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ONE) EU'S WORST FEAR IS IMMIGRATION WAVE

L'Union européenne redoute un effondrement de l'Etat en Tunisie, en Libye et ailleurs, doublé d'une grave crise économique qui pourraient déclencher un afflux de migrants vers ses côtes méridionales et mettre à rude épreuve la solidarité entre ses pays membres. "Nous sommes extrêmement inquiets de l'évolution de la situation en Afrique du Nord", a reconnu lundi Michele Cercone, porte-parole de la commissaire en charge des questions d'immigration et de sécurité Cecilia Malmström. La Commission européenne prend très au sérieux les menaces des autorités libyennes de cesser toute coopération avec l'UE dans la lutte contre l'immigration illégale, car elles deviendront réalité si l'Etat s'effondre dans ce pays. Mme Malmström était à Tripoli en octobre 2010 pour discuter de cette coopération, et elle sait que des dizaines de milliers de migrants n'attendent qu'une occasion pour prendre la mer en direction de l'Italie. Et elle sait également que l'Europe n'est pas prête à faire face. Les Européens sont divisés sur l'approche même de la crise et certains refusent même de l'appréhender. "La menace d'ouvrir les robinets (de l'immigration) rend beaucoup de gens nerveux, mais c'est une menace ridicule", a lancé le chef de la diplomatie belge Steven Vanackere lors d'une réunion avec ses homologues à Bruxelles. Le Luxembourgeois Jean Asselborn a pour sa part affirmé ne "pas avoir peur" des menaces d'un "dictateur qui tire sur son peuple". Le Tchèque Karel Schwarzenberg est d'un avis radicalement différent et prédit des "catastrophes" avec la chute du colonel Kadhafi. "Il se crée un appel d'air lorsqu'un régime et ses contrôles tombent", a reconnu le ministre français des Affaires européennes Laurent Wauquiez. Le précédent Tunisien donne à réfléchir: "L'Etat s'est effondré avec la chute du président Ben Ali et l'instabilité a provoqué un effondrement des revenus, plongeant le pays dans une crise économique dramatique. Une masse de gens se retrouve désœuvrée et sans moyens", a expliqué un ambassadeur européen. En quelques jours, plus de 5.000 jeunes Tunisiens ont débarqués sur l'île italienne de Lampedusa, première porte d'entrée dans l'UE, prenant de court les autorités italiennes. "Si la Libye s'effondre et ne contrôle plus ses côtes, l'Europe risque d'assister à un déferlement de clandestins et elle ne pourra ni les contrôler, ni les arrêter", a confié à l'AFP un responsable européen sous couvert de l'anonymat. **EU STATES COMPLETELY APART ON IMMIGRATION** Pour l'instant, les Européens ne veulent rien entendre. Toutes les réunions consacrées à l'immigration et à l'asile ont achoppé sur la question de la solidarité. La France, l'Allemagne, le Royaume-Uni, la Finlande et la Suède ont toujours opposé une fin de non recevoir aux propositions de la Commission, évoquant "un partage du fardeau" pour traiter les demandes d'asile. "Et c'est un tabou que d'évoquer cela pour les illégaux", a souligné un diplomate européen. "On ne peut pas créer un appel d'air avec une prime à l'immigration illégale", soutient Laurent Wauquiez. Les autorités françaises savent que les jeunes Tunisiens arrivés en Italie n'aspirent qu'à une chose: gagner la France, où ils ont de la famille, des amis, des relations. 86 ont été interpellés au cours des 15 premiers jours de février dans les régions frontalières avec l'Italie. "Pour l'instant, c'est encore chacun pour soi, mais la réunion des ministres des Affaires étrangères, puis celle des ministres de l'Intérieur jeudi, vont permettre de sonder les mentalités", a estimé un responsable européen. "C'est un bon moment pour relancer le débat sur la solidarité", a-t-il assuré. "Si les frontières sont communes, la solidarité communautaire doit s'exercer", a affirmé Laurent Wauquiez. Mais il n'a pas parlé d'un partage des arrivants.

TWO) – 130 NEW IMMIGRANTS ARRIVE AT LAMPEDUSA

Quelque 130 migrants en provenance de Tunisie sont arrivés lundi matin tôt à Lampedusa portant le nombre d'arrivées dans l'île italienne à 200 en trois jours, selon l'Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM). "Deux bateaux transportant environ 130 migrants illégaux sont arrivés lundi matin très tôt", explique l'OIM dans un communiqué. L'un des bateaux transportant quelque 40 migrants arrivait de l'île tunisienne de Djerba alors que le second avec environ 90 personnes à son bord était parti de Zarzis, a-t-il poursuivi. Au total ce sont "200 migrants tunisiens" qui sont arrivés sur l'île ces trois derniers jours "alors que les conditions climatiques se sont améliorées", relève l'organisation basée à Genève. Les orages et une mer agitée vendredi avaient contribué à ralentir les arrivées de candidats à l'immigration sur l'île italienne située à quelque 110 km de la Tunisie et constituant la porte vers l'Union européenne la plus proche pour ces clandestins. A la faveur d'une meilleure météo au cours du week-end, 13 Tunisiens ont rejoint Lampedusa samedi tandis que 53 autres sont arrivés dimanche. L'île italienne a été débordée ces dernières semaines par l'arrivée de plus de 5.500 candidats à l'immigration dans le sillage de la révolution tunisienne, provoquant des appels à l'aide internationale de l'Italie. Rome a officiellement demandé à l'UE une aide de 100 millions d'euros et l'élargissement du rôle de Frontex, l'agence de surveillance des frontières européennes. Des centaines de migrants ont déjà été transférés dans des centres du continent

italien. Selon l'OIM, il en restait encore environ 1.360 à Lampedusa lundi, un nombre bien supérieur à la capacité du centre d'accueil de l'île pouvant héberger 800 personnes.

