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## How do you spell 'beauty'?



Photo from wire service

By Peter Uduehi

## Yes!

these are men...vying in a beauty pageant organized and judged by women in Niger's Wodaabe tribe.

Wearing flirtatious outfits, the men dance for hours to impress the female judges as part of ceremonies marking the beginning of the rainy season thought to usher in fertility to the Sahara. The judges may choose to take any of them as lovers. The ceremony is called Gerewol. Participants may take someone else's wife at these occa-

sions and become a life partner. Winners of Gerewol are celebrated for many years. It does not matter if the winner is married; if he wins the admiration of a judge the latter could become an additional wife in polygamy.

The men are tall and slim with immaculate teeth and decorate themselves with red clay as part of beatification. With these symmetrical facial features the Wodaabe pageantry may be telling cultures around the world that these trimmings are worth adopting by judges of beauty contests.

Lipstick and beads may be associated with femininity in Western eyes, but the ceremonial costumes aim to emphasise male

## Prominent Ugandan gay activist killed

By Peter Uduehi

Paul Kato, a prominent Ugandan gay activist has been killed after a severe beating suffered at the hands of an intruder who broke into his home, police said.

Police say they are investigating the circumstances behind his death. Eyewitnesses say they saw a man walk into Kato's house and came out after the assault had been completed. Police also confirmed that several people have been beaten, injured or killed with iron bars or metal pieces recently in the Mukono district where Kato lived, near the capital Kampala. Kato, before his death, sued the popular Kampala newspaper Rolling Stone for outing him and others as homosexuals whose headline read "Hang them" next to their pictures. The newspaper also printed their addresses. A judge ruled that the newspaper was in violation of the privacy and human rights of the men whose identities were being published as gays. The judge ordered the newspaper to "stop". Human Rights Watch has joined in the call to stop harassing gay people in the country.



Ugandan laws can send to prison for 14 years anyone found guilty of homosexuality. One member of parliament has even called for stiffer sentence: death. Maria Burnett of HRW said "David Kato's death is a tragic loss to the human rights community". Reports say Kato had complained to some of his colleagues recently that he had been receiving death threats since he was outed by Rolling Stone. Frank Mugisha director of Sexual Minorities Uganda, to which Kato belonged, said the Kato's death proves that the government should endeavour more to protect gays in Uganda, stressing that it seemed to easy for Kato's attacker to get to him. Rolling Stone editor Giles Muhane will not take responsibility for Kato's killing and said he condemned the amurder. He said "we don't want people to attack gays...we only want the government to carry out that duty. We want the government to hang people who promote homosexuality, not for the public to attack them."

Meanwhile, a rapid response police team has been sent to the area where Kato lived and several suspects have been arrested over the iron-bar killings of the recent past. "Iron-bar killings", which have returned to Uganda, were common when former leader Idi Amin was in power in the 1970s.

## Welcome to a new Sudan?

Judging by the votes counted so far in Southern Sudan referendum, official are saying the creation of a new African country that would join the ranks of the African Union is an certainty.

They say with almost all of the votes counted 99% of people have opted for independence from the north.

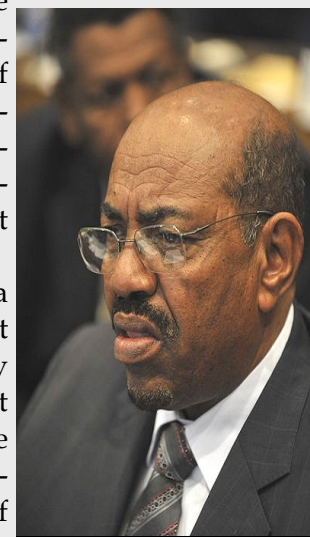
The results will be made official in a few weeks and reporters say they will be resounding in favour of a split from the largely Ismalic and Arabic north.

Sudan southern rebels are urging their people to stay calm and not start celebrating just yet. The country's current president Omar Bashir, wanted for war crimes in the Hague, says he will honour the outcome of the plebiscite.

Sudan has been dogged by decades of civil war brought on by many factors, not the least is racial. The predominantly Islamic north claims to be Arabic and have for centuries discriminated against the indigenous African tribes of the south who today are predominantly Christian and traditionalists. Perrennial rebellion against the north has killed hundreds of thousand s of people especially innocent women and children. The Darfur question is the direct result of that war.

