it is Dawit Abebe's Rank and Providence series, commenting on imbalances of power in Ethiopian society, that was chosen as the exhibition's emblem.

All seven artists' work reveals the strength and dynamism emanating from the city's studios. The gallery plans five curated shows in 2016 and intends to host dialogues, facilitate collaborations and to take its artists to the rest of the world.

From 3-6 March AFA was the first Ethiopian gallery to exhibit at the Armory Focus in New York – an invitation-only fair that spotlights a different region each year. Sile's ambition is truly to carve a path for Ethiopian artists. She says: "We want to champion the most critical, thought-provoking and cutting-edge work the world has ever seen."

(Source: **The Africa Report** – <http://www.theafricareport.com/East-Horn-Africa/art-ethiopias-capital-listening.html>)

Africa: 2016 Transform Africa to Focus On Smart Cities

18 May 2016

Collins Mwai

Rwanda will in October host the third Transform Africa Summit that will focus on developing 'smart cities.'

Under the Smart Africa Initiative, Rwanda is spearheading the smart cities agenda.

According to Dr Hamadoun Touré, the executive director of Smart Africa, the meeting will convene over 300 mayors of cities across Africa to showcase the components of a smart city.

The smart cities initiative, which aims at leveraging technology solutions to improve efficiency of cities, has seen Rwanda roll out a number of developments such as WiFi in public areas, including public transport vehicles, as well as cashless payment systems in public transport.

Currently, the initiative is backed by 11 African countries while more nations are expected to join.

Toure told The New Times that the initiative will go on with efforts to bring more countries on board.

The initiative is on the verge of Kigali city. The forthcoming Smart Africa summit will tackle the issue of developing smart cities in the continent. e of building partnerships with governments, academia, and private sector to increase its relevance in the ICT ecosystem.

During the just-concluded World Economic Forum on Africa in Kigali, the Smart Africa Alliance entered into a partnership with Ericsson to meet the goal of developing a more connected and fully functioning knowledge-based society in Africa.

As a result of the partnership, Ericsson will serve as a technical advisor and platinum private sector member collaborating with the Alliance to design blueprints supporting the implementation of the Smart Africa vision and plan.

Toure said the agreement was a boost toward Smart Africa's aims as it would facilitate them work to create an enabling environment for the private sector as well as understand skills gap.

"Since the inception of the Smart Africa Alliance, one of our main principles has centred on the critical need to create an enabling environment for private sector involvement. We realise that economic transformation must be driven by private companies focused on the use of ICT to increase access to markets and information for business," Toure said.

Sharing skills

For Ericsson, the partnership will be an opportunity to share skills and contribute positively to ICT growth in cities and countries.

Fredrik Jejdling, the head of Ericsson in the sub-Saharan Africa region, said that they would be aiming at replicating the solutions pioneered in Rwanda such as smart cities across the continent.

"Our experience working on Smart Rwanda has provided an excellent platform to replicate and tailor similar solutions for other member states and governments. ICT will change cities, countries and industries and ultimately lead to a truly Networked Society in Africa," Jejdling said.

The Smart Africa initiative last month set out to reduce call rates among member countries by implementing the One Africa Network

Participating countries, thus far, are; Ivory Coast, Gabon, Kenya, Mali, Uganda, Senegal, South Sudan, Chad, Rwanda and Burkina Faso.

(Source: **AllAfrica.com** – <http://allafrica.com/stories/201605180014.html>)

Funding gaps could force Kenya to withdraw troops from Somalia

22 May 2016

Michael Oduor

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta has warned that his country might withdraw its troops from Somalia if the international community does not plug funding gaps for the operation.

At a meeting with envoys from the UN Security Council on Friday, the President told the diplomats that funding cuts to the African Union Mission in Somalia will not be filled by participating countries.

Much of the funding has been coming from the European Union. But in January, the EU cut its budget to the African Union Mission in Somalia (Amisom) by 20 percent.

On January 15, dozens of heavily armed al-Shabab fighters assaulted a Kenyan-run military base for African Union peacekeepers in the southern Somali town of El-Ade, killing more than 100 Kenyan soldiers.

Kenya sent troops into Somalia in October 2011 in a bid to crack down on Al-Shabab, which had been coordinating cross-border kidnappings.

Kenya has contributed more than 3,600 troops to the 22,000-strong peacekeeping force in Somalia.

(Source: **Africanews.com** – <http://www.africanews.com/2016/05/22/funding-gaps-could-force-kenya-to-withdraw-troops-from-somalia/>)

Nigeria has largest number of enslaved people in sub-Saharan Africa — Report

31 May 2016

Nicholas Ibekwe

Nigeria has more enslaved people than any country in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Global Slavery Index 2016, released on Tuesday, has revealed.

The survey, conducted in 167 countries across the world by anti-modern slavery organisation, Walk Free Foundation, revealed that there are 875,500 people living in slavery in Nigeria.

The survey said of the 45.8 million people living in slavery in the world, 13.6 percent (6,228,800) are in Africa.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (873,100 people) and Ethiopia (411,600 people) have the second and third largest numbers of people living in slavery sub-Saharan Africa respectively.

According to the survey, slavery in Nigeria takes the form of forced labour in the domestic sector. Forced marriages also account for the second highest form of slavery in the country, the report revealed.

The report revealed that conflict, economic crisis and environmental disaster are the major enablers of modern slavery in Sub-Saharan Africa.

For instance, the survey showed that the Boko Haram conflict in the country's north east led to an increase of people living in slavery in Nigeria and other neighbouring countries like Chad and Cameroon.

The Islamist group has kidnapped thousands of people in the north east region most of them women and children who they use as sex slaves and put to forced labour.

“Modern slavery in the Sub-Sahara was enabled by economic conditions, violent conflict and territorial displacement, in addition to widespread humanitarian and environmental crises,” the report said.

“The escalation of violence in Nigeria following the Boko Haram conflict has had widespread effects on Nigeria and across the region, particularly in Cameroon where refugees fleeing conflict have sparked a humanitarian crisis.

“As of February 2016, 2.5 million people were displaced as a result of the conflict and 20,000 people have been killed. Conflict is also prevalent in Chad and Cameroon, where Boko Haram is also active in creating violent conflicts, and in recruiting young entrepreneurs through predatory loans.”

The report, which has been described as the most accurate up-to-date analysis of slavery in history, was arrived at after 42,000 interviews conducted in 53 languages, covering 44% of global population.

It revealed that there are 28 percent (10 million) more people in slavery across the world than previously estimated. Modern slavery, it noted, takes the form of human trafficking, forced labour, debt bondage, forced or servile marriage or commercial sexual exploitation. Globally, North Korea is the country with the “greatest prevalence of modern slavery, with 4.37% of its population estimated to be enslaved. It is also the country with the weakest government response in terms of actions taken to combat modern slavery,” the report showed.

In terms of absolute numbers, the report discovered that India has the highest with an estimated 18.35 million enslaved people, followed by China (3.39m), Pakistan (2.13m), Bangladesh (1.53m) and Uzbekistan (1.23m).

Combined, these five countries account for almost 58% of the world’s enslaved, or 26.6 million people.

Government response

Walk Free Foundation described the response of governments in Sub-Saharan Africa to modern slavery in their domains as “inadequate”. It said that reports on actions taken by governments to combat modern slavery do not exist.

“Government responses to modern slavery in Sub-Saharan Africa were characterised by inadequate victim protection and a lack of coordination between government agencies and NGO bodies.

“Reliable data on the steps taken by the government to combat modern slavery was unavailable.

“Despite 33 of the 45 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa running campaigns against known modern slavery risks since 2010, few have raised awareness on methods to identify victims.

“The only country to make this an annual practice was Burundi, whose Children and Ethics Brigade ran anti-trafficking awareness programmes from at least 2011 to 2014. While 28 countries provided a mechanism to report modern slavery, less than half covered all demographics and even fewer had evidence of translation services. Comprehensive reporting mechanisms were only provided in South Africa and Lesotho.”

(Source: **Premium Times** (Nigeria) –

<http://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/204415-nigeria-largest-number-enslaved-people-sub-saharan-africa-report.html>)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS SOURCES

Fadumo Dayib: Somalia's future president?

2 March 2016

Somalia could soon have its first female candidate for the upcoming presidential elections. She tells DW about her determination to enter the race and her plans to end Somalia's chronic insurgency.

