

JAN-MARCH 2023 | NUMMER 09.

GEOPOLITICS-THE AFRICAN
PERSPECTIVE

MUAMBI

FRANÇAIS/ ENGLISH

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

EXCLUSIF

KYLIAN MBAPPÉ

The man of the year 2022!

LAVROV

in Bamako, Mali

TODAY I APOLOGISE.

*Mark Rutte, Dutch Prime
minister.*

AN ODE TO

MO HERSI

An accomplished man!

**POPE FRANCIS:
HANDS OFF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO!
HANDS OFF AFRICA!**

GIROUD



WELCOME TO YOUR MAGAZINE !

The world is deteriorating. Yes, it is indeed deteriorating. Not the Western world, not the African world, not the Eastern or Asian world, but the entire world, the whole of humanity, including soil, subsoil, air as well as space.

Facing these universal challenges, Muambi International Network is of the view that we should have universal answers.

Can we provide effective answers to the problems we do not know about? Do Africans really know geopolitical challenges they face in Africa? Do Europeans know about the wars in Africa? And do Asians understand the conflicts in the East? In Europe? And what about the Arab world?

We, at Muambi International Network, are trying to provide to the youth everywhere in the world the keys to better understand the world we live in. Because you the youths of today, from all over the world, have the world of tomorrow in your hands. Don't say that others will come and resolve "our problems", because these "others", also have their own problems and the solutions to their problems may just become the source of your problems.

To you, decision-makers all over the world, being a decision-maker means making decisions to improve the world.

Not just a small part of the world. Not just your small world. No, but the whole of humanity. Being a decision maker is not about taking the wealth of some to give to others or to keep it for yourself. No, the danger is that these disadvantaged others will not be friendly spectators who are going to applaud you. They will come and demand back their wealth in your luxurious gardens.

So what are you going to find in this edition? Pope Francis speaking to you from Kinshasa, the capital of DR Congo. Joe Biden speaking to Xi Jinping and Of course, also about Lavrov's visit to Mali.

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You will read about Prime Minister Mark Rutte's apology in the role of the Netherlands in the slave trade. You will also find a few analyses on the war in Ukraine, as well as handsome women and men from all of over the world, in all their splendor while attending our events.

Our choice to declare Kylian Mbappé as the Man of the Year 2022 has nothing to do with football. Mbappé is the embodiment of physical, mental, spiritual and intellectual determination and courage. He inspires children worldwide. And Mbappé's courage can inspire you in all areas of life.

We thank you and wish you good reading.

Alphonse Muambi



Cheyenne Toney

*DURING THE BOOK
LAUNCHING,
"GEVANGENISPOST"*





An ode to MO HERSI

An accomplished man!

By Femi Soewu

"AN ODE TO" IS A RELAY COLUMN IN WHICH WE ASK A PERSON TO PUT SOME ONE ELSE IN THE SPOTLIGHT. LAST TIME, FEMI WAS THE ONE IN THE SPOTLIGHT. NOW IT IS AT HIS TURN TO PRAISE SOMEONE ELSE. CURIOUS TO SEE WHAT HE'S GOING TO SAY? READ HERE.

I am quite sure Mo Hersi does not know my name nor would he actually recognise me if we would ever meet in a neutral space. He is however one of the new generation of Afropeans that I see and feel at peace that we have a great future in the scheme of things in Europe.

Having arrived in The Netherlands as a child refugee from Ethiopia, Mo Hersi has gone on to carve a place for himself inside the Dutch society.

Mo pokes fun

I first met Mohamed Hersi about 6 years ago at an African network event in Utrecht. What struck me then and now is his positivity about his place as an African existing within the intricacies of the complicated Dutch multicultural society. While others, sitting at the borders of the society are very critical of how the aboriginal Dutch relates with its non-aboriginal citizen, Mo pokes fun at them while grabbing every opportunity that comes his way to become a more complete professional.

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He is proud of his Ethiopian and African

Maybe I should have mentioned that Mo Hersi is as talented as anyone can be. He is an accomplished comedian, radio, TV and theatre maker, producer, director, author, businessman, speaker etc. He is a man who stands in the centre of the society. He is proud of his Ethiopian and African

heritage while he works for the betterment of people in the society irrespective of where they come from black or white. For example, in 2020 he started a crowdfunding action to build a monument in form of a statue in honour of Enith Brigitha, a Dutch woman of Curacao origin. In 1976, while representing The Netherlands, Enith became the first black athlete male or female anywhere in the world to win an Olympic medal in swimming.