Meanwhile a warrant for the arrest of Bashir is in effect by the International Court of Justice in the Hague even though the president has been out of the country on state visits recently without intervention by Interpol.

Sudan is Africa's largest country. In order for the referendum to be valid, more than 50% of voters must back secession and at least 60% of registered voters must take part. Election officials have previously said that the 60% threshold had been passed. Historians believe Sudan's referendum may be the choice for vexed peoples in Africa seeking self-determination and secession. **By Peter Uduehi**



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## Nigeria army to shoot-to kill

Nigeria army says it has been given permission to kill at sight anyone causing civil unrest of terrorism nature in the city of Jos.

"We are ordered to protect civilians and quell violence by any means necessary," military spokesman Capt Charles Ekeocha told the reporters.

A series of killings and bomb attacks over Christmas and New Year are thought to have resulted in more than 100 deaths so far in the central city.

Jos is a flashpoint of tension between Hausa Muslims and Berom Christians. It sits on the faultline between Nigeria's north and south.

Capt Ekeocha publicly warned community leaders that the military would fire on anybody burning homes, churches and mosques or carrying out lynchings and attacking civilians.

An election official was killed and his body set on fire by an angry mob - one of three people killed in a riot recently - as people tried to register to vote.

Jos has experienced repeated outbursts of bloodletting: In deadly riots along city interfaces and in carefully planned attacks on remote villages.

The exact number killed this year alone is uncertain, with officials saying about 100 people died.

But a Christian group - the Stefanos Foundation - is questioning that.

It has just published graphic photographs of what it says are more victims of violence.

Their report shows scores of stiffened and charred corpses littering the ground in the aftermath of the recent riots.

The Stefanos Foundation says the Nigerian authorities buried those bodies immediately, and that the true scale of the killings is being concealed because the authorities fear sparking reprisals.

The police commissioner in Jos told said he had not seen the photographs.

"On each occasion we have fully disclosed the facts that we are aware of in press conferences and we are not concealing any figures," the commissioner said.

"However, we will study the photo-

graphs of these new corpses if they are handed to us."

## Tanzanian terrorist Ghailani jailed for life

The first Guantanamo detainee to be tried in a US civilian court has been sentenced to life in prison.

Tanzanian Ahmed Ghailani, 36, was found guilty in November of conspiracy to damage or destroy US property with explosives but was cleared of murder.

After Ghailani's acquittal on that and other charges, Congress barred US President Barack Obama from moving Guantanamo prisoners to the US.

The charges related to the 1998 bombing of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

In New York on Tuesday, Judge Lewis Kaplan rejected Ghailani's request for leniency, saying any mistreatment he claimed he had suffered at the hands of his captors "pales in comparison to the suffering and the horror he and his confederates caused".

"This crime was so horrible," he said. "It was a cold-blooded killing and maiming of innocent people on an enormous scale."

US Attorney General Eric Holder said the life sentence demonstrated the ability of the US justice system to hold terrorists accountable for their actions.

"We hope this life sentence brings some measure of justice to the victims of these attacks and their families and friends who have waited so long for this day," he said in a statement.

While the conviction was not the resounding one the justice department would have liked, Ghailani's life imprisonment has been seized upon by the US Attorney General Eric Holder as showing the strength of the country's courts.

But it's hard to see when the next civilian trial of a Guantanamo detainee will be, or indeed when President Barack Obama can close the Guantanamo Bay military prison.

In the weeks following the Ghailani verdict late last year, Congress passed a law which prevented military funds from being used to transfer Guantanamo inmates to the US.

This makes it practically very difficult for the Obama administration to empty the detention centre, and to move detainees and try them in civilian courts.

"As this case demonstrates, we will not rest in bringing to justice terrorists who seek to harm the American people, and we will use every tool available to the government to do so."

Ahead of the sentencing, Ghailani had asked for leniency, saying he had never intended to kill anyone and that he had been tortured.

In 2001 four co-conspirators were sentenced to life in prison over the August 1998 bombings, in which 224 people were killed.

Prosecutors said Ghailani had conspired with al-Qaeda operatives to bomb the embassies, and helped buy the explosives that destroyed the US embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

US investigators said Ghailani had flown to Pakistan the night before the simultaneous bombings.