Somali-born Fadumo Dayib has lived as a refugee with her four children in Finland since the early 1990s and worked as a nurse. But now she wants to return to her home country and make history. She wants to become Somalia's first elected female president who would put an end to the al-Shabab insurgency which is tying down 22,000 African Union peacekeepers. Dayib will have to submit her candidacy to parliament for approval in July and pay a deposit of approximately \$20,000 (18,000 euros).

But that would just be the beginning of a most arduous political journey. She has no illusions about the difficulties she faces in trying to realize her ambition to become president, especially as a woman in a traditional male-dominated society.

DW: Why are you motivated to run for the presidency?

Fadumo Dayib: I'm motivated to run for the presidency because I believe it's a moral obligation and a civic duty to us to prevent further bloodshed in Somalia. We have watched on the sidelines for more than 25 years and it is imperative that we step forward and take up this responsibility. The current and previous leaderships have failed us; we must take matters

in to our hands and that is why I'm running for presidency because I have capabilities, skills and motivation.

How confident are you in securing support from Somalia, a country that is not so keen on supporting women aiming for higher positions?

This is a global phenomenon. It's not only exclusive to Somalia. This is a male dominated society, but, nonetheless, there is a new generation that believes that gender of the person doesn't matter. What matters is what they can bring on the table, their competencies and their leadership skills rather than their gender. Yes, there is that challenge but we will make sure that is tackled so that women are not kept from running for public office. But I'm very confident of Somalis' support because they have reached a stage whereby they want a peaceful living, a capable leadership in place and their children having access to quality education.

You have received a series of death threats since you made the announcement. What's your reaction to that

I see this as something very strange but it also means that I must be doing the right thing for people to feel threatened and for them to threaten my life to say that 'we will kill you' if you step forward. They must have acknowledged what I can bring to the country. They see a capable leadership in me, a visionary leader, a servant leader. This is not what they have been used to and it scares them because the moment I come into office they know that their existence will be threatened.

The European Union (EU) is planning to pull back some of its support for the government. What do you think of this decision?

I think this decision probably comes because of increase of terror and violence in Somalia. The EU is looking at what it has been paying and the results that it is receiving. I think there is a valid reason for them to cut funding and I would advise the African Union (AU) to really revisit their strategy in Somalia. It's time for them to empower our national armed forces, to strengthen our security sector so that we can take the lead and so that way the resistance will be lessened.

Let's say that your dream to be president becomes true this year, what will you do first to turn around the security situation in the country?

If we are going to elect a new leadership this year using the 4.5 tribal power sharing system [the top clan leaders elect a president] then I'm not going to give it legitimacy by running for presidency. This is because it is a system that segregates the majority of Somalis. This is the system that is actually causing insecurity in Somalia. It is feeding terror inside the country. Whoever becomes president in Somalia through the 4.5 clan system is a highly incompetent and corrupt person. It's a person who has paid his way to get there.

As to the issue of tackling insecurity in Somalia; if I'm elected, the first thing I will do is to invite them [al-Shabab] to the table. This strategy of fighting them hasn't worked in Somalia because they address social and economic issues. They [al-Shabab] talk about the lack of quality education, the corrupt leadership; they do things that majority of Somalis would like to see addressed and which they feel helpless to do.

You sound like a courageous and brave woman; who inspires you?

I have been always inspired by my mother. I am where I am today because of her even though she died in 1995. She continues to inspire me although she has been dead for quite sometime.

Fadumo Dayib plans to run as a candidate in the Somali presidential election in August 2016.

Interview: Fred Muvunyi

(Source: **DW.com** – <http://www.dw.com/en/fadumo-dayib-somalias-future-president/a-19087145>)

Tunisia mounts charm offensive to save its battered tourism sector

10 March 2016

Maria Sheahan

Slim Zghal's three beach hotels in Tunisia had their best month ever in June last year. Now, two of them are closed and the other one is less than a third full, as tourists are scared off by concerns over security.

"With 30 pc you can't make any money. But if running hotels is your dream, it's not only about the money," he told Reuters at the ITB travel fair in Berlin on Thursday.

Three major militant attacks last year, including two on foreign visitors, as well as travel warnings by countries including Britain, have battered the tourism industry which accounts for 8 pc of Tunisia's economy.

The stakes are very high for the north African country, which witnessed the first of the Arab Spring uprisings in 2011 and is moving towards democracy while facing a growing threat from Islamic State.

At the world's biggest travel fair, it set out to deliver a upbeat message to reporters and travellers.

"Tunisia is safe," Tourism Minister Selma Elloumi Rekik said.

"Of course there are some places that are dangerous. But there are areas that are 100 pc safe."

The country has taken a number of security measures since last summer, including hiring a security consultant to draw up a handbook for tourism-related operations such as hotels and museums, which were the focus of its news conference at the fair.

It is cooperating more closely with Britain, France and Germany since a gunman killed 38 people, mostly Britons, in the beach resort of Sousse in June.

But highlighting the uphill battle for the Tunisian tourist industry, the Department of Foreign Affairs advises: "Irish citizens to avoid non-essential travel to Tunisia in light of increased security concerns."

Read More: Tunisia imposes nationwide curfew as youth unemployment protests escalate
This is echoed by the Foreign Office in London, which says: "The threat from terrorism in Tunisia is high. Further attacks remain highly likely, including against foreigners.

"It advises against all but essential travel to the country."

Zghal (52) has doubled the number of security guards in his hotel in Monastir, the only one of his three beach hotels that is still open, to 30 since the Sousse attack.

Alongside police, they patrol the hotel Royal Thalassa Monastir and the beach in uniform and plain clothes, guide guests through metal detectors at the hotel's only entrance and monitor security camera footage around the clock.

The government has been helping the tourism sector pay for the cost of tighter security, for instance by paying social security contributions for employees, and banks are giving hotels more time to pay back their loans.

But with guests staying away, hotels are still booking losses.

"I have other projects, so it's not so bad. But for someone who has only hotels it would be very difficult," said Zghal.

The number of tourist arrivals in Tunisia dropped 25 pc to 5.4 million last year, the Tourism Ministry's website showed.

That contributed to a slowdown in economic growth to 0.8 pc from 2.3 pc a year earlier.

(Source: **Independent** (Ireland) – <http://www.independent.ie/world-news/africa/tunisia-mounts-charm-offensive-to-save-its-battered-tourism-sector-34529603.html>)

A new oil discovery in Kenya is “very encouraging indeed” for its export ambitions

16 March 2016

Lily Kuo

British energy group Tullow Oil has discovered oil in Kenya's northern Kerio Valley, a finding that could mean the opening of a second oil basin as the East African country prepares to become an oil exporter for the first time.

Tullow said today (Mar. 16) that it had discovered “an active petroleum system with significant oil generation” across 700 meters in Cheptuket, south of the South Lokichar oil basin, which is already being developed by Tullow, its local partner Africa Oil, and AP Moller-Maersk of Denmark. Kenyan officials want to begin exporting some of the basin's estimated one billion barrels of oil by September.

“This is the most significant well result to date in Kenya outside the South Lokichar basin,” Angus McCoss, Tullow's exploration director, said in a statement. “Encountering strong oil shows across such a large interval is very encouraging indeed.” Last year, the company drilled similar “wildcat” wells (unexplored sites with no history of oil production) in northern Kenya and came up empty handed.

Kenya's dreams of becoming a major oil exporter have taken a knock recently, due to low prices and setbacks in the construction of a port and transport corridor in the remote northwest of the country, known as Lapsset (Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport).

Uganda, home to Africa's fourth-largest reserves of crude oil, had planned to share costs with Kenya to build a 1,500-km (930-mile) pipeline to the Kenyan port of Lamu. But the landlocked country decided last month to partner with Tanzania instead. Without Uganda's help, Tullow and its partners will have to spend an estimated \$4.5 billion to build the pipeline on their own.

For now, Kenyan officials are still trying to negotiate a deal with Uganda. In the meantime, the country's oil exports will be transported by trucks and trains.

(Source: **Quartz** – <http://qz.com/640595/a-new-oil-discovery-in-kenya-is-very-encouraging-indeed-for-its-export-ambitions/>)

Reasons to be worried... and cheerful about South Africa

5 April 2016

Jessica Hartogs

Along with Brazil, South Africa was only a few years ago hailed as an emerging market success story, with a relatively stable political and economic landscape. But there has been a sudden reversal of fortune for the two countries, according to Hermes Investment Management.

