



## **MEMORANDUM N° 83/2011**

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## **ONE) - OVER 6 MILLION PEOPLE TO BENEFIT FROM EUROPEAN FUNDS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN WATER**

Three European development finance partners and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) today formally agreed to finance the Mooi-Mgeni water supply project in KwaZulu-Natal. The agreements were signed at an event in Rosetta to mark the start of construction for the Mooi-Mgeni project. The European Investment Bank, the French Agency for Development and Germany's KfW Entwicklungsbank (The German Development Bank), all with a strong track record of supporting water projects in South Africa, signed contracts to provide loan funding for EUR 195 million (approximately ZAR1.8 billion), to the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority.

The Mooi Mgeni project will provide water to the Mgeni System that supplies water to 6.3 million people living in the municipalities of Ethekwini, uMgungundlovu and uMsunduzi in KwaZulu-Natal. The project includes construction of the Spring Grove Dam on the Mooi River at Rosetta in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. Work at this site was launched today by a sod-turning ceremony. The scheme also includes a conveyance system to transfer water to the Mgeni River catchment. Once constructed, the project improve the security of supply of water in the region, provide an extra 60 million cubic metres each year and address water delivery backlogs.

The Mooi Mgeni water project is the first time that the three institutions have streamlined financial cooperation in South Africa, under their Mutual Reliance Initiative intended to enhance the efficiency of large scale development finance projects. The three European institutions also used this occasion to sign a Common Project Terms Agreement that outlines their respective roles and common engagement.

The total cost of the project is ZAR 2.2 billion, approximately EUR 225 million. The project will be co-financed by the European Investment Bank (EUR 80 million), the French Agency for Development (EUR 70 million) and the German KfW (EUR 45 million), that are all public development finance institutions that implement the European Union's, French Government's and German Government's respective development policies. The Mooi Mgeni project will also be supported by ZAR 250 million from the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA).

The project will be managed by the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA), a state-owned water management body responsible for bulk raw water implementation in South Africa, under the authority of the South African Department of Water Affairs. Water access and supply is one of the priorities of the South African Government.

Since 1995, the European Investment Bank, AFD and KfW have supported South African economic growth by funding large infrastructure programs, such as this bulk water project, which are key to improving quality of life and economic development in South African.

The European Investment Bank is the long-term lending institution of the European Union, whose shareholders are the 27 European Union member states. The EIB has been active in the Republic of South Africa (RSA) since the country's transition to a democratic government in 1994.

The French Agency for Development (AFD) is a public institution serving the general interest: to fund development. As a specialized financial institution, the Agency funds projects across five continents, focusing primarily on Africa, which represents two-thirds of its commitments. It supports economic and social projects carried out by public authorities, state-owned companies, the private sector and local voluntary organizations. These projects concern urban development and infrastructures, the development of rural areas, industry, financial systems, and education and public health. AFD acts as the pivotal operator for French public development assistance. It intervenes within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals, giving special weight to economic growth, poverty reduction, and environmental protection. Sustainable development serves as a guideline for AFD's strategy. It forms financial and intellectual partnerships with other funding parties, and, through the agency or its trusteeships, strives to promote the formulation of public policies and the expansion of French influence in development-related areas.

KfW Entwicklungsbank is a competent and strategic advisor on current development issues. Reducing poverty, securing peace, protecting natural resources and helping to shape globalization are the main priorities of KfW Entwicklungsbank. On behalf of the German Federal Government it finances reforms, infrastructure and financial systems for socially and ecologically compatible economic growth in more than

110 countries. As part of KfW Bankengruppe it is a worldwide financing partner, and it also employs funds of its own for development projects. KfW Entwicklungsbank knows about the potentials and problems in developing countries thanks to its close cooperation with local partners and target groups. It actively seeks to cooperate with German and International partners in order to further enhance the developmental effectiveness and efficiency of its activities.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa is a development finance institution operating in the SADC region. It contributes to sustainable development by mobilising financial, knowledge and human capital to support Government and other development role- players in improving the quality of life of people in the region through funding infrastructure projects; accelerating the sustainable reduction of poverty and dependency; and promoting broad-based economic growth and regional economic integration.