THREE) – GADDAFI CAN USE IMMIGRATION GUN, SAYS FRENCH BODY

Le président de l'[Office français de l'immigration et de l'intégration](#) (Ofii), [Dominique Paillé](#), a estimé lundi que l'immigration clandestine via la Libye vers l'Union européenne est "évidemment une arme" du colonel Mouammar Kadhafi en butte à des manifestations sans précédent. Interrogé par Sud radio sur les menaces des autorités libyennes de cesser de coopérer dans la lutte contre l'immigration si l'UE continue à "encourager" les manifestations dans le pays, M. Paillé a dit que ces menaces sont "évidemment une arme". Pour autant, le gouvernement est "vigilant et nos règles seront respectées", a ajouté M. Paillé. Le président de l'Ofii s'est par ailleurs félicité de la "libéralisation démocratique" en cours dans les pays méditerranéens, soulignant qu'à "chaque fois qu'il y a un régime qui tombe il y a beaucoup de zones d'incertitudes et donc fuites vers des eldorados ou présentés comme tels". Pour M. Paillé, "il faut continuer à discuter avec les gouvernements concernés" avec qui "nous avons des accords quantitatifs très clairs d'immigration choisie". "Il faut donc que ces accords soient respectés quel que soit le régime", a-t-il conclu.

FOUR) - NORTHERN EU STATES CALL FOR 'TOUGHER LINE' ON LIBYA

Germany and Britain led calls Monday for the EU to act tough with Libya, protesting that the bloc should not allow itself to be blackmailed. Libyan authorities have warned that they will no longer stop immigrants from heading to the EU if it sides with anti-government demonstrators. "This is totally out of order. The EU must not let itself be blackmailed," German EU Affairs Minister Werner Hoyer said ahead of a meeting in Brussels of the bloc's foreign ministers. Libya is one of the main ports of departure for immigrants heading from Africa to Europe. Italy, which is one of the main recipients of EU-bound immigrants, has worked hard to reach a deal with leader Moamer Gaddafi to curb the flow. Speaking in Brussels, Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini was far more guarded in its criticism of Libya than his northern colleagues. "We should not give the wrong impression of wanting to interfere, of wanting to export our democracy. We have to help, we have to support the peaceful reconciliation: this is the way," Frattini said. Frattini also warned of the danger of an Islamist takeover, reacting to reports that protestors in the flashpoint town of Benghazi wished to set up an "Islamic Emirate." "Can you imagine having an Islamic Emirate on the borders of Europe? This would be a really serious threat," he said. Finland's Foreign Minister Alexander Stubb, however, said EU sanctions against Gaddafi were warranted. "How can we on one side look at what's going on in Libya, with almost 300 people shot dead, and not talk about sanctions or travel bans ... for Gaddafi, and at the same time put travel bans and sanctions in Belarus?" he asked. His British counterpart, William Hague, said he had spoken to Gaddafi's son on Sunday and summoned the Libyan ambassador to the Foreign Office in London "to express our absolute condemnation of the use of lethal force against demonstrators." "It cannot be that we have to cooperate with a regime that shoots its own people," Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn said. **TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS** Tough negotiations were expected to take place in Brussels, with ministers aiming to reach consensus on how best to react to the Libyan unrest. "It's very important we speak loudly and together," Hague said. "I think the response of the EU should be conditioned on Libya respecting basic international human rights norms and being prepared to respond to the legitimate grievances of the people," he added. Stubb said he understood "fully the concerns of countries such as Italy and Malta," but others warned that a weak EU response would be unacceptable in the face of such a flagrant crackdown. However, the EU has few obvious levers at its disposal. "It's not our job to change the leader of Libya, it is the job of the leadership of Libya to listen to its people. And to be quite honest, listening to people doesn't mean that you should be using a machine gun," Stubb said. During their meeting in Brussels, ministers were expected to debate how to help the countries of North Africa transform themselves into more open and democratic societies. "It's about opening up these economies, these societies long term. Otherwise (the region) will face one period of turmoil after another for years to come," Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt said.

FIVE) – 2,300 TUNISIANS FLEE LIBYA

Plus de 2.300 Tunisiens vivant en Libye ont quitté ce pays depuis dimanche pour des raisons de sécurité, a indiqué lundi l'agence officielle Tap, citant l'office des Tunisiens à l'étranger.