"Investors used to love it," said Elena Tedesco, emerging markets director at Hermes, about South Africa.

"Investors used to think that it's a country that is growing, where the middle class is emerging, where politics was relatively stable. Now things have changed a lot, growth is declining- this year it could be below 1 percent, and we're talking about a lot of corruption."

Holding parallels to the corruption scandal emerging out of Brazil, corruption allegations against South African president Jacob Zuma came to light last week after he was accused of using public funds to renovate his private country estate. Zuma has apologized for the use of the public resources but is refusing to reimburse some of the funds; the South African parliament this week is debating the motion to impeach Zuma.

The turmoil in the South African parliament is also being felt in the broader economy, with GDP growth of 0.6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2015 and unemployment at 24.5 percent, according to government statistics.

"The emerging middle class story is slowing down. There used to be a much stronger job formation... the consumer space used to be the place to go to in South Africa but now things are slightly worse," Tedesco told CNBC on Tuesday.

Although there are a lot of concerns in investing South Africa including the decline in mineral metal prices, power problems, issues about strikes, poor education levels, Tedesco believes that "bottom up it's still possible to find good companies in South Africa with good management and companies that can grow earnings even though GDP is not growing much."

(Source: **CNBC News** – <http://www.cnbc.com/2016/04/05/reasons-to-be-worried-and-cheerful-about-south-africa.html>)

A student's death inflames tension between Egypt and Italy

10 April 2016

Amro Hassan, Tom Kington

Initially, an Egyptian police official said Giulio Regeni's death was a result of a road accident.

On Feb. 3 the badly bruised body of Regeni, a 28-year-old doctoral student from Italy, was found on the side of a highway outside Cairo. Regeni, who had been researching labor unions, had disappeared Jan. 25, on the anniversary of the Tahrir Square protests that convulsed Egypt five years ago.

The road accident story was quickly swept aside. Both Egyptian and Italian forensics found that Regeni's body showed signs of torture that included beating and electric shocks to his genitals. His mother would later say at a news conference that she recognized her son only by the tip of his nose when she saw him in a Rome morgue.

Then in March, Egypt's Foreign Ministry announced a "breakthrough" in the case, saying Regeni was killed by a mob of criminals impersonating police officers to rob foreigners. According to the ministry, some of Regeni's belongings were found in the home of one of the gang members, who were all allegedly shot by Egyptian police in an exchange of gunfire.

The ministry's claim was widely ridiculed in Italy and tensions between the two countries grew, with Italy recalling its ambassador from Egypt for consultations over the matter. This followed the Italian Foreign Ministry's threat to adopt "immediate and proportional measures" if Egyptian investigators failed to unveil solid facts regarding the case.

On Saturday in Cairo, Egypt's deputy prosecutor refused to reveal details of the investigations into the death of Regeni.

"We won't be discussing any facts because investigations are still ongoing. According to the law, investigations should be kept in secrecy until the probe is officially concluded," deputy prosecutor Mustafa Soliman said.

Soliman was part of an Egyptian delegation that made a two-day trip to Rome on Thursday, during which the Egyptians informed Italian authorities of the latest developments in the case. At the meeting in Rome, the Egyptians stuck by claims that Mr. Regeni was kidnapped and killed by a gang of criminals in Cairo.

A friend of Regeni in Egypt, who asked for anonymity for fear of reprisal, said, "What we know for sure is that Giulio was arrested by a number of police officers ... when he was walking from his home to a nearby metro station to meet another friend downtown Cairo."

"Autopsy showed that his body was tortured to death in the same way many Egyptian dissidents usually face," he added.

In a statement Friday, Italian investigators said the Egyptians had handed over the cellphone records of two friends of Regeni who were in Cairo in January, and a crime scene report with photos of the roadside where his body was found.

The chief Italian prosecutor "reiterated his conviction that there are no elements to directly link the gang to the torture and death of Giulio Regeni," prosecutors said in a statement.

Responding to the scant information handed over, the Italian Foreign Ministry stated, "On the basis of these developments, an urgent evaluation is required of the most opportune initiatives to relaunch the commitment needed to find the truth about the barbarous killing of Regeni."

According to Soliman, Italian investigators have called on Egyptians to provide CCTV security footage of the street where Regeni disappeared, as well as records of all cellphone traffic in the area where Regeni is believed to have been taken and the area where his body was found.

"For technical reasons, CCTV footage is automatically erased. We even contacted the smart cameras' manufacturing company and they informed us that they cannot retrieve the erased footage, but we acquired a special software that might enable us to retain the footage," Soliman told reporters.

"The other [Italian] request — which is a point of disagreement — is the full phone call records ... such demand contradicts with Egypt's Constitution and Egyptian laws," he said.

Italian investigators are reportedly hoping to match phone records with the two locations to find a suspect who may have been involved in both seizing the student and dumping his body.

On Saturday, Italian press agency ANSA reported that chief Italian prosecutor Giuseppe Pignatone would send a new, formal request to Egypt for the cellphone records of 10 suspects.

The rapidity of the Italian response to the failed meetings points to Italy's determination to be firm.

Italy is a major commercial partner of Egypt, and Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has carefully built a relationship with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Sisi, but outraged Italian public opinion has left him little room for vacillation.

Italians have staged protests demanding justice for Regeni, who had been pursuing his doctorate at Cambridge University in England. The country has also been impressed by the courage of Regeni's mother, Paola Regeni, who said during a news conference last month that she will be able to cry for her son only after his killers are caught.

A friend of Regeni said Saturday that Italy's recall of its ambassador showed Rome was set to keep up the pressure on Egypt.

"Italy does not have a tradition of protecting its citizens abroad, so this is an important step," said Paz Zarate, a Chilean attorney who specializes in international law. "For the foreign minister to speak of countermeasures is a departure from tradition."

Zarate acted as a mentor to Regeni when they worked together at the Oxford Analytica think tank in England in 2014. She befriended him and encouraged him to study at Cambridge.

"If I can speak for his friends, we are outraged by the nonstop lies and coverups in the last two months in Egypt. It is really important that the West looks at Sisi's human rights record very closely."

In a report last week, the UK Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee singled out the Regeni case as an example of the British Foreign Office's scant regard for human rights around the world.

"We feel that overall the UK has not been supporting the Italian authorities as forcefully as [Regeni's] murder deserved," the report stated.

On March 10, the European Parliament voted for a resolution that called for Regeni's killers to be found and denounced alleged human rights violations in Egypt.

The Regeni case has highlighted criticism of Egypt's human rights record under Sisi's rule. Thousands of political dissidents are jailed while hundreds have reportedly died in police custody or faced forced disappearances since the army-led ouster of former President Mohamed Morsi in 2013.

Hassan and Kington are special correspondents. Hassan reported from Cairo and Kington from Rome.

(Source: **LA Times** – <http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-egypt-italy-student-20160410-story.html>)

U.S. Senators Threaten U.N. Over Sex Abuse by Peacekeepers

13 April 2016

Somini Sengupta

UNITED NATIONS — Lawmakers on Wednesday used a rare hearing in the United States Senate to excoriate the United Nations secretary general for what they called his failure to stanch sexual abuse by his agency's peacekeepers and threatened to withhold crucial funding

not only for the United Nations, but also bilateral aid for countries that fail to hold their soldiers accountable.

The United States is the largest single donor to peacekeeping operations, though not many of its soldiers and police serve under United Nations command. The congressional scrutiny came as the United Nations has been roiled by allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by its blue-helmeted troops, particularly in the Central African Republic.

The allegations emerged a year ago against French soldiers sent to quell the violence in the fragile former French colony. They were accused of sexually abusing children in exchange for food. The allegations spread to soldiers from other countries, serving under the United Nations flag, and they prompted the secretary general, Ban Ki-moon, to start naming countries that fail to investigate and prosecute misconduct by their troops.

The scandal also prompted him, for the first time, to throw out of peacekeeping an entire battalion from the Democratic Republic of Congo. That nation's army has had a long record of using rape as a weapon of war in its own internal conflicts, and several senior United Nations officials had warned against using its armed forces at all.

The Senate hearings displayed the challenge that the Obama administration faces — on one hand championing peacekeeping, and on the other needing to confront misconduct in the missions that American taxpayers help pay for.