## **TWO) – LDC MEET ENDS, BLAME GAME BEGINS**

Mission not accomplished. This is in three words what more than 200 eminent speakers and panelists from over 70 participating countries in effect told their peers, the media and delegates who attended the U.N. Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Fourth Conference May 9-13 in Istanbul.

The summit, code-named UN-LDC IV, attracted an unprecedented - for a development conference - crowd of 11,000, including heads of state, politicians, diplomats, technocrats, business executives, and journalists in Turkey's economic capital, according to Turkey's President Abdullah Gul, who inaugurated the meeting. Although the event was praised as a great success by the keynote speakers at the closing ceremony Friday, the final outcome has not been as convincing as hoped by many of the stakeholders.

Common characteristics of the 48 least developed countries are their lowest per capita incomes (less than 745 dollars per person per year) and the highest population growth rates (2.8 percent). These states are also totally off-track in the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and at the bottom of the Human Development Index rankings. Lack of sound governance, adequate institutions, and endemic corruption seem to form a common denominator for most of the LDCs.

In spite of strong financial commitment, the international community, embodied in governments of developing and developed countries, or development partners in U.N. jargon, has not produced the results expected, as evidence-based appraisal shows.

Following the resolutions adopted in the last LDC meet in Brussels ten years ago, aid to LDCs was initially set at 14 billion dollars a year for 2001. By 2009 it had climbed to 39.9 billion dollars annually, and the 2010 amount is anticipated to be around 43 billion dollars, according to U.N. estimates.

The return on this investment has, however, been disappointing. Although the overarching goal of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) was "to make substantial progress towards halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and suffering from hunger by 2015", the number of LDCs practically doubled in the BPoA's lifetime, from 27 to 48 countries. That is, 21 more countries became poorer than a decade earlier.

Poverty is determined by the percentage of the population that lives below 1.25 dollar a day on purchasing power parity (PPP) basis, which results in the poverty headcount ratio. Cape Verde and Maldives graduated out of the LDC league in 2007 and 2011 respectively. From the remaining lot, Gambia and Mauritania only have shown sufficient progress to achieve the goal of halving the ratio by 2015.

By April 2010, a total of ten LDCs were in a situation of debt distress, that is, insolvency for all practical purposes, and another ten were at high risk of debt distress, according to United States Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTD) 2010 report on LDCs.

At the Istanbul intergovernmental meetings and the side debates among non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the Intellectuals Forum and the Academics Council, arrows of blame flew in all directions.

The developed countries came under fire for their change of attitude towards committing more funds for LDCs. Their solidarity position has visibly changed since the BPoA, following concerns about terrorism after 9/11 2001, the war in Iraq, the financial crisis of 2008, and subsequent social discontent at home.

They demanded better governance and accountability for the use of the funds disbursed to the respective LDCs. Their inclination in Istanbul was to pass the torch to the private sector. Public Private Initiatives (PPI), more intensive commerce with LDCs, regionalisation of the development effort through South-South relations, foreign direct investment, and fair trade were put forward as alternatives, or complements, to financing programmes by state development partners.

NGOs protested that transferring responsibility from the state to the business sector was hardcore

liberalism and exploitation of the LDCs' natural and human resources. They were, in turn, blamed for lack of rational management and control of the aid raised and distributed by them.

LDCs were, obviously, in the seat of the victim and culprit at the same time. Several among them experienced strong economic advancement since 2001, with an average annual real gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 7 percent. Afghanistan, for instance, topped at 18.79 percent real GDP growth, but did not manage to find its way out of the LDC group. In 2008, Afghanistan received the largest official development assistance (ODA), 4.9 billion dollars.

Tanzania has been receiving over a billion dollars a year since 2001, but 89 percent of its 42 million population was living on less than 1.25 dollar a day (PPP) in 2008.

African LDCs received the lion's share in foreign direct investment: 22 billion dollars out of a total of 27 billion in ten years. Progress in living conditions in Africa has, nevertheless, been marginal, with undernourishment percentages of the population ranging between two to three times higher than Asian LDCs.

Another weak spot in the LDCs commitment to move out of pariah status has been the lack of fulfillment of agreed obligations toward the international community by many amongst them. Out of 48, only 35 states submitted a progress report to the U.N. on the compliance requirements of BPoA.