SIX) – LIBYA ISOLATION INSULATES RULERS FROM OUTSIDE PRESSURE

Like Iran and Myanmar before it, Libya's relative isolation gives its rulers much more diplomatic flexibility to mount a bloody crackdown than counterparts in Egypt, Tunisia or Bahrain -but that may not be enough. Early on Monday, one of the sons of Libya's Colonel Muammar Gaddafi said his father would fight a popular revolt to the "last man standing". Rights groups estimate the death toll in Libya in recent days far outstrips anything seen during protests elsewhere in North Africa, but reporting restrictions and blocked communications have kept most events out of sight. "The thing that makes Libya different is that it is much more relatively isolated," said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East director for Human Rights Watch. "It's almost a North Korea. There are no foreign journalists, very little civil society. It's much harder to get information out and to have influence." Gaddafi has built up his ties to the West -and to oil firms- in recent years since giving up his nuclear weapons programme. But Western capitals still have much less leverage with him than longer-term allies such as Egypt's military, Tunisia's elite or Bahrain's royal family. Countries heavily dependent on U.S. and other Western aid have found that ordering troops to fire into crowds may be diplomatically and politically impossible. But Libya is in a very different position. **LITTLE LEVERAGE, INFLUENCE** The EU could suspend trade talks and encourage tourism and energy firms to pull out. But -as after the crushing of Iran's 2009 "green revolution" or Myanmar's 2007 crackdown- Western governments and rights campaigners find they have little real influence. Libya's rulers survived decades in the wilderness before beginning to mend fences with the West in recent years. "The Libyans are very self-confident," said Richard Dalton, a former British ambassador to both Libya and Iran. "The state of its international relations is not much of a factor in their domestic decision-making and the EU and others will not have much leverage or influence." So far, news footage from Libya has been limited largely to snatches of jumpy material filmed on mobile phones. Foreign broadcasters have managed to grab occasional telephone interviews with those inside the country, but little more. **NO TV COVERAGE** On Friday, wall-to-wall coverage of Bahraini troops firing at demonstrators prompted angry calls from Washington to local rulers, who pulled the army off the streets. In contrast, the start of the Libya crackdown was relegated to second place on many news bulletins. "Newspapers have sent their entire teams to Bahrain because they can get visas," said Whitson at Human Rights Watch. "The front page ends up being all about Bahrain with barely any mention of Libya. But the use of force in Libya has been far out of proportion to anything used in Egypt, Tunisia or elsewhere." Libya has less Western investment than its neighbours but much more than Myanmar or Iran. Ultimately Gaddafi, like other African leaders, will know he can turn elsewhere -particularly China- if western firms are put under pressure to drop him. Sudan, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Iran have all benefited from trade, aid and diplomatic support from Beijing in the face of Western criticism and sometimes sanctions over alleged rights abuses. But few see an immediate exodus of Western investment from Libya given its lucrative oil reserves. **GADDAFI'S COLLAPSE IMMINENT?** Most experts say that how events play out in Libya will depend far more on domestic political factors than outside influence. The lesson of Egypt and Tunisia, they say, is that autocrats fall when they can no longer command the security forces to restore order. "A major factor is the commitment of those prepared to carry out violent repression," said Nikolas Gvosdev, professor of national security studies at the US Naval War College. "In Egypt ... the rank and file military were not going to follow through with what needed to be done to secure Mubarak's political survival." In contrast, Iran's Revolutionary Guard and militia, and Myanmar's military, have long proved much more willing to do whatever it takes to protect their masters. Most believe Libya's military will do the same, their fate seemingly tied to that of the Gaddafi family. But that might not be enough. Libyan protesters may feel the tide of history is with them. Nomura political analyst Alastair Newton said he believed regime collapse might be imminent, and warned that the rising tide of regional unrest had reached the stage of threatening global energy supplies. "The 11 February ousting of President Mubarak of Egypt is proving to be a pivotal moment in turning turmoil into a tsunami," he wrote.

SEVEN) – EU CONDEMNS LIBYAN CRACKDOWN, BUT NO SANCTIONS ON GADDAFI

Les ministres européens des Affaires étrangères ont "condamné" lundi la répression des manifestations en Libye et demandé la fin "immédiate" de la violence, selon des conclusions relatives aux événements récents. Ils n'ont par contre pas encore adopté de sanctions. Les ministres "condamnent la répression en cours contre les manifestants en Libye" et "déplorent la violence et la mort de civils". Ils appellent "à ce que le recours à la violence contre les manifestants cesse immédiatement et exhortent toutes les parties à faire preuve de retenue". Ils soulignent le régime du colonel Mouammar Kadhafi doit répondre aux attentes "légitimes" de la population. Les chefs de la diplomatie européenne, qui ont consacré plusieurs heures dimanche soir et lundi à évoquer la situation au sud de la Méditerranée, n'ont par contre pas adopté de sanctions contre le dirigeant libyen, qui, selon des informations non confirmées, aurait fui le pays à destination du Venezuela. **NORDIC RHETORIC** Finland's Foreign Minister, Alexander Stubb, had urged the bloc to consider stronger measures. Stubb had asked: "How can we on one side look at what's going on in Libya, with almost 300 people shot dead, and not talk about sanctions or travel bans ... for Gaddafi, and at the same time put travel bans and sanctions in Belarus?" His words were backed by tough rhetoric from other northern European states, with Germany particularly outraged by Libya's threat to stop cooperation on migration issues. "This is totally out of order. The European Union must not let itself be blackmailed," EU Affairs Minister Werner Hoyer said. British Foreign Secretary William Hague said he had called Gaddafi's son on Sunday and summoned the Libyan ambassador to the Foreign Office in London on Monday "to express our absolute condemnation of the use of lethal force against demonstrators." Hague also said that he had received "some information" that Gaddafi was on the way to exile in Venezuela. **BELGIAN REALISM** Selon le ministre belge des Affaires étrangères, Steven Vanackere, "l'heure n'est pas aux actions musclées", dans un contexte encore très mouvant. "Si la situation se détériore, il sera encore temps d'en tirer les conclusions appropriées", a-t-il dit. M. Vanackere a aussi appelé à éviter une personnalisation trop forte des événements actuels en Afrique du Nord. Mettre l'accent uniquement sur les dirigeants visés par les révoltes populaires "aboutit à des situations où les gouvernements suivants décevront forcément", a-t-il dit, jugeant que les difficultés économiques des pays ne disparaîtraient pas avec les dictateurs déchus. Lors des révolutions en Tunisie et en Egypte, les Européens avaient aussi fait preuve de prudence avant d'adopter des sanctions contre les dirigeants de ces pays, avec lesquels ils entretenaient des relations ambiguës. Les avoies du président tunisien Zine en-Abidine Ben Ali n'ont été gelés qu'après sa fuite, à la demande de la justice tunisienne. Dans le cas du président égyptien Hosni Moubarak, une demande de gel des avoies vient d'être émise par Le Caire. **'NEW PARTNERSHIP' WITH NORTH AFRICA** A côté des sanctions, l'Union européenne veut aussi développer "un nouveau partenariat dans ses relations avec les pays de la région, afin de soutenir les processus vers la démocratie, l'Etat de droit, le développement socio-économique et la stabilité régionale, sur la base de principes partagés, de coopération et d'appropriation locale", selon les conclusions adoptées lundi. Les ministres européens ajoutent qu'il revient "aux peuples de ces pays de choisir leur avenir". En fonction des pays, les Européens sont prêts à apporter différentes formes de soutien: soutien aux institutions, observation électorale ou aide financière. Dans le cas de la Tunisie, l'UE a déjà annoncé une enveloppe de 258 millions d'euros d'ici 2013, dont 17 millions dans l'immédiat, un montant qualifié de "ridicule" par le ministre tunisien de l'industrie, Afif Chelbi. (See [Council conclusions on developments in the Southern Neighbourhood](#))