Senator Bob Corker, the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, wasted no time in voicing his contempt for the United Nations. He said if United Nations peacekeepers were to be sent to his hometown, North Chattanooga, Tenn., he would rush home immediately to protect his wife. "I would drop what I was doing," he said. "I would take the next flight home."

He went on to ask, rhetorically, whether civilians in the Central African Republic would not prefer to rout all the peacekeepers. He repeatedly wanted to know which countries had the worst offenders in their armies. He also called Mr. Ban "inept."

Isobel Coleman, an American envoy who serves as the American mission's chief liaison to United Nations peacekeeping operations, said civilians in the Central African Republic had told her that they wanted justice, not a wholesale exit of the troops. Ms. Coleman also said it was difficult to pinpoint one or two offenders among troop-contributing countries. France, she pointed out, has a professional army, but faces some of the most serious allegations.

Several senators, including Jeanne Shaheen, Democrat of New Hampshire, wanted to know if the United States had withheld funds from specific countries over sexual abuse allegations. State Department officials said they were unaware of any such wholesale withholding of aid.

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin, Democrat of Maryland, called for ways to guarantee better oversight over how countries ensure accountability. Or else, he said, Congress would come up with an oversight plan that the administration would probably not like.

Stéphane Dujarric, a United Nations spokesman, said Mr. Ban was “determined to continue to shine a spotlight on the scourge of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers and hold those responsible accountable,” but that it was ultimately up to countries to try their own citizens.

He added: “Member states are the only ones who have the power to swiftly bring to justice those who have committed crimes and to impose the strongest possible disciplinary and criminal sanctions.”

The hearings came on the same day that an advocacy group, Code Blue, said that additional sexual abuse allegations had come to light in Central African Republic. Mr. Dujarric said United Nations investigators were looking into the latest allegations, but that he could not confirm the number of new cases.

(Source: **The New York Times** – http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/14/world/africa/us-senators-threaten-un-over-sex-abuse-by-peacekeepers.html?_r=0)

Deadly Ethnic Strife Convulses Ethiopia-South Sudan Border

25 April 2016

Jacey Fortin

GAMBELA, Ethiopia — After angry mobs began targeting his community, Simon Thion, 29, felt caught in the middle.

Mr. Simon, an Ethiopian who is part of the Nuer ethnic group, went to a hospital in the western town of Gambela recently to visit his nephew, who was injured when members of the Murle ethnic group crossed into Ethiopia from South Sudan to steal cows and kill hundreds of Nuer villagers.

Now, he is afraid to leave the hospital. In the regional capital where he lives, he says, Nuer are targeted by other Ethiopians. “If I leave this compound, highlanders will come and kill me,” he said.

Highlanders is a term used to describe Ethiopians who trace their heritage to the country’s central regions, including the capital, Addis Ababa.

Tensions between Nuer and highlander Ethiopians in the Gambela region have been relatively low, but that changed this month when a highlander, a contracted driver for a nonprofit group, was accused of a hit-and-run that killed two children in a predominantly Nuer refugee camp near the town of Gambela.

Fury over the deaths incited a surge of retaliatory violence, in which Nuer killed about 10 highlanders around the camp.

Several highlanders who saw the bodies at a hospital said the killings were gruesome, and in recent days hundreds of them have joined with sympathetic members of the Anuak ethnic group, who say they are indigenous to Gambela, to demonstrate against Nuer, whom they consider intruders.

In South Sudan, a civil war that began in December 2013 has killed tens of thousands of people and displaced more than two million. More than 220,000 South Sudanese refugees and other asylum seekers, the vast majority of them Nuer, have spilled into crowded camps in the Gambela region of Ethiopia since then, tilting the demographic balance in an area where antagonisms between the Nuer and Anuak groups have long simmered.

At least one Nuer has been killed in the last few days and one wounded, according to Gatluak Tut Khot, the regional president of Gambela. Nuer in the area said the death toll was as high as 15.

The clashes occurred days after many Ethiopians united around the cause of rescuing an estimated 102 Nuer children kidnapped on April 15 by Murle raiders, who killed an estimated 208 Nuer Ethiopians. Last week, the government declared two days of mourning for those who were killed.

Melkamu Assefa, 20, a highlander in the town of Gambela, said he no longer sympathized with those victims. He expressed anger about the deaths of the highlanders near the refugee camp, and condoned the killings of Nuer, partly because he said the Nuer would like the Gambela region to be a part of South Sudan.

Tensions are rising at a pivotal moment. For a week, Riek Machar, South Sudan's opposition leader and a former vice president, who is Nuer, has been engaged in tense negotiations with officials in the country's capital, Juba. Mr. Machar's aim is to fly there from Gambela Airport to be reinstated as a deputy to his rival, President Salva Kiir, as part of a peace deal.

But the highlanders demonstrating against Nuer in Gambela want little to do with South Sudanese politics. The recent clashes are about Ethiopian nationalism, Mr. Melkamu said. "In the Nuer part of town, they once burned an Ethiopian flag and raised the South Sudanese flag instead," he said, adding that he supported any efforts to drive all Nuer — refugees or not — out of town.

Standing inside the hospital gates, Mr. Simon said, "They aren't differentiating between Nuer who are Ethiopian citizens and those who are not."

He added, "Of course I am afraid."

(Source: **The New York Times** – <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/26/world/africa/ethiopia-south-sudan-nuer-highlander.html>)

South Sudan government, rebels form transitional coalition

29 April 2016

Jason Patinkin

Ex-rebels have been included in cabinet as part of peace deal to govern for 30 months leading up to new elections.

JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN—South Sudan’s leaders have formed a transitional coalition government bringing together politicians from the government and the armed opposition who have been at war for two and a half years.

The new government is led by President Salva Kiir and former rebel leader Riek Machar, who returned to the capital Juba on Tuesday to take up the post of first vice-president.

Kiir named 16 of the new government’s 30 cabinet ministers while Machar nominated 10. Four others were selected by political groups outside Kiir and Machar’s factions.

The government, which has a 30-month mandate culminating in fresh elections, has been formed according to a peace deal signed by Kiir and Machar last August under intense pressure from the international community.

At the cabinet’s first meeting Friday, Kiir appealed to foreign nations to give money to the new government. South Sudan’s government faces a severe budget shortfall as a result of the war and falling oil prices.

“The people who were saying that you cannot be supported (with foreign aid) unless you form the transitional government of national unity, if they have agents here, they should report back to them that the government has been established,” Kiir said.

Machar said the new government must deal with violence which continues despite the peace deal.

“If our people feel in Juba that they can’t walk by night, even if we preach peace to them, they say, ‘we don’t see it,’ ” he said.

The peace deal also calls for unrestricted delivery of humanitarian relief and the release of political prisoners.

Prominent detainee Joseph Bakosoro, a former governor seen as critical of Kiir’s government, was freed on Wednesday after over four months’ imprisonment.

Tens of thousands were killed in South Sudan’s civil war since 2013 after a falling out between Kiir and Machar.

(Source: **The Toronto Star** – <https://www.thestar.com/news/world/2016/04/29/sudan-government-rebels-form-transitional-coalition.html>)

What Will Interventions Look Like After Libya?

3 May 2016

Priyanka Boghani

A little more than five years ago, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1973, authorizing all necessary measures to protect Libyan civilians as Muammar Qaddafi responded to anti-government protests with threats calling demonstrators “rats” and “cockroaches.” Within months, the Libyan dictator who ruled the country for more than four decades would be overthrown by rebels backed by NATO-led airstrikes.

Today, life in Libya remains dangerous and uncertain for many. Political turmoil and fighting between competing militias sparked a fractious civil war in 2014, creating a power vacuum that has allowed ISIS to establish its biggest base outside Iraq and Syria.

The chaos in Libya has raised the question of whether the 2011 NATO intervention was a mistake. President Barack Obama told *The Atlantic* succinctly, “It didn’t work,” in an interview published in April.

“We actually executed this plan as well as I could have expected: We got a U.N. mandate, we built a coalition, it cost us \$1 billion — which, when it comes to military operations, is very cheap,” Obama told *The Atlantic*. “We averted large-scale civilian casualties, we prevented what almost surely would have been a prolonged and bloody civil conflict. And despite all that, Libya is a mess.”

So where did Libya go wrong?

Foreign policy experts point to a myriad of causes, chief among them the lack of a plan for the day after Qaddafi’s fall and Libya dropping off the list of priorities for the United States and its NATO allies.