He was indicted in the US in December 1998 but remained at large in Afghanistan and the Waziristan area of Pakistan, the US says. He was captured in July 2004 and transferred to Guantanamo Bay in 2006.

Last year, the US stayed proceedings in a military tribunal at Guantanamo Bay and transferred him to New York for the civilian trial.



Ahmed Ghailani



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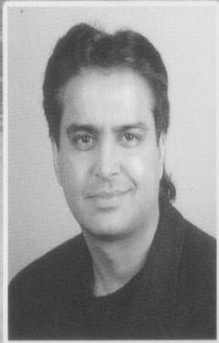


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By Peter Uduehi

## Need a Sudan in Nigeria?

Some of those who know Nigeria well and remember its heyday with fond memories are today calling for the splitting of the country based on the kind of referendum that would determine the future of Sudan: whether or not the South will succeed in separating from the North. We will know in a few weeks the result of that plebiscite, even though early indications, according to observers and experts suggest that the African Union will soon have another member joining its ranks.

Nobody is wishing for the kind of split Libyan leader Col Muamar Gaddafi is wishing for Nigeria, which would further exacerbate the conflagration of ethnic divisions in today's Nigeria, similar to balkanization with its attendant confusion. Gaddafi likes confusion and nobody needs his help.

These bona fide observers and historians of Nigeria, along with seasoned intellectuals who are serious about a responsible formula for solving the African giant's geopolitical quagmires, say that Nigeria's developmental imbroglio could be resolved effortlessly with a referendum like Sudan's. Several eminent Nigerians, like the late Pa Anthony Enahoro, have produced prefaces to the Sudanization of Nigeria with their call for a major conference of all the different regions of Nigeria to discuss the future of the country's "ethnic nationalities". Few people realize that Nigeria is indeed a nation of many nationalities and that its consistency requires enormous undertakings of political technology and human sacrifice to weld its complicated fabric. Its multiplicity of ethnic divisions is supposed to be a source of strength, instead Af-

rica's most populous nation sits on a tinderbox ready to explode, because of the disorganized state of affairs brought on by unforgiving divisions — a Babel-like conundrum of multitudinal and tumultuous language groupings.

It is clear that if Nigeria must march forward the South must separate from the North, the proponents charge. And some may say for good reason. They point to the enormous corruption plaguing the country, the incessant purposeful underdevelopment of the minds of the Northern youths by the oligarchs who rule over them, and the sheer roadblocks these northern oligarchs use in derailing real progress for the rest of the country in education, science, technology, religion, politics and policies, ideology and culture. Among Nigeria's thirty-six states, disparities abound to dizzying levels. Northern states' youths are regularly ill-educated and are not keen on enlightenment, and while a southern state like Edo could produce over half a million high school graduates perennially Zamfara state in the north could only boast of 500 to 1,000. This is an unconscionable gulf that suggests that the two halves of the country have different agendas and careering into the abysmal condition of cataclysm. Matters as simple as the inoculation of children against certain diseases become unnecessarily problematic because of senseless adherence to fanatical attachments borne out of religious bigotry. This is a reference to the recalcitrant refusal by northern elements and their leaders to vaccinate their children against polio because of the deluded thinking that such a project is a conspiracy by Westerners (backed by

Nigeria's Christian South) to poison the people of the north and thwart their reproductive ability.

Such is the situation we have in Nigeria that it has become virtually untenable to think of the whole country as heading in the same direction.

How can two halves of a country be so different? If the north of Nigeria professes to act separately from the rest of us, is that not enough indication that they wish to separate themselves? So why are they not clamouring to have their own country? Why must they continue to live or exist within the same nation-space called Nigeria? Why should southerners continue to suggest separation to northerners?

We dare to suggest that oil and gas (the mainstay of the country's economy produced enormously in the south) are the only reasons keeping the north within the fold of the Nigerian nation-space.

The north would have long sought separation or independence (or split) if their region produced most of the wealth of the country, even though they are further deluded by their own ability to survive without quick petrodollars.

After all, how did they survive without oil money before the advent of petrol as a source of hard currency? They actually did well, but haphazard and lackadaisical thinking have pervaded the mindset so much so that greed is the only option nowadays.