EIGHT) – LIBYAN U.N. MISSION URGES ARMY TO CUT THE PROBLEM

Diplomats at [Libya's mission to the United Nations](#) sided on Monday with the revolt against their country's leader and called on the Libyan army to help overthrow "the tyrant Muammar Gaddafi." In a statement issued as protests erupted across Libya, the mission's deputy chief and other staff said they were serving the Libyan people, demanded "the removal of the regime immediately" and urged other Libyan embassies to follow suit. Diplomats said the U.N. Security Council at the request of the Libyan deputy ambassador, [Ibrahim Dabbashi](#), would hold a closed-door meeting on Tuesday at 9 a.m. (1400 GMT) to discuss the crisis. Gaddafi was waging a bloody battle to hang on to power as the revolt against his 41-year rule reached the capital, Tripoli. The Libyan mission statement released in New York said hundreds had died in the first five days of the uprising. The statement was issued by Dabbashi and other staff. Dabbashi told Reuters he did not know the whereabouts of Ambassador Abdurrahman Shalgham, a former Libyan foreign minister, but believed he was not in New York. Shalgham was not associated with the statement, Dabbashi said. Spokesman Dia al-Hotmani said that at a meeting on Monday at the mission's New York offices, staff "expressed our sense of concern about the genocide going on in Libya." "We are not seeing any reaction from the international community," he added. "The tyrant Muammar Gaddafi has asserted clearly, through his sons the level of

ignorance he and his children have, and how much he despises Libya and the Libyan people," the mission's Arabic language statement said. It condemned Gaddafi's use of "African mercenaries" to try to put down the rebellion and said it expected "an unprecedented massacre in Tripoli." Libya's ambassador to the United States told the BBC in Washington on Monday he was also withdrawing support for Gaddafi, but stopped short of resigning. Libya's ambassador to India, who resigned earlier this week, told Reuters he expected more diplomats to quit if Gaddafi's government continued its crackdown. "I call on the five permanent members of the (United Nations) Security Council. Now is the time to be fair and honest to protect the Libyan people," Libyan envoy Ali al-Essawi told Reuters in the Indian capital New Delhi. The Libyan embassy in Malaysia, in a statement, condemned what it called the "barbaric, criminal massacre" of protesters. The statement by the Libyan mission to the United Nations called on "the officers and soldiers of the Libyan army wherever they are and whatever their rank is ... to organize themselves and move towards Tripoli and cut the snake's head."

URGES UN TO IMPOSE NO-FLY ZONE It appealed to the United Nations to impose a no-fly zone over Libyan cities to prevent mercenaries and weapons being shipped in. It also urged guards at Libya's oil installations to protect them from any sabotage "by the coward tyrant," and urged countries to prevent Gaddafi from fleeing there and to be on the lookout for any money smuggling. Asked if the Libyan government had reacted to the statement, Dabbashi told reporters, "I don't care that much about the reaction of the government, I think practically there is no government." "I think it is a one-man show. It is a kind of end of the game, and he (Gaddafi) is trying to kill as much as he can from the Libyan people and try to destroy as much as he can from the Libyan country." **UN SECRETARY GENERAL TALKS TO GADDAFI** U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said he held an extensive telephone discussion with Gaddafi on Monday. "I forcefully urged him to stop violence against demonstrators," Ban told reporters in Los Angeles. He said he stressed to Gaddafi the importance of respecting human rights, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. "I have seen very disturbing and shocking scenes, where Libyan authorities have been firing at demonstrators from warplanes and helicopters. This is unacceptable. This must stop immediately," he said. Ban was in Los Angeles to attend talks on climate change. Dabbashi and his colleagues called on The Hague-based International Criminal Court to start an immediate inquiry into war crimes and crimes against humanity they said Gaddafi and his sons and followers had committed. They called on employees of Libyan embassies all over the world to "stand with their people," especially the mission at the U.N. European headquarters in Geneva, which they said should seek action by the U.N. Human Rights Council there.

NINE) – EGYPT ARMY OPENS HOSPITALS ON LIBYAN BORDER

Libyan guards have withdrawn from their side of the border with Egypt after anti-government protests, Egypt's army said on its Facebook page on Monday, adding it had set up two field hospitals on the frontier. The Egyptian army said it had set up camps and the hospitals near the Salum crossing to receive Egyptians returning from Libya, where there have been increasingly bloody battles between Libyan security forces and protesters. Egypt's state news agency said 4,000 Egyptians had returned from Libya, an oil producing country where many Egyptians have found work. Those who returned said many others could not make the journey due to a shortage of vehicles and fuel to bring them. "Members of the Libyan border guard withdrew from (the Libyan side of the border) and it is currently in the control of people's committees," Egypt's Supreme Council of the Armed Forces said in its Facebook message. The statement did not make clear whether the groups now in control of the border were loyal to Gaddafi. The army also said it would send planes to Libya to evacuate Egyptians once the situation stabilised. It said the field hospitals had been set up near the Salum border crossing. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit called on Libya to swiftly issue permits to allow planes to enter Libyan air space so Egypt could collect citizens, the state news agency reported. He also said the Foreign Ministry had sent buses to the Salum border crossing. Egypt rejected remarks made by Saif al-Islam Gaddafi saying Egyptians had a role in the events in Libya. Gaddafi's son had made the accusation "without any clear basis", the state news agency reported. Egypt held Libya responsible for the protection of Egyptian lives and property, it said.