“Once Qaddafi was gone, essentially the United States took its eyes off the ball,” said Marina Ottaway, a senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center who focuses on political transformations in Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans. “The Libyans at the time were saying the right things, about setting up a constituent assembly, elections, etc., so that we kind of lulled ourselves into believing that things were going in the right direction.”

Because of its oil wealth, its small population and lack of deep sectarian divides, Libya was viewed by some as a simpler intervention than Iraq or Syria. But Obama would concede, “The degree of tribal division in Libya was greater than our analysts had expected.”

Believing Libya’s political elite when they said the population was united behind them was another mistake, according to Karim Mezran, a resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council’s Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East.

The international community failed to understand that Qaddafi still enjoyed support in Libya, said Mezran, who noted that by the time the West intervened, the nation was already in civil war, not a revolution.

“Immediately after the fall of the regime, the West should have pushed the Libyan elite to start a program of national reconciliation and dialogue,” Mezran said. “Instead, there was a rush to elections, which compounded the divisions in the country, creating the fragmentation that then evolved into the polarization of 2014.”

Shadi Hamid, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, pointed to two specific factors that exacerbated the political dysfunction: an electoral system that was more likely to encourage tribal and geographic divisions, and a political isolation law that excluded anyone from Qaddafi’s regime from government.

“Those types of exclusionary laws aren’t productive at sensitive periods of time when you need to ensure that as many Libyans as possible have a stake in the political process,” Hamid said. A law that excluded even those who eventually turned against Qaddafi encouraged people to turn against the system, he said. “In other words, people have an incentive to undermine the system because they’re not being included.”

Within that political climate, Libya has given rise to two rival governments since 2014 — each of which has turned to local militias for protection and influence.

The General National Congress, based in the capital of Tripoli, is loosely aligned with a conglomeration of Islamist militias and revolutionaries called “Libya Dawn.” The House of Representatives, based in Tobruk, has aligned itself with the forces of Khalifa Haftar, a former general in Libya’s army who fell out with Qaddafi before the 2011 uprising. Some have accused Haftar of trying to become Libya’s next dictator, a charge he denies.

The proliferation of local militias, which were never disarmed and demobilized in the aftermath of Qaddafi’s overthrow, highlights another failure of the intervention, experts said.

Even before political dysfunction gave Libya competing parliaments, the government began paying the militias, giving them little incentive to lay down arms. “They thought it was more secure to buy them out,” Mezran said, adding that militia leaders would often inflate the number of fighters they had in order to receive salaries for non-existent fighters. “This allowed for the entrenchment of the interests of these militias into continuing to maintain their power, their military strength, rather than dissolving into a new national army.”

The militias arose independent of the political establishment in Libya, and used their military strength to exert influence over lawmakers while foiling attempts to rebuild a national army, experts said.

“From the beginning, the government didn’t have much power — the power was in the hands of the militias,” Ottaway said.

Asked what the international community could have done about the militias, Ottaway said, “It would have meant a large-scale operation to dismantle the militias, and that was certainly not in Obama’s playbook. It was not in the playbook of any European country.”

“Nobody wanted to own that country,” she said, noting that long-term engagement is also no guarantee of success. Just look at Afghanistan and Iraq, said Ottaway.

Rethinking Intervention

In the U.S., the lessons of Afghanistan and Iraq, coupled with ongoing violence in Libya and Syria, have led to a rethink of when — or even if — such interventions are worth the cost.

The Libya intervention has come up repeatedly in the 2016 election. Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton has been on the defensive about her role in advocating for U.S. involvement during her time as secretary of state. Clinton has called the situation in Libya “deeply regrettable,” but said that without intervention “we would be looking at something resembling much more what we see in Syria now.” Her Democratic rival, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has criticized the decision, telling *The Guardian* in December, “She was proud to have been involved in regime change in Libya ... without worrying, I think, about what happened the day after and the kind of instability and the rise of ISIS that we have seen in Libya.”

The leading contender for the GOP nomination, Donald Trump, has voiced an isolationist view, saying in January, “If we would have never done anything in the Middle East, we would have a much safer world right now.”

Whichever candidate wins the White House, they’ll be inheriting a foreign policy that has turned more cautious about interventions in recent years. As a president elected on a platform of ending U.S. military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, Obama famously pulled back from airstrikes against the Assad regime in Syria in 2013. The U.S. has since largely stayed on the periphery of Syria’s war, but with the help of allies, it has launched targeted attacks against ISIS.

In Libya, after taking the lead in the initial air campaign against Qaddafi starting in March 2011, the U.S. pulled back to a largely supportive role, leaving control of the operation to allies in NATO — primarily France and Great Britain. This led to criticism that the administration was “leading from behind.” But it’s in line with Obama’s belief that allies should share the burden or take on more responsibility in their regions. He has talked about “free riders,” and called on America’s allies to do their share.

But some foreign policy experts point out that the U.S. and its allies often have divergent interests. In the case of Libya, regional powers such as Qatar, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates all backed opposing sides in the conflict, arming either the Islamist militias or the forces of Gen. Haftar.

“If there’s any big lesson from the last eight years, it’s that we don’t always want our allies to be more active or involved,” according to Hamid, author of *Islamic Exceptionalism: How the Struggle Over Islam is Reshaping the World*. “We don’t always want them to take responsibility for their own regions, because often times our allies, especially those that aren’t democratic — that would include most of our allies in the Middle East — they don’t share our interests and values nearly as much as we would like.”

Hamid observed that the United States' European allies, even if they often do share the U.S.' values and interests, may not feel fully committed to a task if America doesn't have any "skin in the game."

However, Ottaway saw more of a catch-22 when it comes to the U.S. and interventions.

"It's true no matter what we've done in the Middle East we've made a mess recently, or a mess has ensued," she said. "The problem is that the United States has created expectations over the years that it can solve all problems. So if the problems are not solved, then it becomes the fault of the United States."

And Libya — emerging from four decades under dictatorship with no political institutions, no prior experiments with democracy, with a weak national identity and almost no civil society — posed a most unique problem. Given what Libya was emerging from, Mezran said, "how can you demand that the population hold itself to standards that are hard for any country under the best possible conditions?"

(Source: **PBS** – <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/what-will-interventions-look-like-after-libya/>)

Gambia Opposition Seeks International Help After Leader Denied Bail

6 May 2016

James Butty

The deputy president of Gambia's main opposition United Democratic Party (UDP) is appealing to the international community for help in seeking the release of party leader Ousaniou Darboe.

Darboe and 38 other opposition members were arrested last month and charged with conspiracy to commit a felony. They had previously been charged with unlawful assembly, rioting and incitement to violence after they held a protest rally demanding political reforms and demonstrated against the death of UDP official Solo Sandeng, who died while in custody.

People with a white paper covering their mouth and a t-shirt reading "enough is enough" demonstrate in Dakar on April 22, 2016, against the alleged human rights violations in Gambia.

People with a white paper covering their mouth and a t-shirt reading "enough is enough" demonstrate in Dakar on April 22, 2016, against the alleged human rights violations in Gambia.

A judge on Thursday denied bail for Darboe and the others.

"I would like for the international community to assist us as soon as possible because there is no justice in this country," said Mariam Secka, UDP deputy secretary general.

Secka said her party has no confidence in the Gambian legal system because it answers mostly to President Yahya Jammeh.

Gambia will hold national elections in December this year, and Secka said the party is concerned Darboe's arrest will have a political impact.

"My party is worried because they can keep Mr. Darboe and some members of his team until the election is over, and that wouldn't be to our advantage," she said.

Denied bail

During Thursday's court appearance, Darboe was denied bail, which Secka said is unusual because defendants are entitled to bail in Gambian courts.

Gambia Information Minister Sheriff Bojang told VOA that Darboe and the others violated Gambia's Public Order Act, which forbids acts such as street protests and meetings without first receiving permission from the police.

But Secka said Darboe, a seasoned lawyer, did not break any law: "Mr. Darboe is a legal man, he knows what is right and he knows the constitution."

An Amnesty International official told VOA this month that Darboe and the other jailed opposition members are prisoners of conscience and should be released because they were simply expressing their political opinion as guaranteed under the Gambian constitution.

Darboe and the other opposition members are scheduled to appear in court again Monday.