The truth of the matter is that Nigeria is one country with two systems. Just when you think all is well and that the country is heading in the right direction something happens to take us back a hundred years. A

case in point is the Olusengun Obasanjo administration. His government brought sound economic choices that enhanced the country's foreign exchange earnings, paid down our debt, and instituted a "rainy day" fund of up to 20 billion dollars. But the Umaru Yaradua administration turned everything he accomplished on its head. Yaradua, a northerner and now late, replaced the Central bank governor with a northern oligarch who has introduced 18th century monetary policies that have taken the entire country to the middle ages. Nigeria today is poorer, with only \$400 million in the "rainy day" kitty. All because northern oligarchs must be placated, people who have no plans for the rest of us.

Proponents of the Sudanization of Nigeria thus are correct in their opinion that the country cannot continue to function as it is. We agree there needs to be a change if Nigeria is to remain a nation-state. As things now stand, the country is indeed a consummate parody of nation-sense. The truth of the matter is that Nigeria as it now stands is unworkable. A referendum should be called to discuss the future of its nationalities. If a split is necessary like Sudan it should take effect for the better. Southern Nigerians have endured to long at the hands of their northern neighbours. Not because all will be rosy if Nigeria's South becomes an independent nation, but at least intellectualism and modernization will be less of a hassle to attain. It's easier to work with people of like-minds. The usual clamour of the Niger Delta might still flourish, the petty jealousies among the different ethnic groups of the south might still hold true, and the abuse of corruptive influences might still be sonorous; however, the aspirations of the people of the south bottled in the quest for modernization and real development free of religious bigotry and fanaticism is an essential encouragement for nation-building. It will be the thread for a more prosperous union, instead of the perennial Islamic flare-ups gripping the current Nigerian nation-space. With hundreds of thousands dying needlessly every decade because of northern-Islamo-fascist leanings, a referendum for the splitting of the country into two halves could be the harbinger to peace for most families who wish to live without stress.

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# South Africa's flood declared a disaster

After 41 people died in floods in one month, South Africa has declared eight of its nine provinces disaster areas

Sicelo Shiceka Co-operative Government Minister, said \$51 million is the estimated cost of the flood destruction.

South Africa's airforce has been assisting in rescue efforts and the recovery of bodies since the weekend.

About 10 people have also died in floods in neighbouring Mozambique and more than 10,000 people have been evacuated from their homes. Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe have also been affected by heavy rains.

President Jacob Zuma recently formed a ministerial task force to tackle the issue, led by Mr Shiceka.

Mr Shiceka said his team would also look at long-term issues.

"Among other things we are looking at, is that people must not build in flood plains." "People who have been displaced must not go back," said the minister.

People in informal settlements throughout the country have been worst hit, as they are often built in basins and near rivers, officials say. The Western Cape is the only province which has not been declared a disaster area but officials say they are monitoring the situation there.

Southern Africa's floods are caused by a natural cycle called the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which has also been linked to recent flooding in Australia and the Philippines, meteorologists say.

## Turabi, Sudan's opposition leader 'arrested'

Hassan al-Turabi, Sudanese Islamist opposition leader, has been arrested.

His secretary said that armed officers had arrived in several vehicles at the house in the capital, Khartoum.

The security forces also arrested a member of Mr Turabi's staff after he clashed with them, Awad Babiker said.

Recently Mr Turabi, 78, warned of a "popular uprising" if the government did not reverse new austerity measures and its decision to grant the right to Southern Sudan to vote in a referendum that will determine their future place in the region.

Reports say there is a growing nervousness in Sudan and other Arab countries following the overthrow of President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali in Tunisia recently.



Hassan Turabi

Turabi had warned earlier that an uprising as seen in Tunisia was "likely" amid public anger over poverty, a lack of political reform, and fears over the likely secession of Southern Sudan.

"This country has known popular uprisings before," he told the AFP news agency, referring to revolts in Sudan in 1964 and 1985. "What happened in Tunisia is a reminder. This is likely to happen in Sudan."

"If it doesn't, then there will be a lot of bloodshed. The whole country is armed. In the towns it will be a popular uprising, but in Darfur, and in Kordofan as well, they have weapons." Mr Turabi has been accused of links to rebels in Darfur - something that he has always denied. "Sudan is not a small country like Tunisia, but it is exposed to a risk of chaos worse than Somalia," he said.