TEN) – FIVE DEAD IN MOROCCO RIOTS

Cinq corps calcinés ont été découverts dans une agence bancaire qui a brûlé lors de troubles ayant suivi les manifestations de dimanche dans la ville de Al-Hoceima (nord), a déclaré lundi le ministre marocain de l'Intérieur Taib Cherkaoui.

ELEVEN) – MOROCCO ISLAMIST LEADER RESIGNS

Un député islamiste a démissionné de l'instance dirigeante de son parti pour protester contre la décision de sa formation de ne pas participer aux manifestations qui ont eu lieu dimanche dans plusieurs villes du Maroc pour réclamer des réformes politiques "urgentes". "La marche de dimanche était hautement civilisée et pacifique et notre parti n'aurait pas dû appeler à ne pas y participer. Je démissionne pour protester contre cette décision", a déclaré à l'AFP Mustapha Ramid, député et membre dirigeant du parti islamiste Justice et développement (PJD, opposition représentée au Parlement). "Les marches de dimanche m'ont fait penser à celles qui se déroulent en Europe du Nord, tant elles étaient pacifiques. La position de notre parti n'était donc pas en phase avec les aspirations de notre jeunesse et des Marocains dans leur ensemble", a ajouté Mustapha Ramid. Le secrétaire général du PJD, Abdelilah Benkirane, avait appelé à ne pas participer aux manifestations de dimanche dans plusieurs villes du Maroc.

TWELVE) – MOROCCAN PRESS HAILS 'PEACEFUL NATURE' OF DEMONSTRATIONS

La presse marocaine saluait lundi le caractère largement pacifique et discipliné des manifestations nationales de la veille en faveur de réformes politiques, y voyant la preuve que des opinions dissidentes peuvent s'exprimer dans ce pays. "La marche tranquille", titrait le quotidien indépendant Le Soir, en soulignant que "des groupes ont défilé pacifiquement, exprimé leurs doléances sans dérapages", ce qui "mérite d'être signalé" dans le contexte des révoltes qui secouent le monde arabe. Pour Libération, quotidien du 'parti socialiste' appartenant à la coalition gouvernementale, les manifestations de dimanche ont apporté la preuve que le Maroc "est vraiment à l'abri des événements sanglants qui secouent les autres pays arabes". Plusieurs quotidiens mettaient en exergue la gestion des forces de l'ordre qui se sont montrées très discrètes dans les grandes villes, laissant les manifestations se dérouler librement sans intervenir. Des incidents ont toutefois eu lieu, après la dispersion des manifestations dans plusieurs villes, dont Marrakech dans le Sud, et Al-Hoceima et Larache dans le Nord. Des milliers personnes ont manifesté dimanche dans de nombreuses villes du Maroc pour réclamer des réformes politiques et une limitation des pouvoirs du roi, répondant à un appel lancé à l'origine par des jeunes sur Facebook et repris par différentes ONG et organisations. Plusieurs journaux, notamment des publications proches du pouvoir, ont jugé la participation relativement faible.

THIRTEEN) – SENIOR U.S. DIPLOMAT IN EGYPT FOR TALKS

A senior U.S. government official arrived in Egypt on Monday for talks with the army-led interim government and representatives of civil society, the U.S. embassy said. "The United States Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs William J. Burns has arrived in Cairo," the embassy said. It was the first visit to Cairo by a high-level U.S. diplomat since the overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak, a staunch American ally, in a popular revolt.

FOURTEEN) BRITAIN'S CAMERON IN EGYPT

David Cameron est arrivé lundi au Caire, a indiqué l'ambassade de Grande-Bretagne, effectuant la première visite d'un dirigeant étranger en Egypte depuis la démission du président Hosni Moubarak le 11 février. "Nous pouvons confirmer que le Premier ministre est arrivé", a indiqué un responsable de l'ambassade, en refusant "pour des raisons de sécurité" de donner des détails sur son programme. M. Cameron arrive dans une région en pleine ébullition, où des soulèvements populaires demandent dans plusieurs pays le départ de régimes établis depuis des décennies. "C'est une grande opportunité pour nous d'aller parler à ceux qui dirigent actuellement l'Egypte pour nous assurer qu'il s'agit vraiment d'une authentique transition d'un pouvoir militaire à un pouvoir civil et de voir ce que des pays amis comme la Grande-Bretagne et d'autres en Europe peuvent faire pour aider", a déclaré M. Cameron dans l'avion l'amenant au Caire. "Je tiens particulièrement (...) à arriver en Egypte et à être l'une des premières personnes là-bas", a-t-il affirmé à des journalistes voyageant avec lui. Cameron a indiqué qu'il allait discuter en Egypte de la levée de l'état d'urgence, en vigueur depuis près de 30 ans. Les militaires au pouvoir ont affirmé que l'état d'urgence serait levé dès que les circonstances le permettront. "Ce qui est tellement rafraîchissant à propos de ce qui s'est passé c'est qu'il ne s'agit pas d'une