(Source: **Voice of America** – <http://www.voanews.com/content/gambia-opposition-seeks-international-help-after-leader-denied-bail/3318104.html>)

Morocco jails brother of alleged Paris attacks leader

7 May 2016

A Moroccan court has sentenced the younger brother of suspected Paris attacks ringleader Abdelhamid Abaaoud to two years in prison on charges including justifying terrorism, state media reported.

According to his lawyer, Yassine Abaaoud was unaware of the activities of his brother, who was killed in a French police raid just days after the November 13 attacks that killed 130 people in Paris.

Moroccan intelligence helped put French investigators on the trail of Abdelhamid Abaaoud, a 28-year-old Belgian of Moroccan origin who had appeared in grisly Islamic State group videos and was linked to a series of plots in Europe.

Five other defendants were sentenced to between two and five years in prison on separate terrorism related cases by the same court in Rabat's twin city Sale on Thursday, the MAP state news agency reported.

Morocco, on guard against deadly attacks like those seen in Tunisia, says it has broken up 152 "terrorist cells" since 2002, including 31 with ties to jihadists in Iraq and Syria since 2013.

(Source: **The Local** (France) – <http://www.thelocal.fr/20160507/morocco-jails-brother-of-presumed-paris-attacks-ringleader>)

Africa urged to dismantle trade, movement barriers to spur growth

13 May 2016

Duncan Miriri, Clement Uwiringiyimana

KIGALI (Reuters) - African economies must reduce trade barriers and make it easier for people and goods to cross borders to boost growth in the face of headwinds from a commodity price drop, African officials and delegates at the World Economic Forum in Rwanda said.

The International Monetary Fund said average growth in sub-Saharan Africa would fall to its lowest in nearly two decades this year, at 3 percent, with commodity exporters struggling and government finances coming under pressure.

"As we develop the regional markets in Africa, we'll reduce the susceptibility of Africa to these global commodity price shocks," African Development Bank (AfDB) President Akinwumi Adesina told a news conference in the Rwandan capital Kigali.

Trade between African nations accounted for just 11 percent of total transactions, compared with Asia where regional trade accounted for 40 percent and Europe where it was 70 percent.

Adesina said there were some positive signs - Africa-to-Africa investment had climbed, rising from \$10 billion to \$50 billion a year - although he didn't give a time frame.

But he said high tariffs and non-tariff barriers such as poor roads, railways and ports hindered progress.

"If there were a real willingness to dismantle trade barriers, you could get growth gains regardless of what was happening in the rest of the world because of broader markets," said Razia Khan, Africa economist at Standard Chartered Bank.

While there are several trading blocs in Africa, few have acted swiftly to completely dismantle barriers to commerce, though the six-member East African Community has moved further than most to ease trade across borders. The EAC comprises Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and, most lately, South Sudan.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta said slower growth on the continent should spur closer regional trade relations. "It is a wake-up call," he said.

Like several other African nations, Kenya is building a new railway to speed up transport links between the capital Nairobi and its main port Mombasa. The line will extend to neighbouring Uganda, and could eventually be connected to Rwanda.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said in Kampala on Thursday that the new rail link would cut the cost of transporting a container from Kenya's coast to his landlocked country from \$3,500 to \$1,500, reduce the time it took from three days to one, and prevent roads being worn out by trucks.

Adesina said simple problems persisted, citing what he said were private comments made to him by an African billionaire investor who said he often had trouble visiting African states.

"(If) you don't let your richest African into the country just because of a problem with a visa, that just tells you how difficult that issue is," he said.

(Writing by Duncan Miriri; Editing by Edmund Blair/Mark Heinrich)

(Source: **Reuters Africa** – <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKCN0Y4244>)

He left his mom in Africa for high school in America. Four years later, his class paid to bring her to graduation.

27 May 2016

Colby Itkowitz

Felicia Ikpum kissed her only child goodbye four years ago, sending him off to America for a chance at a better life.

Already 6-foot-7 at 14 years old, Michael Tertsea had an opportunity to receive an education and play basketball at a Catholic high school in Maryland. But it meant leaving his village in Nigeria where, for as long as he could remember, his mom was his whole world. He barely remembers his father, who abandoned them when he was about 5 years old.

Four years later, Tertsea, now 6-foot-10, is graduating Saturday and has a full ride to play Division 1 basketball at the University of Rhode Island. He dreams that one day he'll make it to the National Basketball Association and be able to bring his mother to the United States.

But his senior classmates at the John Carroll School, who call him a "gentle giant," didn't want Tertsea to have to wait to get to the NBA to see his mother again. So they decided to raise the money among themselves to fly her to United States to see Tertsea graduate.

It was meant to be a surprise, but Ikpum couldn't keep the secret and let slip on one of their weekly phone calls. Still, Tertsea didn't quite believe it until he stood at the Baltimore-

Washington International Marshall Airport arrivals gate last Friday and embraced her for the first time in four years.

She looked him up — way up — and down. She said she barely recognized her son who left her as a boy and stood in front of her as a man.

“I was so happy to see her,” Tertsea said. “I’ve changed a lot. . . . she’s been amazed at the person I’ve become.”

Tertsea says he didn’t grow up poor, but there were nights when his mother went to bed hungry because there wasn’t enough food for both of them. Electricity or running water in the village was spotty. But his mother had a steady job at an immigration office that gave her a window into the possibilities for her son. A cousin already living in the United States found him the opportunity at John Carroll.

John Carroll has an international student program that recruits from all around the world. About 10 percent of its student body is international — a miniature melting pot in Bel Air, Md.

Encouraging her son to pursue an education in the United States was “the most difficult decision I ever made in my life,” Ikpum said. But also the most rewarding.

Tertsea lived his first year in the school’s dormitory, but has been with a host family for the past three years. He has come to love pizza — a food once as foreign to him as his new home. He loves “The Big Bang Theory.” And of course, playing basketball.

His high school coach, Tony Martin, said even playing in an indoor gymnasium — rather than a makeshift outdoor court — was a cultural adjustment. But Tertsea has thrived, he said.

“When Mike arrived he was very introverted, shy and lacked self confidence,” Martin said. “Over the four years you’ve seen him grow into a leader in the community and certainly within our basketball program. Often I’d see him with his arm around one of the students, being a mentor.”

Martin, who has coached there for 11 years, has become like a father to Tertsea. Martin also grew up never knowing his father, so he fills that void for his fatherless players.

“He and I bonded on that front, and we’ll have a lifelong relationship,” Martin said.

In February, Tertsea was profiled by the student newspaper. It mentioned that Tertsea hadn’t seen his mom since he’d come to the United States. In a senior class group chat, the students decided they wanted to collect money to pay for her to come to graduation. They pulled together \$1,600, while a school coordinator worked to ensure Ikpum could get a visa in time. When it was confirmed, the faculty chipped in another \$500 to pay for the trip.

Ikpum traveled nearly 12 hours to Lagos where she got on a flight — her first time on an airplane — to London and then from London to Baltimore.

Since she has arrived, Tertsea said his mom has been in awe of the paved highways and his computerized school. She tried pasta for the first time. She was especially impressed with the supermarket and its abundance of food. After graduation and before she returns to Nigeria next week, he plans to take her to Washington to see the monuments and the White House. They plan to go to Ocean City, Md., for the boardwalk and beach and to Baltimore to see the National Aquarium.

Tertsea was amazed at how his friends made the reunion happen. For him, it's the best part about coming to the United States — “seeing a lot of people who show love and care towards me,” he said, “makes me feel at home.”

“He's so humble and appreciative. Even though he didn't have his mom with him, he feels like he has a family here,” said Kishan Patel, a senior who wrote the story about Tertsea.

His mom, who already attended a Baccalaureate Mass on Wednesday for seniors and their families, said it will “feel great” to see her son graduate — all of her dreams for him coming true.

“I think America is great, with wonderful people,” she said. “No wonder everybody wants to come here. And I thank the people that have made it possible for me to be in this wonderful place.”

(Source: **The Washington Post** – <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/inspired-life/wp/2016/05/27/seniors-collect-money-to-fly-nigerian-mom-to-see-her-son-graduate-from-maryland-high-school/>)

TURKISH NEWS SOURCES

Concrete and cement have entered the Ivory Coast (op-ed)

1 March 2016

Vahap Munyar

After the plane taking President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, his wife Emine Erdoğan, and the delegation accompanying them to Abidjan (in the the Ivory Coast) took off, I began reading the travel memo prepared by the Office of the Presidency.