People in The Netherlands had virtually forgotten this hero and role model until Mo Hersi started his ultimately successful crowdfunding drive! Luckily, Enith Brigitha was on hand to unveil her own statue in Almere in October 2022. Mo Hersi sometimes does extraordinary things like taking a 650km walking trek across The Netherlands to raise awareness and understanding amongst different peoples.



MOHERSI

He was the first black comedian in The Netherlands who started his own New Year's Eve conference.

By Femi Soewu



I am still quite sure Mo Hersi does not know who I am. It does not matter.

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FOR MO, I WANT TO RAISE A GLASS!

As a comedian, his stand-up routine is a must for people who want, to laugh, be entertained, be informed and to reflect. He was the first black comedian in The Netherlands who started his own New Year's Eve conference.

I have in my other media capacity, spoken with Mo Hersi on a couple of occasions and what is apparent is that he is also a positively humble guy who takes everything in his stride and does not let success get into his head. My feeling is that he is just at the beginning of his journey.

Mo Hersi is surely destined to become a very successful person in the Netherlands and I daresay, in world for sure.

To this son of Africa who is also now the son of Europe, I want to raise a glass. I wish him more success as he shows the society what people with the African DNA are capable of.

I wish him more wisdom as he continues in his humorous ways to confront the Dutch society with its own limitations and contradictions! I am still quite sure Mo Hersi does not know who I am. It does not matter.

His actions, his Africanness, his positivity, his positioning within the Dutch society has however touched me and thousands of others. That is what matters.

For this his deserves all the accolades he can get!

By Femi Soewu

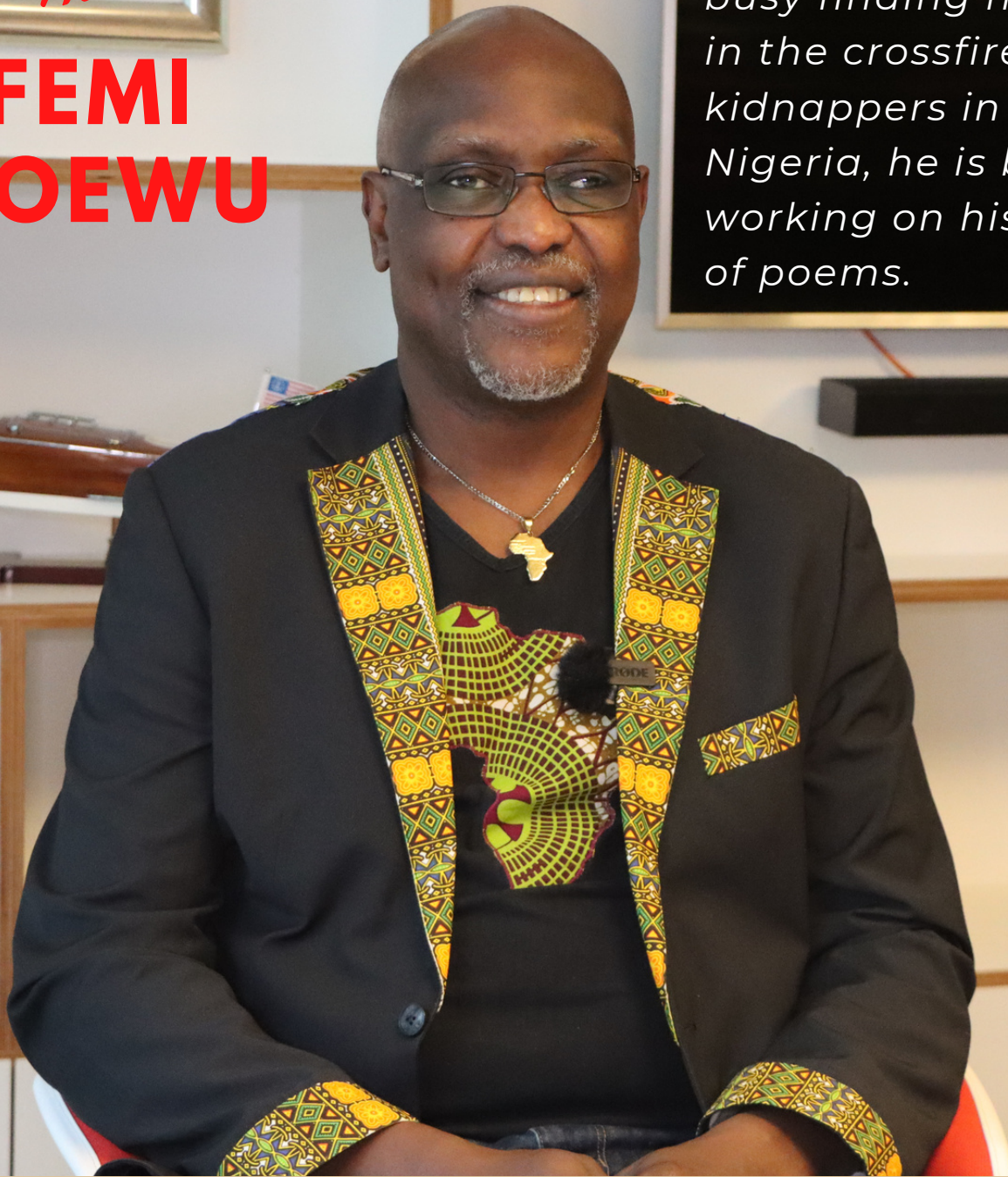
My feeling is that he is just at the beginning of his journey