Western donors have been asking, where is the ODA money going? Afghanistan lies at the very bottom group of the 2010 corruption index published by Transparency International (TI). Tanzania is in the group just above. Most of the LDCs are in the last two groups of the TI classification.

Corruption and kleptocracy seem to be, for most development partners, the evils that keep LDCs away from development. The U.N., on the other hand, appears to be looking at the bright side of information. In a report last year it cited Yemen among LDCs that had shown progress in governance, because of its 2006 presidential elections.

The supporters of the Istanbul Programme of Action claim it addresses this disease with drastic medicine. A first reading of the final draft approved by the UN LDC IV Conference is, however, not convincing in this respect. It does not propose substantial measures to deal with the problem, just soft recommendations for better behaviour. Meanwhile, only six LDCs out of the 48 have signed the U.N. Convention Against Corruption.

### **THREE) – NEW ACTION PROGRAMME, AND NEW NAME FOR THE POOREST**

A new 10-year blueprint for assisting the poorest countries on the planet to join the league of the more fortunate ones was approved Friday at the closing of the Fourth U.N. Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV) held May 9- 13 here.

The Istanbul Programme for Action, a 50-page plan negotiated for a week by heads of state and diplomats from both least developed and economically developed states, contemplate the reduction of LDCs by half by 2020 and propose specific actions by both donors and recipients of aid to achieve this goal.

There are 48 least developed countries in the world, with a total population of 900 million. Among these, 33 are in Africa, 14 in the Pacific, and one in Latin America. Their poverty results from chronic structural problems in their economies, development capabilities and available human resources.

The notion of LDCs was established in 1971, when the international community determined that this group of countries was distinguished not only by widespread poverty, but also by the structural weakness of those countries' economic, institutional and human resources - often compounded by geographical handicaps.

The group, composed of 25 countries at the time, has been described by the U.N. as "the poorest and weakest segment of the international community" whose economic and social development presents a major challenge both for them and for their development partners.

The first U.N. conference on the LDCs was convened in Paris in 1981 to respond to the special needs of the LDCs. The second conference was also held in Paris, in 1990. It was followed by a third conference in Brussels in 2001.

Meanwhile, poverty continued to spread to more countries than initially identified as LDCs. The number of LDCs has practically doubled to 48, triggering consternation and scepticism among western nations, which foot the largest part of the bill for these conferences, with the European Union being the most generous donor.

Negotiations this week were dominated by reluctance of developed countries to come forward with more financial aid, unless drastic measures were taken to improve public governance in LDCs and accountability for the funds supplied.

Asked by the press at the opening of the event on Monday about accountability for the funds provided, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was reassuring, although vague. "We realise the importance of the issue," he affirmed. "We will establish an independent commission to come up with proposals."

By the end of the week it seems that accountability had been debated around many negotiating tables here. There was less talk of philanthropy and more about creating transparent management policies with the involvement of the private sector toward increasing productive capacity in the LDCs.

The Istanbul Summit was not a negotiating scene for winners and losers, but a venue where "bridges were created among LDCs and between LDCs and developed countries, as well as with the civil society and the business community. Thirty-six heads of state and 90 ministers were involved in the talks," said Lazarous Kapambwe, president of the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Economic development was apparently not the only objective sought by the parties. "There can be no peace as long as small islands of poverty will float," Kapambwe stressed at the Summit's closing meeting Friday.

A total of 8,900 official delegates and 1,100 business executives attended the Summit.

Chairman of the closing meeting, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, was also positive about the results obtained at the Conference. Reminding the delegates that Turkey has so far invested 2 billion dollars in helping LDCs move toward developing country status, he said that his country was committed to providing 200 million dollars annually, beginning in 2012. The aid should reach 10 billion by 2020.

Expressing his optimism about the progress to be achieved in the coming decade in fighting world poverty, Davutoglu threw in a new idea: changing the name of the group of countries to be assisted from Least Developed to Future Developed Countries. Genuine or not, the initiative will have to wait for the U.N. General Assembly to adopt it.