From the program prepared for the trip to Abidjan, a few points caught my interest:

- The opening of an Inci Group and Sanko Holding concrete factory. At the dinner given in Erdoğan's honor by the Ivory Coast's president, Alassane Dramane Ouattara, I saw the following individuals together: Sanko Holding's honorary president, Abdulkadir Konukoğlu; the same company's Board of Directors president, Zeki

Konukoğlu; and the president of Gaziantep's Chamber of Industry, Adil Konukoğlu. I asked the following to Abdulkadir Konukoğlu:

- How did the concrete factory's opening in the Ivory Coast come about? The answer: Inci Group, the Board of Directors of which Halit Inci is president, started taking steps toward the opening of the plant 3 to 4 years ago. We also started our current investment in order to open the door to exporting cement from Turkey.
- How much is the investment? The answer: 20 million USD. The head of security affiliated with the United Nations in Abidjan, Mr. Aydın Bedirhan, declared that he would help us, and he connected us with Limak Holding, another company with investment information. I talked with the president of the Board of Directors of Limak Holding, Nihat Özdemir, and he briefed me on the opportunities. Afterwards, we laid the foundation for a cement manufacturing site approximately 20 km away from Abidjan near a port.

Mr. Konukoğlu continued by describing that these steps toward building this foundation were specified at a celebration joined by the Ivory Coast's Prime Minister, Daniel Kablan Duncan. He clarified that the investment would come to 58 million Euros. President Erdoğan also emphasized the trade volume between Turkey and the Ivory Coast, noting that there are 116 million USD in exports.

Erdoğan noted that "Turkey is pursuing 274 million USD in imports. We want to go beyond 1 billion USD in trade volume by 2020. Problems close to our region have halted the activities of the Turkish business world with relation to distant markets, including Sub-Saharan Africa. However, preliminary indications show that we will be able to reach our goal.

150 businessmen accompanied the delegation

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan pointed the following out to President Ouattara: 150 businessmen from Turkey had joined the delegation with him.

The Foreign Economic Relations Board, which is led by Ömer Cihad Vardan, took a group of business professionals on the trip, among whom were the following:

Halim Mete, Zekeriye Mete, Hidayet Kadiroğlu, Mithat Yenigün, İbrahim Çağlar, Davut Doğan, Abdullah Tivnikli, Sultan Tepe, Oğuz Satıcı, Nail Olpak, Çamur Ali Kopuz, Ceyda Erem, Süleyman Kocasert, Mustafa Latif Topbaş, Sami Boydak, Selahattin Düzbasan, Eyüp Yiğit, Ruşen Çetin, Melkan Gürsel Tabanlıoğlu, Selim Bora, Alp Taşkent, Mustafa Karakuş.

A convention center is being recommended for Abidjan

I was curious when I saw Summa Construction's Board of Directors president, Selim Bora, with a file in his hands in the lobby of our hotel in Abidjan. What was the reason for his being there? And what was in the folder? His answer: We presented a proposal for a convention center in Abidjan. We are known in Africa for the convention center we have constructed.

I then asked if the architectural project also belongs to Tabanođlu. He said yes, but that they are still in preliminary discussions.

STFA is competing for a 450 million USD bridge

In Abidjan, I asked STFA Group Board of Directors member Alp Tařkent the following:

- Do you plan to do business in the Ivory Coast? His answer: We are in the final parts of a bid for a bridge.

- How much is this project? His answer: 450 million USD...

This article was translated from Turkish by Audrey Williams.

(Source: **Hurriyet** – http://sosyal.hurriyet.com.tr/yazar/vahap-munyar_44/fildisi-sahiline-beton-ve-cimento-ile-girdiler_40061972)

UN extends mission in Libya

16 March 2016

The United Nations Security Council decided on extending the U.N. Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) until June 15 to help the country to establish a government.

The resolution requested U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to report to the Security Council on the implementation of this resolution at least every 60 days.

UNSMIL is a special political mission established in 2011 by the Security Council in its resolution at the request of the Libyan authorities following six months of armed conflict.

Libya has remained in a state of turmoil since 2011, when a bloody rebellion ended with the fall and death of longtime strongman Moammar Gadhafi.

Since then, the country's stark political divisions have yielded two rival seats of government, the eastern House of Representatives (HOR) in Tobruk and the rival General National Congress (GNC) in Tripoli, each of which has its own military capacity and legislative assembly.

Libya's U.N.-backed Presidential Council called on the country's institutions March 12 to begin a transfer of authority to a unity government, and appealed to the international community to stop dealing with any rival powers.

Meanwhile, the British Defense Ministry said in a statement that it has no plans to extend bombing or send troops to Libya after a committee of lawmakers said the nation could deploy a force of 1,000, according to AFP.

The House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee had said that Britain could be part of a 6,000-strong international force in Libya.

Defense Secretary Michael Fallon was expected to agree Britain's contribution to the force at a conference in Europe this week, the committee added.

But a government spokeswoman said that the Foreign Affairs Committee was "wrong on a number of counts."

"There are no plans to extend airstrikes to Libya nor are there plans to send British troops to provide security on the ground in Libya," the spokeswoman said on March 15.

"It is therefore also wrong to suggest the Defense Secretary will agree any U.K. contribution this week."

Western countries have agreed that action is needed to dislodge Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) from Libya but world powers say they want a national unity government to request help before formally intervening.

(Source: **Hurriyet Daily News** – <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/un-extends-mission-in-libya.aspx?pageID=238&nID=96534&NewsCatID=357>)

2 Turks among 6 killed, 5 also wounded in gun attack in Somalia's capital

31 March 2016

Six people, including two Turkish nationals, were killed when unidentified gunmen attacked a minibus carrying workers to a Turkish-run hospital in the Somali capital Mogadishu on Wednesday, police said.

The gunmen, who were in a car, opened fire at the minibus as it passed in Mogadishu's Hodan district.

"Gunmen opened fire on minibus. Two Turkish and four Somalis died. Five Turks and a Kenyan were also injured," Ali Ahmed, a police officer at Hodan district police station, told Reuters.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry condemned the "vicious" attack in Mogadishu in a statement, saying its embassy is monitoring the conditions of a number of Turkish citizens who were also in the vehicle.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, and al Shabaab, the Somali militant group aligned to al Qaeda, was not immediately available for comment.

(Source: **Daily Sabah** – <http://www.dailysabah.com/africa/2016/03/31/2-turks-among-6-killed-5-also-wounded-in-gun-attack-in-somalias-capital>)

AA, TIKA and UNESCO plan journalism training program

10 May 2016

Project aims to train journalists from Turkey and East Africa

ANKARA – Anadolu Agency, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and UNESCO are planning a project to train Turkish and East African journalists.

The project is titled "Covering Migrations and Refugees: Strengthening media's capacities."

UNESCO's International Program for Development of Communication President Albana Shala and European Federation of Journalists President Mogens Blicher Bjerregard visited AA headquarters in Ankara Tuesday to discuss the project.

AA News Academy Coordinator Umit Sonmez said in the meeting: "I believe that we will empower [journalists through] this program because the target region of the program is the hinterland of Turkish geography."

Recalling AA's long-standing cooperation with TIKA, Sonmez said: "We also believe that TIKA will make great contributions to this program; we have had several cooperation with TIKA in the field of journalism training."

The project aims to benefit Turkey and East African countries by training their journalists, which will continue for at least six months.

The project funding will cover training activities, accommodation and travel expenses of 20 to 30 East African journalists, two to three international journalist trainers and 10 Turkish journalists.

Shala noted that Turkey was hosting more than 2.5 million refugees. "We attach importance to the news about the refugees in the project.

"We want Turkish and East African journalists to take advantage of Turkey and Europe's experiences on refugees" she said.

Bjerregard said they have discussed how to identify journalists for the program with TIKA representatives. "We should also identify journalists among the refugees," he said.

Besides AA and TIKA, Turkey's Directorate of Press and Information, some media and refugee organizations will also contribute to the project.

(Source: **Anadolu Agency** – <http://aa.com.tr/en/corporate-news/aa-tika-and-unesco-plan-journalism-training-program/569978>)

Turkey training Ugandan police in riot management

19 May 2016

Ahead of a visit to the country by Turkey's president, Turkish police are conducting the latest in a series of professional development training courses for Ugandan riot police.