révolte islamiste", a-t-il ajouté. "Ce ne sont pas des extrémistes dans la rue. Ce sont des gens qui veulent bénéficier des libertés de base que nous considérons comme allant de soi au Royaume-Uni", a-t-il encore dit. A propos de la Libye, M. Cameron a demandé que soit privilégiées les réformes et non la répression. "Je pense que nous avons dit avec une extrême constance que la réponse aux aspirations montrées par les gens dans les rues de ces pays doit être la réforme, pas la répression", a-t-il indiqué. "Nous voyons ce qui se passe en Libye, et qui est complètement épouvantable et inacceptable", a-t-il poursuivi, ajoutant que "le régime fait usage des formes de répression les plus brutales contre les gens qui veulent voir ce pays -l'un des plus fermés et des plus autocratiques- faire des progrès". **EGYPT WANTS EU DEBT CANCELLED** Egypt said it would like European Union states to cancel its debts to them but has not made a formal request, the EU's local delegation said on Monday, citing the Egyptian finance minister. The minister, Samir Radwan, made the comment to the European Union ambassador in Egypt, Marco Franco, in a meeting on Sunday, said a spokeswoman for the EU in Cairo. "The ambassador met the minister of finance yesterday and they did discuss the financial situation," the spokeswoman said. "The cancellation of debts was mentioned as something that Egypt would like to see, but there was no formal request.

FIFTEEN) – BUT WHO NOW SPEAKS FOR EGYPT

In the aftermath of Egypt's recent uprising, which led to the ouster earlier this month of longstanding president Hosni Mubarak, a number of groups have emerged under the banner of what has come to be known as the 25 January Revolution. The sudden proliferation of these movements has raised the contentious question: who now speaks for the Egyptian people?

"No single political trend can claim to speak on behalf of the revolution," Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Mohamed Saad Kitatni said on February 18, in the first-ever appearance by the group (which was officially banned under the Mubarak regime) on Egyptian state television. "All segments of the Egyptian public participated in the uprising, and it was this broad-based participation that ensured its success."

On Feb. 11, Mubarak handed over executive power to the Egyptian Armed Forces following 18 days of nationwide demonstrations - unprecedented in both scope and intensity - in which more than 350 people were killed.

Since then, Egypt's Supreme Armed Forces Council has met several longstanding demands of the opposition, both suspending the constitution and dissolving parliament. It has also promised to amend the constitution to allow free presidential and parliamentary elections within six months, after which it has vowed to hand authority over to an elected civilian government.

Certain key opposition demands, however, remain unfulfilled. These include the release of all political prisoners, the termination of Egypt's longstanding Emergency Law, and the removal of the incumbent, Mubarak-appointed government.

In the absence of parliamentary representation and a working national charter, meanwhile, several groups - most of them youth-oriented - have stepped up to fill the political void.

The most widely recognised of these is the 25 January Youth Coalition, formally established on the first day of the uprising.

The coalition is comprised of several political youth movements, including Freedom and Justice, 6 April, the Youth Campaign for Mohamed ElBaradei, and Young People for Change. It also includes the youth wings of several opposition groups and parties, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, the Karama Party, the Wafd Party, the Ghad Party, the Tagammu Party and the Democratic Front Party.

"Legitimate authority does not derive from (Egypt's) 1971 constitution," the coalition declared in a statement issued shortly after Mubarak's ouster. "Legitimate authority now derives from the 25 January Revolution."

The coalition went on to lay down several demands, chief among which were the formulation of a new constitution, the cancellation of the Emergency Law, and the dissolution of Mubarak's long-ruling National Democratic Party (NDP). The coalition also asserted its intention "to monitor all measures taken by the armed forces council to ensure the realisation of the people's demands."

Members of the 25 January Youth Coalition, however, are quick to stress that they "do not have a monopoly" on the revolution.

"No single individual has the right to speak for the revolution, including us," 6 April said press coordinator Injie Hamdi. "The 25 January Revolution belongs to all of Egypt's young people."

While the coalition was established relatively early on, several other groups - also bearing the "25 January" moniker - emerged after Mubarak's departure on February 11.

On February 16, a gaggle of prominent intellectuals, writers and media personalities, along with a handful of young protest leaders, announced the formation of the "Council of Leaders of the 25 January

Revolution." Not unlike the 25 January Youth Coalition, the council's stated mission is "to follow up on the revolution's achievements."

In the days following Mubarak's resignation, even certain members of the former president's ruling NDP jumped on the revolutionary bandwagon, announcing their intention to found their own youth-based "25 January Party". Not surprisingly, the move was met with derision on the part of most protest groups and political observers.

"Mubarak's removal cut the head off the corruption, but its body remains intact," said Hamdi. "And this body consists of figures still associated with the regime, including rotten security officers, businessmen, and others who benefited from government corruption."

"Any attempt by Mubarak's NDP to make a comeback in another guise is destined to fail due to increased political awareness on the part of the public," said Amr al-Shobki, political analyst at the semi-official Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies.

Nor have all the groups to have recently risen from the ashes of revolution been youth-oriented.

On February 2, the ninth day of the uprising, a "Council of Wise Men" was assembled, mandated with mediating between protest groups and the Mubarak regime. So-called wise men included prominent Egyptian intellectuals and business personalities, such as Nobel Prize-winning scientist Ahmed Zewail and Coptic-Christian billionaire Naguib Sawiris.

But this group, too, was quickly rejected by protest leaders, many of whom saw it as little more than a ploy to prolong the life of the ruling regime.

"These people don't represent us; they haven't even approached us for talks," 6 April general coordinator Ahmed Maher told IPS at the time. "Besides, we completely reject any negotiations before Mubarak's unconditional resignation."

Young revolutionary leaders have also blasted the performance of Egypt's longstanding "official" opposition parties, most of which - at the height of the uprising - threw their support behind the embattled regime.