#### **FOUR) - SOUTH-SOUTH AXIS STRENGTHENS**

The glass isn't exactly half-full, but it certainly is not entirely empty either. Within the broad failure of the weeklong Fourth U.N. Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV) in Istanbul that concluded Friday, many delegates are taking heart in a strengthening South-South front that has emerged.

That front failed to secure a trade agreement to the satisfaction of the LDCs. But delegates say the very act of joint and unified negotiations by the group has put them in a stronger position for bargaining in years ahead.

There was no hiding the disappointment over the conference, though. "We were looking for a bold, forward looking and ambitious programme of action," Arjun Karki, chair of the LDC-IV Civil Society Forum told IPS. "We thought member states would learn from past three conference failures."

The LDC conference, organised through the U.N., is held every ten years. That gives countries a lot of time to prepare progressive policies for the LDCs - and then just a week to give expression to them. The developed world largely failed, despite progress at this conference on some counts.

"We had really been looking for a new aid architecture for the LDCs," said Karki. "The present structure is not really helping LDCs. That is based on the principle of market fundamentalism and neo-liberal policies that have privatised profits and nationalised losses."

But looking at the silver lining, Karki said, "we are also encouraged by the political spirit of the LDC member states. They are working unified, very close together, and they tried to defend their interests until the very last minute. So there is some political achievement in terms of building and strengthening the LDC group as a political bloc."

The partnership between the LDCs and civil society has really improved, Karki said. "So we can work together as a political group and as a pressure group in days to come so that our voices are heard by key development voices who make policies and programmes."

There are deeper gains that others point to, even if these did not show by way of a deliverable new trade deal for the LDCs.

"South-South is really picking speed because the latest UNCTAD [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development] report for the least developed countries for 2010 says the South is now the major market for LDC exports," Demba Moussa Dembele, chairperson of LDC Watch told IPS.

"Most foreign direct investment received by LDCs comes from the South," he said. "Not only in terms of financial resources but technology transfer. The emerging companies are becoming major players in the

LDCs' economies. And loans given by emerging economies are mostly on a concessional basis, or grants." That new cooperation was strongly confirmed and strengthened at the Istanbul conference, Dembele said. "We would like to push for greater South-South cooperation because in our opinion it's one way for LDCs to have more political autonomy to design their own policies and formulate their own priorities, and to implement policies that are in the best interests of their citizens."

A clear sign of progress is what is not taking place, or at the least not being so confidently pushed, to corner the LDCs. Prime among these are the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) that the European Union (EU) has been seeking with many of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The EU has succeeded in forcing Papua New Guinea and Fiji already to sign such deals.

There is widespread unanimity among the poor countries against such agreements that can be seriously damaging to LDC economies in the long run. The new South-South front is a bulwark against such agreements, says Dembele.

"The EU wanted to force these agreements on Africa in 2007," Dembele said. The EU is easing pressure now "because the EU is seeing the South-South connection becoming stronger and stronger, especially through China, India and Brazil. These three have very deep financial and political relations with Africa. And so the EU is afraid of losing its backyard, economically speaking."

For the LDCs this means an important new path, he says. "For 500 years and more we have been mistreated by Europe. This South-South cooperation is fresh air for us. It is excellent for our liberation - if of course we use it wisely."

#### **FIVE) – U.K. GENERAL CALLS FOR BOMBARDMENTS OF ALL LIBYA INFRASTRUCTURE**

NATO must broaden its range of bombing targets in Libya or run the risk of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi clinging on to power, Britain's chief of defence staff was quoted as saying on Sunday. General David Richards suggested in an interview NATO should attack Libyan infrastructure, which is not yet on its target list. NATO is bombing Libya under a U.N. mandate to protect civilians and says it strikes only military targets. The leaders of Britain, France and the United States say they will not halt the campaign until Gaddafi leaves power. Richards said the military campaign to date had been a "significant success" for NATO, but it needed to do more. "If we do not up the ante now there is a risk that the conflict could result in Gaddafi clinging to power," the Sunday Telegraph newspaper quoted him as saying. "At present, NATO is not attacking infrastructure targets in Libya. But if we want to increase the pressure on Gaddafi's regime then we need to give serious consideration to increasing the range of targets we can hit." Rebels have been fighting for three months against Gaddafi's rule and control the city of Benghazi and the oil-producing east. The war has reached a virtual stalemate, with recent fighting centred on the port city of Misrata in the west and in the Western Mountains region. Richards was quoted as saying NATO was not targeting Gaddafi directly, "but if it happened that he was in a command and control centre that was hit by NATO and he was killed, then that is within the rules". (Reuters)