Southern Sudan is on the point of splitting away from the north, having voted in a referendum

last week.

The south has most of the country's oil reserves, so the blow to the north's economy will be sizeable, correspondents say.

Opposition politicians and parties, including Mr Turabi and his Popular Congress Party (PCP), called a joint news conference to congratulate Tunisians and demand an "end to the totalitarian regime" in Khartoum.

They also threatened to take to the streets if the president did not sack the finance minister and reverse a recent decision to raise prices on a range of basic goods.

Sudan is suffering an economic crisis, with a current account deficit and currency devaluation driving up inflation.

"All the opposition parties have been talking to the government again and again to try and get them to decentralise, to liberalise, to democratise and promote freedom of expression. But they don't allow it," Mr Turabi said.

Mr Turabi, a close ally of President Omar al-Bashir until 1999, has been detained several times since he set up the PCP.

He spent six weeks in detention in 2010 after he repeated an allegation that April's presidential election had been rigged.

## UN investigates arms shipments from Iran to Nigeria

An inspection of smuggled weapons from Iran into Nigeria is being conducted by UN experts who have already arrived in Nigeria for the task.

The Iranian arms shipment was seized in Lagos port in October.

The weapons, including rocket launchers and grenades, were found in containers labelled as building materials.

Nigeria reported the seizure to the UN Security Council for an apparent breach of the sanc-



tions against Iran.

Nigeria has charged an alleged member of Iran's Revolutionary Guards and three Nigerian citizens over the illegally imported weapons.

Iran is under UN sanctions because of its nuclear programme and is banned from supplying, selling or transferring arms.

Correspondents say mystery surrounds the intended destination of the weapons. Nigerian authorities have said that the shipment originated in Iran and was destined for the capital, Abuja, after its arrival in Lagos.

But the shipment was intercepted when an attempt was made to re-export it to The Gambia. The Gambia's neighbour Senegal recalled its ambassador to Tehran over the incident, amid speculation the weapons may have been destined for separatist rebels in its Casamance region.

Nigeria's Foreign Minister Odein Ajumogobia said he had met the six-member UN team and it was due to inspect the weapons from the 13 shipping containers on Tuesday.

Tehran has said the cargo was being shipped by a private company to a "West African country" and was the subject of a "misunderstanding" that has now been cleared up.

The trial of Azim Aghajani, identified by Nigerian court documents as a Tehran-based businessman and member of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, is due to start at the end of the month.

## Arrest warrants issued for Rwanda dissents

Rwanda has issued international arrest warrants for four former top officials who live in exile since falling out with the government. A military court sentenced them to long jail terms last week for threatening state security and promoting ethnic divisions.

The men are currently living in either the United States or South Africa.

Among them is Lt Gen Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa, who survived an assassination attempt in Johannesburg last year.

Rwanda denies any links to the June 2010 shooting of Lt Gen Nyamwasa but the incident sparked a diplomatic row between the two countries.

Rwanda has previously accused him of links to grenade attacks in Kigali earlier last year and has tried to secure his extradition from South Africa.

Rwandan police issued the warrants to Interpol to forward to its member countries.

Passport information, photographs, finger prints and telephone numbers were also given to the international police agency, Rwandan officials said. Interpol says it cannot oblige member countries to arrest suspects even if a "Red Notice" is issued.

"Many of Interpol's member countries however, consider a Red Notice a valid request for provisional arrest, especially if they are linked to the requesting country via a bilateral extradition treaty," it said in a statement.

But correspondents say it is unlikely that the US or South Africa will readily agree to the Rwandan request.

The Rwandan justice minister said that Rwanda does not have an extradition treaty with either country.

'Pursuing justice'

Like the other men, Lt Gen Nyamwasa was once a close ally of Rwandan President Paul Kagame - and has denied the allegations.

He and Maj Theogene Rudasingwa, who used to be the top official in the president's office, were given 24-year prison terms.

Gerald Gahima, Rwanda's former prosecutor general, and Patrick Karegeya, the former director of external intelligence in Rwanda's military, both got 20 years.

President Kagame told reporters on Tuesday the ball was now in the court of the international community.

"If countries will respond in whatever way, it's up to those countries but we will continue pursuing justice as far as the cases are concerned," he said.

Mr Kagame led the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) rebel movement which put a stop to the 1994 genocide - and has been president since 2000.