Speaking to Anadolu Agency, John Kamyua, the Ugandan national police's commissioner for human resource development and training, said the country's "field force personnel officers are being trained to build their capacity in different areas, based on the principles of riot control."

Turkish Special Forces trainers are conducting two courses over two weeks on the basics of riot control and techniques for using anti-riot equipment.

"The first team of 40 officers will end their course on Friday [May 20] and another team of 40 will start on Monday [May 23], continuing until the end of next week," Kamyua said.

Turkey signed a memorandum of understanding to provide advanced training to the Ugandan police back in 2014.

"We have a good working relationship with the Turkish government and they have helped us in different respects. This is not the beginning and not the end," Kamyua added.

Turkish Ambassador to Uganda Sedef Yavuzalp told state-run Anadolu Agency that there are 10 Turkish police officers here in the country for the course.

Ugandan police spokesperson Fred Enanga told Anadolu Agency that the course was part of "advanced training."

“We need to ensure that we have regular training courses on newly developing crimes, as there are new techniques that are used by criminals,” Enanga said.

Since the training agreement was signed in 2014, the Ugandan police have gotten special training from Turkish police on special operations, maintaining public order, and traffic control.

The training comes ahead of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s visit to Uganda from May 31 to June 1, the first stop on his two-nation visit to East Africa. After Uganda, Erdoğan will proceed to Kenya.

During Erdoğan’s term as prime minister, Ankara declared 2005 the “Year of Africa,” with Turkey accorded observer status by the Africa Union and Ankara’s official policy of “opening to Africa” gaining new momentum.

(Source: **Hurriyet Daily News** – <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-training-ugandan-police-in-riot-management.aspx?pageID=238&nID=99421&NewsCatID=357>)

Turkey 'stands with Africa' in quest for development

25 May 2016

Turkish FM Cavusoglu writes Turkey is 'ardent supporter' of African solutions for African issues

ANKARA – Turkey stands with its African sisters and brothers in their quest for further development and prosperity, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Wednesday in his message on Africa Day.

Africa Day is commemorated every year on May 25 to mark the formation of the Organization of African Unity in Ethiopia, which is now known as the African Union.

In remarks made in an article titled "Turkey - Africa Development Partnership: A Human-Oriented Approach" posted on the official Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website, Cavusoglu said: "Turkey is an ardent supporter of African solutions for African issues.

“With its wide diplomatic representation all around the continent, Turkey stands with its African sisters and brothers in their quest for further development and prosperity.”

He said one of Turkey's main priorities was the well-being of societies through formulating and implementing developmental projects.

He gave the example of two hospitals that Turkey opened in conflict-ridden regions: Darfur and Mogadishu. These training and research hospitals were officially inaugurated in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

“Turkish government could have taken the easy way by handing over the keys of the hospitals to the Sudanese and Somali authorities after completing the construction and refurbishment. Instead, Turkey, together with the local authorities, has established joint management teams for the hospitals for the next five-year-period,” he wrote.

“By doing so, we are ensuring both the high quality health services, provided by over 100 Turkish doctors and health professionals, and training the future local managers and staff of the hospitals,” he added.

He also stated that Turkey remains committed to ensuring that the Turkish development assistance to African countries was in line with the priorities of African countries and African Union.

"We continue encouraging the Turkish NGOs and entrepreneurs to be socially aware of the current and future needs and requirements of the people, wherever they operate. This approach will remain as one of our ultimate operating principles in providing humanitarian and development assistance," he wrote.

(Source: **Anadolu Agency** – <http://aa.com.tr/en/africa/turkey-stands-with-africa-in-quest-for-development/578727>)

Turkey 'attaches importance' to African economic growth

28 May 2016

Emin Avundukluoğlu

Turkey will spare no efforts in supporting African partners, says Deputy Foreign Minister Naci Koru

ANTALYA, Turkey – Deputy Foreign Minister Naci Koru said on Saturday that Turkey attaches great importance to African economic growth.

In a speech at the UN's Midterm Review Conference of the Istanbul Program of Action for Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) in Antalya, Koru said the challenges faced by such African and Arab countries are global challenges which “require global responses”.

Koru said that supporting African and Arab LDCs' development efforts was not just a question of moral solidarity but was "essential for the sustainable growth of the world economy and global stability".

"Turkey very much welcomes this," Koru said, adding: "What is good for Africa will be good for the world."

Ankara has prioritized relations with African countries over the last 10 years and now has 39 resident embassies in African countries, up from 12 just seven years ago. The number of African resident embassies in Ankara has reached 32, up from 10 only five years ago.

Koru said that direct flights between Turkey and African countries, as well as a growing number of students, businesspeople and tourists traveling both ways, have intensified the "people-to-people contact" between the two locations.

"As a result of this process, Turkey's bilateral trade volume with Africa reached \$17.5 billion in 2015," Koru said.

Turkey's official development assistance reached \$3.9 billion in 2015, which corresponds to 0.54 percent of its gross national income.

In the past five years, Turkey has provided LDCs more than \$1.6 billion in development assistance.

The country's Development Cooperation Agency (TIKA) has reached 40 LDCs so far. TIKA actively supports sustainable development efforts in African and Arab LDCs through various projects.

Turkey, which provides more than 1,000 scholarships every year for students from African and Arab LDCs, is also conducting technical training programs for young people both at home and in African and Arab LDCs.

"These young people will make our bonds with these nations stronger as they contribute to the development of their countries," Koru said.

Recalling an African proverb – "If you want to walk long, walk together," Koru added: "The journey ahead of us is long and requires unity and solidarity."

The three-day conference in Antalya is a comprehensive review of how the 2011 Istanbul Program of Action has been implemented.

That program, passed at the Fourth UN Conference on Least-Developed Countries, charts out the international community's strategy for sustainable development through to 2021, with a strong focus on developing LDCs' productive capacities.

(Source: **Anadolu Agency** – <http://aa.com.tr/en/africa/turkey-attaches-importance-to-african-economic-growth/580190>)

Erdogan begins East African tour Tuesday

30 May 2016

Turkish president travels to Uganda, Kenya as part of Turkish foreign policy's stated aim of boosting ties with Africa

ANKARA – Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will embark on a four-day, two-country visit to East Africa Tuesday, a statement from the Presidential Press Office said on Monday.

Erdogan will first visit Uganda on Wednesday, and then travel to Kenya on Thursday and Friday.

The statement said that Erdogan will meet with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta.

The first leg of the Turkish president's Sub-Saharan African tour was in Senegal in February.

In April, he continued in West Africa with visits to Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, and Guinea.

During his latest visits to Africa, Erdogan vowed to boost Turkish-African relations.

When Erdogan was prime minister, Ankara declared 2005 the Year of Africa. Turkey was accorded observer status by the Africa Union, and Turkey's official policy of "opening to Africa" gained new momentum.

(Source: **Anadolu Agency** – <http://aa.com.tr/en/africa/erdogan-begins-east-african-tour-tuesday/581167>)

REPORTS AND PAPERS

Greening Africa's Industrialization: Economic Report on Africa

March 2016

Publisher: UN Economic Commission for Africa

Link: http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/era-2016_eng_rev6may.pdf

Topic

The report addresses Africa's industrialization and ways that countries on the continent can adopt alternative strategies that will lead to greater and more sustainable green growth, with the ultimate goal of achieving the benchmarks set forth by the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

African Economic Outlook 2016: Sustainable Cities and Structural Transformation

May 2016

Publishers: African Development Bank Group, OECD Development Center, and UN Development Program

Link: <http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/>

Topic

(From the *Forward*)

“The African Economic Outlook (AEO) celebrates its 15th edition this year. The African Development Bank, the OECD Development Centre and the United Nations Development Programme partner to produce this annual report. A team of over 100 researchers, economists, statisticians and other experts from Africa and other regions of the world collaborate on the AEO.

The AEO analyses the present state of affairs in Africa, provides two-year forecasts and addresses a special theme, supporting all with extensive data. The five chapters in Part I cover economic and social aspects of the continent and allude to this year's theme: sustainable cities and structural transformation. Part II's three chapters concentrate solely on the theme, building on analysis from the African Economic Outlook 2015: Regional Development and Spatial Inclusion. Country notes on each of Africa's 54 countries constitute Part III; their short version is produced here. For the first time, the statistical annex includes a table on gender, comparing indicators from the three partner organisations.”