#### **SIX) – NATO BOMBS LIBYAN PORT OF RAS LANOUF**

NATO aircraft blasted an oil terminal in a key eastern city at nightfall Sunday, Libyan TV reported, after Britain urged the alliance to widen its assault on areas controlled by ruler Moammar Gadhafi. Libya's deputy foreign minister Khaled Kaim sharply condemned that call, describing it as a "provocation." The Libya TV report said the bombs hit methanol tanks at the oil port of Ras Lanouf, causing leaks. NATO officials had no immediate comment. The reported attack came as the Libyan conflict appeared largely stalemated, with each side claiming gains one day, only to be turned back the next. Libyan rebels said Sunday they have taken full control of the western port city of Misrata, 125 miles (200 kilometres) from Tripoli, the only major city in western Libya with a significant rebel toehold. The rebel claim could not be confirmed. In Misrata, rebel fighter Abdel-Salam described the situation in Misrata as static. "The situation is almost frozen, as the rebels are in full control over Misrata," he said. "The rebels are not engaged in any major fighting fronts with Gadhafi forces." While refusing to comment on the reported attack on Ras Lanouf, which is about halfway between Tripoli and the rebel stronghold of Benghazi in eastern Libya, a NATO spokesman in Naples who declined to give his name said there was a NATO airstrike at about midday Sunday near Zawara, 50 kilometres from the Tunisian border. (AP)

## SEVEN) – CONTROVERSIAL PROSECUTOR SEEKS GADDAFI ARREST WARRANT

An international prosecutor on Monday sought an arrest warrant for Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi accusing him of committing crimes against humanity by killing protesters during an uprising against his 41-year rule. [Luis Moreno-Ocampo](#), International Criminal Court prosecutor, also asked judges, who now need to see if there is enough evidence to issue warrants, for the arrest of Gaddafi's son Saif al-Islam and his spy chief Abdullah al-Senussi. Moreno-Ocampo signalled his action earlier this month when said he would seek three arrests for the "pre-determined" killing of protesters in Libya after the U.N. Security Council referred the violence to the Hague-based court in February. "The office gathered direct evidence about orders issued by Muammar Gaddafi himself, direct evidence of Saif al-Islam organising the recruitment of mercenaries and direct evidence of the participation of al-Senussi in the attacks against demonstrators," Moreno-Ocampo said at the ICC on Monday. The prosecutor moved with unprecedented speed in his investigation into the early violence in the uprising against Gaddafi's rule, with the request for arrest warrants coming just 2-1/2 months after the Security Council referral. He added the office of the prosecutor also documented how the three held meetings "to plan the operations" and Gaddafi used his "absolute authority to commit crimes in Libya." Libyan officials have already denounced the ICC prosecutor's action, saying the court is a creation of the West for prosecuting African leaders. Thousands of people have been killed in the conflict in Libya, the bloodiest of the revolts which have convulsed the Middle East in what has been called the "Arab Spring". Libyan officials deny killing civilians, saying instead they were forced to take action against criminal armed gangs and al Qaeda militants. They say a NATO bombing campaign is an act of colonial aggression aimed at grabbing Libya's oil. Moreno-Ocampo said the swiftness of his investigation stems from global consensus that the crimes committed in Libya had to be investigated, although judges will now need to decide whether there is sufficient evidence to proceed with the warrants. (Reuters)

## EIGHT) – GADDAFI ENVOYS EXPECTED IN RUSSIA TOMORROW

Des émissaires du dirigeant libyen Mouammar Kadhafi sont attendus mardi à Moscou, a annoncé lundi le ministre russe des Affaires étrangères, Sergueï Lavrov, cité par l'agence Itar-Tass. (AFP)