The president, who was overwhelmingly re-elected



Lt Gen Nyamwasa used to be a close ally of President Paul Kagame

for a second term with 93% of the vote last August, is viewed by many in the West as one of Africa's more dynamic leaders.

However, critics have raised concerns about his more authoritarian tendencies and the government was accused of harassing the opposition ahead of the elections.

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## DR Congo army commander 'led mass rape' in Fizi

An army commander in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has been accused of leading the recent mass rape of at least 50 women.

One of the victims, as well as sources quoted in a UN report, all accuse Lt Col Kibibi Mutware of links to New Year's Day rapes in the town of Fizi.

There have been numerous cases of mass rape in DR Congo's conflict but this is believed to be the largest single incident allegedly involving the army.

Lt Col Kibibi has denied the charges. He said that the soldiers who raided the town had disobeyed orders.

From an everyday fight between two men over a woman, violence escalated into a brutal punitive expedition by a group of government troops against the population of Fizi.

'Ashamed'

"A soldier was killed here right beside the hospital," explains Dr Faise Chacha, the head of Fizi hospital.

"That started the panic and all our patients fled. We came back at 0500 the next morning and we started taking in people who had been stabbed and others - women - who had been raped."

Dr Chacha and the medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres have treated 51 rape victims so far, but they expect more as women who fled the attacks slowly return home.

As in previous cases of rape in DR Congo, many victims are expected to keep their plight secret to avoid being abandoned by their husbands and families.

Two of them agreed to talk anonymously after medics told the BBC they had been raped.

"I was raped in front of my four children," one of them told the BBC.

"I'm ashamed, very ashamed. If I meet two or three people who are having a discussion, I assume they are talking about me, even though it is not the case."

The other woman was able to identify her attackers.

"It was 1900 [in the evening] and those who raped me were members of the military," she said in a low voice, her body wrapped in a colourful cloth.

"There were four of them - Kibibi and his bodyguards. They stole all our belongings and our money."

This woman was not the only one accusing Lt Col Kibibi, current commander of the 43rd sector in the army's Amani Leo (Peace Today) operation against rebel groups which still roam eastern DR Congo eight years after the country's war officially ended.

Several people who live near the hospital said they saw him ordering his troops to attack the population to avenge their dead comrade.

An internal report by investigators sent to Fizi by the UN peacekeeping mission Monusco and seen by the BBC also quotes local leaders and police sources who accuse Lt Col Kibibi of directing the atrocity.

Monusco sent patrols from the day after the violence from its Baraka base, just over one hour's drive away, and has maintained a 24-hour presence in Fizi since 5 January, which has encouraged the population to come back.

Lt Col Kibibi is a strong man with a small moustache and a boonie hat. When I met him, he was sitting behind a table on which only two mobile phones and one walkie-talkie were visible.

Speaking in the thatched hut from which he commands his troops, he dismissed all accusations levelled against him as rumours and said that those soldiers who committed the crimes had disobeyed his orders to stay in the camp.

He added that he only left his base briefly on 1 January to assess the death of the lynched soldier, and only heard about the night's violence the next morning.

Lt Col Vianney Kazarama, the army spokesman for operations in South Kivu province, acknowledged that government soldiers were responsible for the Fizi attack but he promised swift legal action.

"All those people who have abused the population have already been arrested. The zero-

tolerance policy will be enforced on the spot in Fizi," he said.

In a statement, the UN's special representative on sexual violence, Margot Wallstrom, called on the Congolese authorities to conduct an investigation "thoroughly and without delay".

"Impunity for these types of crimes must not be tolerated," she added.

Lt Col Kibibi is a former member of the CNDP rebel group, which has previously been accused of numerous human rights abuses.

He was integrated into the national army as part of a peace agreement in 2009.

According to a local military source, his unit is a mixture of former militias based on Rwandan-speaking ethnic groups.

Those troops were deployed to Fizi where a conflict between the majority Babembe group and the neighbouring Banyamulenge - another Rwandan-speaking ethnic group - had been simmering for generations.

Fizi residents and soldiers also clashed in April 2010.

The 16 years of unrest in eastern DR Congo have become notorious for the widespread sexual abuse of women and young girls.

More than 300 women, men and children were raped by a coalition of rebel groups in the town of Luvungi and neighbouring villages in North Kivu within miles of a UN base in August.