"These so-called 'opposition' parties were never anything other than arms of the corrupt ruling structure," said Hamdi. "During the uprising, they urged protesters to accept the regime's concessions and call off the demonstrations. Then, following Mubarak's ouster, they all changed their positions 180 degrees."

Al-Shobki, for his part, expresses little surprise that Egypt's current period of political transition has been marked by "loud proclamations" on the part of different groups attempting to claim the revolution as their own.

"This kind of jockeying is to be expected until presidential and parliamentary elections can be held," he said. "And when that happens, those who are democratically elected will be granted authority to speak for the people."

That being said, he added: "The public is perfectly capable of discerning those who supported the uprising from the beginning from those who changed their positions following the president's removal."

"All Egyptians have the right to speak their minds or offer suggestions for the betterment of Egypt," said Hamdi. "But any attempt to dilute the revolution's demands or achievements by anyone claiming to speak on its behalf will be rejected outright by the people of Egypt."

SIXTEEN) - AFRICAN LEADERS IN MEDIATION TRIP TO IVORY COAST

African presidents tasked with resolving Ivory Coast's crisis began arriving in Abidjan on Monday to propose a solution, as Ivorian troops used live rounds to disperse protesters calling for Laurent Gbagbo to step down as leader. A conflict over a disputed November election has paralysed the world's top cocoa grower and killed some 300 people. One source who had access to preparatory talks on Sunday said the African panel would insist that Gbagbo must stand down, in return for a number of guarantees, to allow rival Alassane Ouattara to take charge after winning the Nov. 28 poll, according to U.N.-certified results. There was no official statement from the leaders and Gbagbo has repeatedly rejected similar proposals. Ouattara's government has called for a "revolution" to oust Gbagbo, but attempts to demonstrate over the weekend were crushed by pro-Gbagbo forces, who witnesses said killed at least five people when they opened fire on attempted gatherings. In downtown Abidjan and the pro-Ouattara neighbourhoods of Koumassi and Abobo on Monday, residents reported gunfire all morning as soldiers and paramilitaries broke up attempted demonstrations, but there were no reports of casualties yet. "The youth tried to march from this morning but soldiers turned up and started firing. The youths were burning tyres," said Koumassi resident Didier Houndesso, a Ouattara supporter.

AFRICAN UNION WON'T BACKTRACK The leaders of South Africa, Mauritania, Chad, Burkina Faso and Tanzania met in Mauritania on Sunday to discuss proposals drafted by African Union experts on Ivory Coast. "We could not go back on the previous decision made by the AU commission (which has recognised Ouattara

as winner of the election)," said the source, who asked not to be named. "It was considered that the two candidates could not co-exist, so a transfer of power with guarantees to the losing party was favoured ... The high-level panel agreed on the path to be chosen but there are still many details to work out." By 1230 GMT, Chad's Idriss Deby and Tanzania's Jakaya Kikwete had arrived in Abidjan airport, a Reuters witness said. Ouattara and Gbagbo have formed rival parallel governments, though Ouattara remains restricted to a lagoon-side hotel protected by a ring of U.N. peacekeepers. Witnesses said at least five people were killed over the weekend as pro-Gbagbo security forces fired tear gas and live rounds to disperse Ouattara supporters.

MOROCCAN BANK SUSPENDS OPERATIONS Citing the "rapid deterioration of the financial sector", SIB, which is part of the Moroccan Attijariwafa Group (part of the [Moroccan royal family's ONA group](#)), on Monday became the latest international bank to suspend operations in the country on Monday. Nearly all other international banks have closed up shop and Gbagbo, who remains in power with the backing of the military despite international sanctions, had pledged to re-open on Monday two French banks nationalised last week. But finance ministry sources said Gbagbo officials were due to meet with pro-Gbagbo staff in the Ivorian branches of Societe Generale and BNP Paribas, with a view to re-opening them as nationalised banks on Tuesday. Officials in Burkina Faso said President Blaise Compaore would not join the other four in Abidjan, giving no reason. Gbagbo's supporters have protested against Compaore's inclusion on the AU panel. They say the president, accused of backing rebels who seized the north during the war before he became mediator in the crisis, is biased in favour of Ouattara

SEVENTEEN) - SENEGAL RULES OUT SECESSION REFERENDUM IN CASAMANCE

Le gouvernement du Sénégal a exclu lundi toute idée d'organiser un référendum d'autodétermination en Casamance, région du sud du pays confrontée à une rébellion indépendantiste, comme l'avait préconisé un des chefs de cette rébellion. "Cette éventualité n'est pas de l'ordre du possible", écrit le ministre et porte-parole du gouvernement, Moustapha Guirassy, dans une déclaration publiée dans le quotidien pro-gouvernemental Le Soleil. "La situation en Casamance n'est en rien comparable à celle du sud-Soudan", où un référendum d'autodétermination s'est traduit par une victoire massive du "oui" à l'indépendance. "Le Soudan n'a pas adopté un contrat social comme celui du Sénégal, autour du triptyque Laïcité, Démocratie et Liberté d'opinion et de culte", écrit M. Guirassy. "Nous espérons que ce moment d'égarement de ceux qui parlent d'autodétermination n'est qu'une manière de dire l'urgence de rejoindre une paix des braves et se retrouver dans la cohésion nationale", ajoute-t-il. "Nous avons accédé à l'indépendance, avec la Casamance comme partie intégrante de l'Etat du Sénégal. Aussi, sur le plan des principes intangibles, l'Etat du Sénégal continuera d'assumer la géographie que l'histoire lui a léguée", ajoute-t-il. Un chef politique du Mouvement des forces démocratiques de Casamance (MFDC, rébellion indépendantiste), Ansoumane Badji, a récemment écrit à l'Union africaine (UA) pour demander un référendum d'autodétermination en Casamance, où le conflit entre indépendantistes et Etat sénégalais a débuté en 1982. La Casamance est confrontée à un regain de violence ayant entraîné la mort depuis fin décembre de quinze soldats sénégalais tués dans des affrontements avec de présumés rebelles du Mouvement des forces démocratiques de Casamance (MFDC, rébellion indépendantiste). Les négociations gouvernement-MFDC sont au point-mort, les dernières remontent à février 2005, un peu plus d'un an après la signature, en décembre 2004 d'un accord de paix. Le président sénégalais Abdoulaye Wade a demandé la semaine dernière au gouvernement de lui proposer dans les "meilleurs délais un programme d'urgence" de réinsertion d'anciens rebelles indépendantistes casamançais pour aider à juguler le regain de violence actuel.