## NINE) – SUDAN DECLARES NORTH PARTY WINNER IN KEY STATE VOTE

Sudan said on Sunday the northern ruling party won an election for governor in the north's main oil state after a vote the south said was rigged, creating a fresh flashpoint before the south secedes in July. The state of South Kordofan borders the south of Sudan and holds most of what will remain of the north's oil output after the south splits away. The state is also home to many fighters who sided against the north in a civil war that ended in 2005. The National Election Commission (NEC) said the governor's race was won by the ruling National Congress Party's Ahmed Haroun, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court over charges of war crimes. "Ahmed Haroun is elected as governor," a member of the commission, Mukhtar Ellassum, told reporters. In the state's parliamentary vote, the NCP won 22 out of 32 electorate districts and the SPLM 10, the commission said. Analysts fear violence could erupt after the southern Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) said on Friday it would withdraw from the South Kordofan vote because it considered it to be rigged. Many of the state's population fought alongside southern rebels during the civil war and fear they will be targeted in the new, separate north Sudan. **SOUTHERNERS WILL NOT RESPECT RESULTS** The vote held almost two weeks ago was delayed from April last year after the SPLM accused Khartoum of manipulating a census and other election preparations. "We will not accept these results because the vote was rigged," Yasir Arman, head of the northern section of the SPLM, told reporters late on Saturday ahead of the NEC announcement. "We will not participate in the parliament of government," he said, saying Haroun should have never been allowed to run in the first place because of the war crime charges against him. He said the SPLM would use "all peaceful means" to protest against the vote, declining to elaborate. The NEC called on all parties to accept the results and rejected accusations the vote was flawed. "Reports of all observers point to an excellent level of exactness," Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah, deputy head of the commission and a northerner, told reporters. The Carter Centre, the largest international observer mission for the elections, did not immediately comment on the results, saying only said it would soon issue a statement. It had urged all parties last week to remain calm and settle any disputes through the proper legal channels. Khartoum will lose of up to 75 % of Sudan's 500,000 barrels per day oil output when the south secedes on July 9. Southern Kordofan holds the most productive fields left in the north. It is also important to Khartoum because it borders

Darfur and the disputed, oil-producing Abyei region, another north-south flashpoint in the build-up to secession. (Reuters)

#### TEN) – SPAIN PAID € 5 MILLION TO SOMALI PIRATES ON SATURDAY

Une rançon de sept millions de dollars (5 millions d'euros) a été versée samedi à des pirates somaliens en échange de la libération de deux marins espagnols, capturés en décembre dernier dans l'océan Indien, a indiqué dimanche à l'AFP un pirate somalien(AFP)

#### ELEVEN) – EGYPT'S ELARABY CONFIRMED AS NEXT ARAB LEAGUE HEAD

Egypt's foreign minister has been confirmed as the Arab League's next chief to lead the organisation amid unprecedented turmoil in the region after last minute diplomacy left him as the only candidate in the race. Nabil Elaraby was Egypt's permanent representative to the United Nations and director of the Regional Cairo Centre for International Commercial Arbitration before replacing Ahmed Aboul Gheit as foreign minister in March. Here are some facts about Elaraby: \* He was born on March 15, 1935, received a degree from Cairo University's Faculty of Law in 1955, a masters in international law and later a doctorate in juridical science from New York University Law School. \* Elaraby served as the head of Egypt's delegation to negotiate an end to the Taba border dispute between Egypt and Israel that was settled by international arbitration in Egypt's favour and was also a legal adviser to the Egyptian delegation during the Camp David Middle East Peace Conference in 1978. \* He served as Egypt's ambassador to India, and as its permanent representative to the United Nations. \* Elaraby is a partner at the Zaki Hashem & Partners firm in Cairo and since 2008 has been serving as the director of the Regional Cairo Centre for International Commercial Arbitration. \* He served as a counsel to the Sudanese government in the "Abyei Boundary" Arbitration between the government of Sudan and the Sudanese People's Revolutionary Movement. \* Elaraby served as a judge in the International Court of Justice from 2001-2006 and was a member of the International Law Commission of the United Nations from 1994 to 2001. He has been serving as a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague since 2005. (Reuters)

