

Development

Italian tourist trampled to death by elephant in Kenya



An Italian tourist was trampled to death by an elephant in a Kenyan national park while trying to get a good picture, police said.

"He was attacked not far from his tent while photographing it," a police officer who asked not to be named told AFP.

The man, who was 66, "sustained serious injuries and died before he could be taken to hospital", he added.

The accident occurred at Swara camp in the Tsavo National Park, near the Kenyan coast, and was confirmed by the city of Malindi's police chief Muchangi Mutawa, who did not provide more details.

The police source said the tourist had moved from his tent close to the elephant to take a photograph of the jumbo, which was near the Sabaki River.

Former Mali Islamist fighter jailed

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"The chamber unanimously finds that Mr al-Mahdi is guilty of the crime of attacking protected sites as a war crime," judge Raul Pangalangan said at the tribunal in the Hague.

During a two-day trial in August Mahdi asked for forgiveness, urged all Muslims to not follow his example and said he had been swept up in an "evil wave" by al-Qaeda and the Ansar Dine armed groups that briefly seized control of the ancient sites in the city of Timbuktu.

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Mahdi had admitted to charges of involvement in the destruction of historic mausoleums in the North African city. Prosecutors said he led a group of religious police using pick-axes and crowbars to destroy nine mausoleums and the door of a mosque, and at times took part himself.

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Ahmad al-Mahdi

During the trial, prosecutor Fatou Bensouda compared the attacks to the smashing of monuments in the Syrian city of Palmyra by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS) and the 2001 destruction of the Afghan Bamiyan Buddha statues by the Taliban.

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Infant mortality and youth unemployment - top exclusion factors in North Africa

Tunis — The Economic Commission for Africa launched today the first African Social Development Index report on North Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia). The report reveals that while growth has been fairly strong in North Africa, it has not necessarily translated into commensurate social outcomes.

"In the years of reference, between 2000 and 2015, positive policy action and interventions have led to reductions in overall human exclusion in virtually all North African countries covered in the report, except in the case of Egypt", said Ms Takyiwa Manuh, Director of the ECA Social Development Policy Division. At the same time, some common elements emerge in the patterns of exclusion, with infant mortality accounting for more than 50 percent of exclusion in five countries, and youth unemployment in four countries. According to Ms Manuh, the identification of such key drivers can help improve policy targeting in North Africa.

The report also revealed that in the case of Egypt, Sudan and Tunisia, political instability and conflict have contributed significantly to exacerbate inequalities among some regions. In particular, there is still a large rural-urban divide in the levels of exclusion in all six countries. Another key element that emerged in particular in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia is the strong disconnect between education and youth employment, with many young graduates unable to find decent work.

Launched in 2015, the ASDI evaluates human exclusion (an individual's inability to participate in and benefit from their country's growth process) on the basis of six key dimensions of wellbeing: survival, health, education, employment, means of subsistence and a decent life after the age of 60. The ASDI can measure human exclusion across social groups, gender, living environment, within countries, between them, and over time.

The ASDI will help African policy makers better identify exclusion factors and formulate policies in areas such as nutrition, education, employment or social protection, to help ensure more inclusive and equitable growth. "I am convinced that, thanks to its large potentials and high skills, Tunisia will complete a successful political and economic transition, take up the human development challenge and secure social inclusion, equity and justice for all", said Tunisian Minister of Social Affairs Mohamed Trabelsi at the launch ceremony.



"Tunisia is about to launch its National Development Plan for the period 2016-2020 and the outcomes of this report will very well fit into the consultations around the plan", added Mazin Abu Shanab, UN Resident Coordinator (a.i.) in Tunisia.

Over the next weeks, the ECA will publish similar reports on other African regions, including the ASDI report on East Africa, to be launched on 22 September in Nairobi (Kenya) and the ASDI reports on Central and West Africa.