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About

FEMI SOEWU

When Femi is not busy finding himself in the crossfire of kidnappers in Nigeria, he is busy working on his book of poems.



Femi Soewu is the behind-the-scenes Creative Director of Africa Web TV. Femi comes from a tribe called Africa! Africa is the theme that runs through everything he does. He feels as comfortable in Kenya as he does in Zanzibar, Nigeria or The Gambia. With Africa Web TV he seeks to travel the length and breadth of Africa and Europe to find Africa related items to bring to the world.

Apart from Africa Web TV, Femi is also the founder and organiser of the longest running Africa-themed monthly dance party in Europe called Africa Night.

This event has been running non-stop in various European cities in The Netherlands, Germany and Belgium since May 1998.) Femi Soewu is also a keen photographer who loves a challenge or two. His next project is called The Afropeans (watch this space!)

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Femi is a proud father of 3 adult sons, holds 2 Bachelor of Arts degrees in History (Ogun State University, Nigeria 1987) & Social Work (Inholland University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands 2006) and sits on the board of Africa In Motion. This is an organisation that seeks to develop sustainable business relationships with African countries using the knowledge and technical know-how of Africans living abroad.

When Femi is not busy finding himself in the crossfire of kidnappers in Nigeria, he is busy working on his book of poems. He loves to travel and loves to eat Ugali, Nyama Choma and Fufu with Egusi soup!

“

As the leaders of our two nations, we share a responsibility, in my view, to show that China and the United States can manage our differences, prevent competition from becoming anything ever near conflict

President Biden
to
President Xi”

ON 14 NOVEMBER 2022, PRESIDENT XI JINPING HAD A MEETING WITH U.S. PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN IN BALI, INDONESIA. THE TWO HAD A CANDID AND IN-DEPTH EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON ISSUES OF STRATEGIC IN CHINA-U.S. RELATIONS AND ON MAJOR GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES. IS BALI THE FOUNDATION OF THE NEW WORLD ORDER?



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e need to work with all countries to bring more hope to world peace, greater confidence in global stability, and stronger impetus to common development.

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President Xi
to
President Biden

President Biden to president Xi

And the world expects, I believe, China and the United States to play key roles in addressing global challenges, from climate changes, to food insecurity, and to — for us to be able to work together.

PRESIDENT BIDEN: Well, President Xi, it's — I'm really glad to be able to see you again in person. We spent a lot of time together and — back in the days when we were both vice presidents, and it's just great to see you.

T

And you and I have had a number of candid and useful conversations over the years and since I became President as well. You were kind enough to call me to congratulate me, and I congratulate you as well. And I believe there's little substitute, though, for — to face-to-face discussions.

And as you know, I'm committed to keeping the lines of communications open between you and me personally but our governments across the board, because our two countries are — have so much that we have an opportunity to deal with.

As the leaders of our two nations, we share a responsibility, in my view, to show that China and the United States can manage our differences, prevent competition from becoming anything ever near conflict, and to find ways to work together on urgent global issues that require our mutual cooperation.