#### TWELVE) – SEVERAL WOUNDED AS MOROCCAN POLICE FIGHTS DEMONSTRATORS

Près de dix personnes ont été blessées dimanche au cours de la dispersion par la police marocaine d'une centaine de manifestants du Mouvement du 20 février qui voulaient se rassembler devant un centre de détention près de Rabat, afin de dénoncer des violations des droits de l'homme. Tôt dimanche matin, un important dispositif policier avec des dizaines de fourgonnettes avait été mis en place sur le lieu où les manifestants du 20 février devaient se rassembler, avant de se diriger vers le centre de détention de Temara, au siège de la Direction de la surveillance du territoire (DST), les renseignements marocains. C'est la première fois que des manifestants, pour la plupart des jeunes du Mouvement du 20 février qui revendique des réformes politiques, tentaient de se rassembler devant ce centre. Le 20 février, répondant à un appel lancé sur Facebook par de jeunes Marocains -eux-mêmes inspirés par l'exemple des Printemps arabes-, des dizaines de milliers de personnes étaient descendues dans les rues des villes marocaines pour réclamer plus de justice sociale et une évolution vers une monarchie parlementaire. Dimanche, dans le cadre d'une journée d'action contre la détention secrète, le Mouvement du 20 février avait prévu d'organiser un pique-nique devant le centre de détention de Temara. "Par cette action pacifique, le Mouvement du 20 février revendique le jugement des responsables de la torture et des violations graves des droits de l'homme", avait indiqué le Mouvement dans un communiqué. "Nous condamnons cette intervention violente", a déclaré à l'AFP Khadija Ryadi, présidente de l'Association marocaine des droits humains (AMDH), après l'action musclée de la police pour disperser la manifestation et l'empêcher de s'approcher du centre de Temara. "C'est illégal car il s'agit d'un lieu public et la manifestation était pacifique. L'Etat a peur que ce centre soit dévoilé", a-t-elle ajouté. Selon l'agence marocaine de presse MAP (officielle), citant les autorités locales, ce rassemblement "en vue d'une marche n'était pas autorisé". La MAP a en outre indiqué que le procureur général de la Cour d'appel de Rabat va "effectuer une visite d'inspection au siège de la DGST" près de Témara dans le cadre d'une enquête. Pour sa part, a ajouté l'agence, le Conseil national des droits de l'Homme (CNDH) -un organisme

créé récemment par le roi Mohammed VI- a décidé lui-aussi d'effectuer une mission similaire au siège de la DST. Plusieurs ONG, comme Human Rights Watch (HRW) et Amnesty International, ont dénoncé des violations des droits de l'homme dans ce centre de détention. Dans un rapport publié le 25 octobre 2010, HRW affirmait que les personnes soupçonnées de terrorisme "sont détenues dans un centre secret près de Rabat, et sont maintenues au-delà des 12 jours de garde à vue autorisés par la loi contre le terrorisme" de 2003. Selon HRW, les agents de la DST "participent activement à l'incarcération des personnes soupçonnées de terrorisme, à leur détention et à leur interrogatoire". Les personnes blessées lors de l'intervention policière dimanche ont été hospitalisées. "Un militant de la section du Mouvement à Salé (ville jumelle de Rabat), Said Idrissi, a été transporté à l'hôpital après avoir été blessé à la tête et au nez", a précisé un membre du Mouvement du 20 février. Selon le gardien d'un café près du lieu du rassemblement, "une fille a reçu un coup de matraque au ventre et a été également transportée à l'hôpital". Les militants du Mouvement du 20 février se sont ensuite dirigés vers le siège de l'AMDH où une conférence de presse devait se tenir dans l'après-midi. Dimanche, la police est également intervenue pour disperser par la force un rassemblement d'une centaine d'islamistes rassemblés devant le Parlement à Rabat, selon un journaliste de l'AFP. Plusieurs milliers de personnes, principalement du Mouvement du 20 février, ont également manifesté à Marrakech pour protester contre le récent attentat meurtrier dans le coeur touristique de la ville et réclamer des réformes démocratiques, "meilleur moyen de lutter contre la violence", selon elles. (AFP)

### THIRTEEN) – 800 DEAD IN NIGERIA RIOTS, SAYS NGO

Les émeutes qui ont suivi la présidentielle du mois dernier au Nigeria ont fait au moins 800 morts en trois jours, a déclaré lundi l'organisation internationale de défense des droits de l'homme Human Rights Watch. (AFP)

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