EIGHTEEN) - ZIMBABWE ARRESTS 46 OVER "EGYPTIAN-STYLE" PROTESTS

Zimbabwe has arrested dozens of activists on charges of plotting protests against long-serving President Robert Mugabe similar to those that toppled the leaders of Egypt and Tunisia, police said on Monday. Police detained 46 people in the capital Harare as they watched videos of protests in the north African countries and discussed possible demonstrations in Zimbabwe, said Inspector James Sabau, police spokesman for Harare province. "The agenda of the meeting was the revolt in Egypt and Tunisia -- what lessons can be learnt for the working class in Zimbabwe and Africa," he told reporters. However, a defence lawyer said his clients, who were arrested on Saturday, would deny plotting any anti-government protests when they appear in court this week. Critics say Mugabe, who turned 87 on Monday and has been in office for 31 years, has used tough policing and vote rigging to keep his grip on power despite an economic crisis in the past decade which many

blame on his mismanagement. Those arrested included trade unionists, student leaders and Munyaradzi Gwisai, who heads a small but radical pressure group, the International Socialist Organisation (ISO). They were detained at a meeting called by Gwisai. "Videos of the uprising in Egypt and Tunisia were being shown to the guests who attended as a way to motivate the people to subvert a constitutionally-elected government," Sabau said. "It has been said before by our commanders and I will say it again, the Egyptian-style (protests) have no place in Zimbabwe," Sabau said. He declined to discuss any further details of the case, saying the accused would be taken to court this week.

NINETEEN) - KENYA: FLOWER INDUSTRY STILL NOT BACK IN FULL BLOOM

Kenya's flower exporters are cautiously optimistic that the prospects for their industry will improve during 2011 after disaster struck in the form of volcanic ash and adverse winter weather conditions in 2010. But prices will be lower as the global economic recession still weighs heavily on their primary market, the European Union. In 2010, the industry faced enormous challenges. Volcanic ash in April and bad winter weather in December depressed cut flower sales by 15 percent, compared to 2009.

Kenya is globally the main exporter of cut flowers to the European market and the third largest exporter worldwide after the Netherlands and Columbia. The East African country is also the leading cut flower exporter among African developing countries. According to the Kenya Flower Council, 65 percent of exported flowers are sold through Dutch auctions, although direct sales are growing.

The council highlights that the industry has recorded strong growth in volume and value of cut flowers exported every year; 10,946 tons in 1988 compared to 86,480 tons in 2006 and 117,713 tons in 2009. The industry provides between 50,000 to 60,000 livelihoods directly and over 500,000 indirectly.

Statistics from the council show that the Kenyan flower industry suffered losses of 1.5 to two million dollars a day when 400-500 tons of cut flowers could not reach the market in 2010. Some 500 workers were laid off.

The industry has reportedly been optimistic that 2011 holds the potential for recovery. But Kenya Flower Council chief executive Jane Ngige is aware that the continuing economic woes in its key market could, just like the weather, affect the industry's performance in 2011.

"When the ability of consumers to buy is curtailed, it certainly bruises the industry," Ngige acknowledged.

"Reduced returns will translate into loss of revenue and, of course, jobs. Hopefully this will not be the case."

Demand for luxury goods such as flowers declined in Europe when the global economic and financial crisis first bit at the beginning of 2008, causing flower prices to immediately drop by between 15-30 percent.

Julius Riungu, farm manager at Timaflo, said that the industry expects prices to drop further this year. The company has increased the acreage planted with flowers to counter the possible fall in prices.

The farm has a total workforce of 1,060 people, of whom 60 percent are men and 40 percent women. "If workers have to be sent home due to the recession, flowers could become bushes, worsening the situation," he told at the farm. Timaflo trains its workers to form savings and credit cooperatives to save money.

Susan Makena joined the farm in Oct 2010 and is assigned to flower pruning. "I left the hotel industry for the flowers. The money earned has enabled me to help my extended family that is poor. I also use the cash to pay school fees for my children," she said, adding that dismissal would mean "death" to her.

For Martin Dyer, general manager at Kisima Farm, the previous year's calamities in the euro zone were a blessing, competitively. "We were lucky that we were able to take our flowers to Europe in time as we used other routes to get there. The prices had increased by then, due to the supply problems," Dyer explained.

With his farm's high quality, "big head" roses, he hopes to weather the continuing effects of the recession: "The small heads flood the market. Price-conscious customers should go for the best: the big heads."

Not all workers are equally happy. Cecilia Wanjiku, who has four children, complained that the earnings at Kisima Farm are not enough to meet all her needs but she has no other option as work is scarce.

"Instead of being idle, I opted for casual work at the flower farms. Idleness leads to vices such as stealing to earn a living," . She and the other workers clock five to eight hours a day. Most women interviewed said they use their earnings to pay school fees and buy food.

Dyer is optimistic that no job cuts will be required at Kisima Farm

Fernando Matos Rosa

Brussels