So, President Xi, I look forward to our continuing and ongoing open and honest dialogue

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And I believe this is critical for the sake of our two countries and the international community. This — this was a key to the theme of the COP27 meeting, where I spoke on Friday. And we'll be discussing a lot of these challenges together, I hope, in the next couple hours.

T

And the world expects, I believe, China and the United States to play key roles in addressing global challenges, from climate changes, to food insecurity, and to — for us to be able to work together.

The United States stands ready to do just that — work with you — if that's what you desire.

So, President Xi, I look forward to our continuing and ongoing open and honest dialogue we've always had. And I thank you for the opportunity.

President Xi to Biden

The world expects that China and the United States will properly handle the relationship. And for our meeting, it has attracted the world's attention.

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PRESIDENT XI: (As interpreted.) Mr. President, it's good to see you. The last time we met was in 2017, during the World Economic Forum in Davos. That was already more than five years ago.

Since you assumed the presidency, we have maintained communication via video conferences, phone calls, and letters. But none of them can really substitute for face-to-face exchanges. And today, we finally have this face-to-face meeting.

From the initial contact and the establishment of diplomatic relations to today, China and the United States have gone through 50-plus eventful years. We have gained experience, and we've also learned lessons.

History is the best textbook, so we should take history as a mirror and let it guide the future.

Currently, the China-U.S. relationship is in such a situation that we all care a lot about it, because this is not the fundamental interests of our two countries and peoples and it is not what the international community expects us.

**Currently,
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about it**



As leaders of the two major countries, we need to chart the right course for the China-U.S. relationship. We need to find the right direction for the bilateral relationship going forward and elevate the relationship.

A statesman should think about and know where to lead his country. He should also think about and know how to get along with other countries and the wider world.

Well, in this time and age, great changes are unfolding in ways like never before. Humanity are confronted with unprecedented challenges. The world has come to a crossroads. Where to go from here — this is a question that is not only on our mind but also on the mind of all countries.

The world expects that China and the United States will properly handle the relationship. And for our meeting, it has attracted the world's attention.

So, we need to work with all countries to bring more hope to world peace, greater confidence in global stability, and stronger impetus to common development.

In our meeting today, I'm ready to have a candid — as we always did — have a candid and in-depth exchange of views with you on issues of strategic importance in China-U.S. relations and on major global and regional issues.

I look forward to working with you, Mr. President, to bring China-U.S. relations back to the track of healthy and stable growth to the benefit of our two countries and the world as a whole.

Thank you.

WHAT
OTHERS
WRITE
ABOUT US



Henk
HOEFSLOOT

It is always heartening to see how many of the diaspora are shaping their lives in the Netherlands - having interesting jobs and often a deeper understanding of the Netherlands than myself

I had the pleasure to participate in the end-of-year event in The Hague of **Muambi International Network - a diverse gathering of African diaspora originating from many countries.**

There were a number of current news items : on Guinee and the court case taking place in Conakry since december 2022 against the then president and a number of high ranking military for the 28 september 2009 massacres and of an opinion spoken by one of the participants on why the Dutch Government excuses against slavery is also relevant to Africa from where the massive trade in the enslaved originated.
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It was a lively and beautiful evening led by women and facilitated by my friend Alphonse, author of the book 'democratie kun je niet eten'. It is always heartening to see how many of the diaspora are shaping their lives in the Netherlands - having interesting jobs and often a deeper understanding of the Netherlands than myself. Their voices and perspectives are worth listening to and I surely hope to see and hear more of them.

Strongly attached to their countries of origin and to seeing Africa will take up its rightful place in this world.

Pain and sadness was also present, but mostly I saw a vibrant and beautiful community enjoying an evening out with like-minded brothers and sisters.



CEES VAN DER LAAN

chief editor
Trouw



BABAH TARAWALLY

Writer





HADIATOU BARRY

Moderator

ALPHA DIALLO

Speaker

IBRAHIMA LAMARANA BAH

Speaker



CHRISTINE OTTEN

Writer

**HANDS OFF THE
DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF THE
CONGO!
HANDS OFF AFRICA!**





**PRESIDENT TSHISEKEDI
AND THE CONGOLESE
OFFICIALS LISTENING TO
POPE FRANCIS**



HANDS OFF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO! HANDS OFF AFRICA!

WHEN POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS TO THE
WORLD FROM KINSHSA, CONGO.