## Germany: Rwandan mayor under trial for genocide

A former Rwandan mayor has gone on trial accused of ordering three Tutsi massacres during the country's 1994 genocide, in the first such case prosecuted in Frankfurt, Germany.

Onesphore Rwabukombe, a 54-year-old ethnic Hutu who has lived in Germany for several years, was arrested by German police last summer.

He is charged with genocide, murder, and incitement to genocide and murder.

He could face life in prison if convicted. "Between April 11 and 15, 1994, the accused ordered and co-ordinated three massacres in which a total of at least 3,730 members of the Tutsi minority who had sought refuge in church buildings were killed," prosecutor Christian Ritscher read out from the charge sheet in court.

Mr Rwabukombe, who was mayor of Muvumba in north-eastern Rwanda, is also accused of having personally taken part in killings by Hutu militia.

The trial is to run until at least October.

An estimated 800,000 people were killed during the 1994 genocide, most of them Tutsis.

## Tunisia: Opposition leader returns from exile

Tunisian opposition leader Moncef Marzouki was greeted by ecstatic fans as he returned home after years in exile in Paris.

Tunisia's interim government has run into trouble only 24 hours after its formation as three ministers quit, citing disagreements with the new leadership.

"The revolution must continue!" were Marzouki's first words to the crowd as he emerged from

the arrivals area of Tunis-Carthage airport. Women kissed him, and a group of male supporters gave him a Tunisian flag and lifted him on to their shoulders.

Marzouki, who is head of the banned Congress for the Republic party, says he is running for upcoming elections in Tunisia. He is little known to the general public as the Ben Ali regime banned his party and did not allow him access to the media.

He called on Saudi Arabia to give Ben Ali



up and said the president's ruling RCD party should be broken up, the official TAP news agency added.

"There is a feeling of national pride ... It is a great joy to see that the big mafia that ruled this country and was supported by certain people, is now fleeing, while now I, who had to flee, who was a fugitive, am welcomed by my people."

He also said the first thing he wanted to do is to travel to Sidi Bouzid, the city in central Tunisia where protests, which ultimately led to Ben Ali's downfall, started. In December, a graduate committed suicide in Sidi Bouzid when the police prevented him from selling fruit and vegetables.

Supporters greeted Marzouki with placards saying "Free Tunisia! Out with the RCD".

"I will do everything possible to ensure a real peaceful and democratic transition in this country," Marzouki said. "We need to have a real coalition government ... and to hold real elections."

On Tuesday, three ministers belonging to the country's new interim government resigned, refusing to recognise the country's new leadership.

Following President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's flight last week, Prime Minister Mohammed Ghannouchi formed a unity government, but handed the cabinet's key ministries to allies of the deposed president.

"Twelve ministers in this new cabinet were already ministers under Ben Ali," says UGTT trade unionist Abid Brigui. "They conducted his policies and this runs contrary to the people's will."

"We didn't say that we didn't want the ruling RCD party in this new cabinet, but we said that others also need to be represented," Brigui said. "That's not the case, therefore, we've decided to pull out."

Houssine Dimassi, who had been named minister for training and employment in a transitional unity government unveiled on Monday, was one of the three ministers to stand down.

Dimassi said the two other ministers resigning were Abdeljelil Bedoui, who was named as a minister working in the prime minister's office, and Anouar Ben Gueddour, a junior transport minister.

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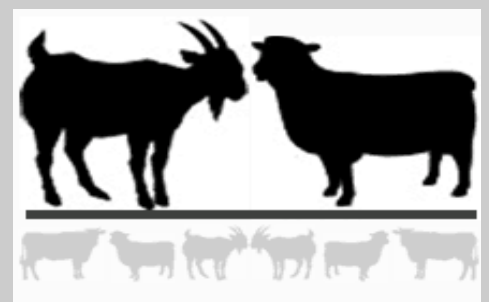
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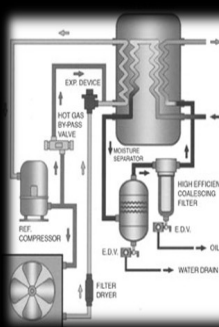


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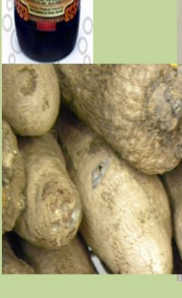
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## Ethiopia: ONLF Rebels released

Addis Ababa — The Ethiopian government this week freed 402 leaders and members of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), country's most active rebel movement, which has been fighting for the right of the eastern Somali region to secede since 1984, Sudan Tribune has learnt. Upon their release, the president of Ethiopia's Somali region, Abdi Mohamed Omur, said the move is based on the peace accord signed between ONLF and the Ethiopian government.

