

UGANDA

1. Justice, Droits de l'homme...

([OUG_1](#)) AFP – 4/2

Un journaliste ougandais a été arrêté mercredi et inculpé de diffamation pour avoir comparé le régime du président Yoweri Museveni à la dictature de Ferdinand Marcos aux Philippines, a indiqué son avocat. Angelo Izama, chroniqueur politique pour le quotidien indépendant Daily Monitor, est l'auteur d'un texte publié le 20 décembre dans les colonnes du Monitor. "Il s'agissait d'un commentaire, c'était une analyse hypothétique", a expliqué à l'AFP l'avocate du journal, Anne Abeja-Muhwezi.

Cette arrestation "s'explique par la préparation des élections présidentielle et parlementaires" de 2011. "Le gouvernement veut museler les journalistes critiques", a-t-elle estimé.

Le 20 décembre également, M. Izama avait écrit un article en une du journal affirmant que le gouvernement ougandais entraînait une unité paramilitaire en vue des élections générales de 2011. Les autorités ont protesté contre cet article, selon le rédacteur en chef du Monitor, Daniel Kalinaki.

M. Izama a également été interrogé pour cet article, mais l'accusation de diffamation n'a été retenue que pour la comparaison avec le régime Marcos.

"Essayons-nous d'alimenter des violences politiques? Absolument pas. Devons-nous rester silencieux? Nous pensons qu'il doit y avoir un débat public dans ce pays pour éviter ces violences politiques", a commenté M. Kalinaki.

Plusieurs autres journalistes du Daily Monitor sont actuellement poursuivis dans le cadre de différentes procédures, a-t-elle précisé.

([OUG_2](#)) Reuters – 4/2

U.S. President Barack Obama on Thursday denounced as "odious" a proposed anti-gay law in Uganda that has drawn international condemnation. "We may disagree about gay marriage, but surely we can agree that it is unconscionable to target gays and lesbians for who they are -- whether it's here in the United States or ... more extremely in odious laws that are being proposed most recently in Uganda," Obama told the National Prayer Breakfast.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, speaking before Obama at the annual bipartisan gathering of religious and political leaders, also criticized the draft law being considered by Uganda's parliament. Clinton said she recently called Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and expressed the "strongest concerns" about the proposed legislation. The call was made on Dec. 20, a State Department official said.

The East African country has faced intense pressure from Western governments and human rights groups over the draft legislation, which was presented as a private members' bill last year. It would prohibit sexual relations between people of the same sex as well as the recognition of homosexual

relations as an acceptable lifestyle, Navi Pillay, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, said last month.

Pillay said the draft law would breach international standards and it "proposes draconian punishments for people alleged to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered -- namely life imprisonment, or in some cases, the death penalty." It could lead to a prison sentence of up to three years for anyone failing to report within 24 hours the identities of any lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered person, she added.

Uganda's Ethics and Integrity Minister Nsaba Buturo has said a revised law would probably limit the maximum penalty for those convicted to life in prison rather than execution.

Obama, who won strong backing from homosexual voters in the 2008 presidential election, has promised to fight on their behalf. In his State of the Union address last week, he said he would seek the repeal of the U.S. military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy that permits gays to serve in uniform as long as they hide their sexual orientation.

2. Économie, Finances...

([OUG_3](#)) Reuters 1/2

Investment into Uganda is expected to nearly double in 2010 to \$3 billion from last year thanks to growing foreign interest in its oil sector, the head of the state-run Uganda Investment Authority said on Monday.

The landlocked east African country, which has long been hailed for its liberal and stable macroeconomic environment, has emerged relatively unscathed from the global economic slowdown.

Its finance ministry forecasts growth at 6 percent in the 2009/2010 financial year, from 7 percent the 12 months before.

Maggie Kigozi, executive director of the authority, told Reuters in an interview that she expected investment in 2010 to stand at around \$3 billion, up from \$1.57 billion in 2009.

"Uganda's economic potential is expanding very fast. We're witnessing a huge rise in interest from foreign investors in our economy, and oil is driving a lot of this interest," she said.

Read the entire article under :

<http://af.reuters.com/article/ugandaNews/idAFLDE6100KM20100201?sp=true>

([OUG_4](#)) Reuters – 3/2

A Ugandan court on Wednesday dismissed a case filed by two Ugandan journalists in 2007 to try and force the government to disclose details of oil Production Sharing Agreements (PSAs) it has signed with explorers.

The Ugandan government has defied pressure to disclose the terms of its agreements with oil companies, saying that would greatly weaken its position in future licensing rounds.

A Chief Magistrate's court in the capital Kampala dismissed the case filed by Charles Mpagi and Izama Angelo, senior journalists at local newspaper the Daily Monitor who described themselves as

private citizens in their petition. "Government business doesn't have to be necessarily in the public domain... The applicants have not demonstrated that public interest in this case overrides private interest," the judgment read.