Last October, Salahdin Abdulrahman led a breakaway group of ONLF which claims to be the main body of the rebel movement and signed a peace accord with the Ethiopian government to end the rebel's decades of insurgency.

During the occasion Ethiopia's state prison commissioner Abdi Bedi Ousman said the human rights of the prisoners had been respected as per the constitution of the country during their prison terms.

The commissioner said following the peace deal most of the jailed rebel members have been released and those freed earlier are already actively engaged in the development activities of the region.

The just freed ONLF leaders, members and fighters promised to work with the Ethiopian government and said they will repay their community by aggressively taking part in the development of the region.

The government has pledged to allocate resources to help the members of the ONLF, who signed the peace deal, to reintegrate into society.

Ethiopian authorities have invited the remaining ONLF rebels and other factions to also come to peace talks.

In April 2007, ONLF fighters attacked a Chinese-run oil field in Ethiopia's Somali Region. The attack, which drew international condemnation, killed 65 Ethiopians and nine Chinese workers.

Following the attack, government security forces commenced a series of military crackdowns which led to the killing of hundreds of ONLF militants.

The ONLF and its armed wing, the Ogaden National Liberation Army (ONLA) has long been designated as a terrorist group by the Ethiopian government.

Ethiopia accuses Eritrea of arming and financing, the Ogaden National Liberation Front and the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF). An allegation Asmara denies.

## Two African water facility projects launched in Ghana

The African Water Facility (AWF), in line with its mandate to Improve Water Governance and Service Delivery as well as innovation-promoting investments, has launched two projects, both co-financed through grants to the Water Resources Commission of Ghana.

The first grant of Euro 0.50 million is to support the implementation of the Design for Re-use project which will seek to contribute to Harvesting the Value of Effluents and Nutrients for Sustaining the Operations of Sanitation Facilities. As such, it aims at the improvement of the long-term operation and integrity of wastewater and faecal sludge treatment plants in urban Ghana, and shall be supported through a novel, market- and reuse-oriented approach to sanitation.

Effectively capturing the resource value of wastewater, faecal sludge and treatment by-products can facilitate robust sanitation systems that simultaneously close the water and nutrient loops. Pilot plants located in Greater-Accra, Sekondi-Takoradi and Kumasi, will progressively transfer the Design for Reuse model to other cities in Ghana and Africa at large.

The project will also train local engineers and planners to employ a reuse-oriented planning process for the design and implementation of future wastewater and faecal sludge treatment plants based on the earlier results of the project.

The expected outcomes of the project include the reuse of effluents for irrigation and the respect of the World Health Organization (WHO) standards for one Wastewater Treatment Plant at the Presbyterian Boys Secondary School in Accra. In addition, the knowledge products based on action research for the aquaculture, compost and biogas value chains will provide implementation plans for existing treatment plants in Kumasi, Sekondi-Takoradi and Legon as well as transferable road maps for plants with comparable conditions.

The second grant of Euro 1.83 million is to support the Re-optimisation and Re-operation Study of the Akosombo and Kpong Dams. This Project will seek to contribute to the restoration of downstream ecosystem functions.

The main outcomes include improved downstream ecosystems and human livelihoods for the downstream communities; maintained electric power output from the dams; and reduced incidence of water borne disease vectors.

The results and lessons learnt shall be documented and disseminated widely for application to the current inventory of major dams and to the next generation of dams to make them more environmentally compatible.

The launching ceremony took place on 10 January 2010 under the auspices of the Resident Representative of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Ms Marie-Laure Akin-Olugbade.

Presentations on procurement, disbursement and financial management rules and procedures by GHFO Specialist took place on 10 and 11 January.

Working groups on meeting the conditions for grant effectiveness, rapid first disbursement and initial procurement and project management activities were subsequently held on 11 and 12 January 2011.



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