Late last year, another group, Greenwatch, filed a similar case against the government.

[\(OUG_5\)](#) Reuters – 3/2

Uganda has approved Tullow Oil's pre-emption right over the sale by Heritage Oil of a stake in their jointly held oil prospects, the state minister for minerals said on Thursday. The decision paves the way for Tullow to develop the fields in the west of the African nation, probably partnering with China's CNOOC, although France's Total was also on a shortlist.

Minister Peter Lokeris told Reuters that senior Energy Ministry officials met President Yoweri Museveni on Feb. 2 and backed Tullow's position -- effectively stopping Italy's Eni SpA from buying Heritage's stake in blocks 1 and 3A.

"We met and considered all the various aspects regarding this transaction, notably Tullow's plans to farm-down once they acquire Heritage's assets and contractual obligations involved in previous agreements, and agreed to approve Tullow's pre-emption right," Lokeris said by telephone. "Cabinet will sit next week and finalise everything and make an announcement," he told Reuters.

Jersey-based explorer Heritage agreed in December to sell its half-share in Blocks 1 and 3A to Eni for up to \$1.5 billion. But Tullow, which owns the rest of the two oil blocks, exercised a pre-emption right.

[\(OUG_6\)](#) Reuters – 5/2

Uganda's parliament will begin inquiries next week into production sharing agreements (PSAs) signed between the government and foreign exploration companies, a house committee chairman told Reuters on Friday.

The east African country struck oil in 2006 and has five PSAs, but activists say the government signed bad deals that hand a disproportionate chunk of the proceeds to foreign firms and have campaigned for it to disclose those agreements.

Winifred Masiko, chairwoman of the House's natural resources committee, said she had handed details of the agreements over to legal officers so they could go through technical aspects and report to members of parliament.

"Currently there's a range of opinion, some people are telling us Uganda signed bad deals, while some experts insist we have good agreements. We'll look at all these views and determine whether the government signed good agreements or not," she said. Legislators, she said, would have a chance to look at the PSAs from Feb. 10 but would not be allowed to take copies.

3. Relations extérieures

[\(OUG_7\)](#) AFP – 2/2

Dix Ougandais ont porté plainte contre le gouvernement britannique pour des crimes commis par des officiers de l'armée impériale à la fin du 19ème siècle dans le nord-ouest du pays, a déclaré

mardi à l'AFP l'avocat du groupe. La plainte actuellement en instance devant un tribunal ougandais se base sur des événements qui se sont passés dans le royaume tribal de Bunyoro entre 1893 et 1899. Selon l'avocat, le Bunyoro ne s'est jamais remis des pertes massives subies durant l'invasion soutenue par les Britanniques.

"Avant ce conflit, la population du Bunyoro était estimée à 2,5 millions de personnes. Mais à la fin de la guerre, il ne restait plus que 150.000 membres de cette tribu", a déclaré l'avocat, Crispus Ayena Odongo. "Ceux qui sont responsables de cette invasion devraient nous dire ce que sont devenus ceux qui manquent", a-t-il ajouté.

Quand les Britanniques ont commencé à coloniser l'actuel Ouganda, ils ont été reçus chaleureusement par une des plus importantes tribus du pays, les Buganda, selon plusieurs travaux historiques. Le Bunyoro, l'autre royaume dominant dans le secteur, a résisté à la colonisation. Selon la plainte entre 1893 et 1899, les Britanniques, avec leurs propres soldats et d'autres venant du Buganda, ont décimé le Bunyoro pour tenter de forcer son monarque à signer un accord avec le gouvernement colonial.

Les dix plaignants sont des notables du district de Bunyoro's Kibaale. Ils réclament 300 millions de livres britanniques (près de 260 millions d'euros) en dommages et intérêts.

Me Odongo, qui a été le principal conseiller juridique de l'Armée de Résistance du Seigneur (LRA) durant des discussions de paix avortées, affirme que son dossier repose essentiellement sur des journaux de campagne d'officiers de l'armée de Sa Majesté.

La Grande-Bretagne a engagé des juristes ougandais qui ont insisté sur le fait que le Gouvernement britannique jouissait de l'immunité diplomatique.

Selon Me Odongo, ses clients estiment qu'ils auraient plus de chance en présentant leurs doléances devant un tribunal britannique, la procédure suivie par un groupe d'anciens guérilleros Mau-Mau du Kenya. "Cette affaire et celle des Mau-Mau sont très similaires. C'est un très bon précédent", a dit l'avocat.

Cinq Kényans, anciens combattants de la révolte des Mau-Mau contre les troupes britanniques dans les années 50, ont déposé en juin dernier une demande en réparation devant la Haute cour de Londres pour les tortures et viols qu'ils affirment avoir subi, sans résultat à ce jour.