**MR PRESIDENT,
HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT
AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS,
EMINENT RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL AUTHORITIES,
DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES OF CIVIL
SOCIETY AND THE WORLD OF CULTURE,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

Mr President,
Honourable Members of Government and the Diplomatic
Corps,
Eminent Religious and Civil Authorities,
Distinguished Representatives of Civil Society and the
World of Culture,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I offer you a cordial greeting and I thank
His Excellency the President for his kind words.

I am happy to be here in this beautiful, vast and luxuriant
land, which embraces, to the north, the equatorial forest,
in the centre and towards the south, plateaus and
wooded savannas, to the east, hills, mountains,
volcanoes and lakes, and to the
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west great bodies of water, with the Congo River that flows
into the ocean. In your country, which is like a continent
itself within the greater continent of Africa, it seems that
the entire earth breathes. Yet if the geography of this
verdant lung is so rich and variegated, its history has not
been comparably blessed.

Torn by war, the Democratic Republic of the Congo
continues to witness within its confines conflicts and forced
migrations, and to suffer from terrible forms of exploitation,
unworthy of humanity and of creation. This country, so
immense and full of life, this diaphragm of Africa, struck by
violence like a blow to the stomach, has seemed for some
time to be gasping for breath.

Mr President, you spoke of this forgotten genocide that the
Republic of the Congo is suffering.

As you, the Congolese people, fight to preserve your
dignity and your territorial integrity against deplorable
attempts to fragment the country, I come to you, in the
name of Jesus, as a pilgrim of reconciliation and of peace.

I have greatly desired to be here and now at last I have
come to bring you the closeness, the affection and the
consolation of the entire Church and to learn from your
example of patience, courage and struggle.

I would like to speak to you using an image that nicely
symbolizes the luminous beauty of this land: the image of
the diamond.

MAY AFRICA, THE SMILE AND HOPE OF THE WORLD, COUNT FOR MORE.

Dear women and men of the Congo, your country is truly a diamond of creation. At the same time, you, all of you, are infinitely more precious than any treasure found in this fruitful soil! I am here to embrace you and to remind you that you yourselves are of inestimable worth, that the Church and the Pope have confidence in you, and that they believe in your future, the future that is in your hands and for which you deserve to devote all your gifts of intelligence, wisdom and industry.

Take heart, my Congolese brothers and sisters! Arise, take once more into your hands, like a pure diamond, all that you are, your dignity and your calling to preserve in harmony and peace this home in which you dwell. Revive the spirit of your national hymn, dreaming and putting into practice its message: "Through hard work, we will build a country more beautiful than before, in peace."

Dear friends, diamonds are usually rare, yet here they are abundant. If that is true of the material wealth hidden in the soil, it is even more true of the spiritual wealth present within your hearts.

For it is from hearts that peace and development are born, because, with God's help, men and women are capable of justice and of forgiveness, of concord and reconciliation, of commitment and perseverance in putting to good use the many talents they have received.

Here, at the beginning of my journey, I want to appeal to you: may every Congolese feel called to do his or her part! May violence and hatred no longer find room in the heart or on the lips of anyone, since these are inhuman and unchristian sentiments that arrest development and bring us back to a gloomy past.

In the light of arrested development and regression to the past, it is a tragedy that these lands, and more generally the whole African continent, continue to endure various forms of exploitation. There is a slogan that emerges from the subconscious of many cultures and peoples: "Africa must be exploited". This is terrible! Political exploitation gave way to an "economic colonialism" that was equally enslaving. As a result, this country, massively plundered, has not benefited adequately from its immense resources: paradoxically, the riches of its land have made it "foreign" to its very inhabitants. The poison of greed has smeared its diamonds with blood.

This is a tragedy to which the economically more advanced world often closes its eyes, ears and mouth. Yet this country and this continent deserve to be respected and listened to; they deserve to find space and receive attention.

Hands off the Democratic Republic of the Congo! Hands off Africa! Stop choking Africa: it is not a mine to be stripped or a terrain to be plundered.

May Africa be the protagonist of its own destiny! May the

AFRICA, THE SMILE AND HOPE

May the world acknowledge the catastrophic things that were done over the centuries to the detriment of the local peoples, and not forget this country and this continent. May Africa, the smile and hope of the world, count for more. May it be spoken of more frequently, and have greater weight and prestige among the nations!

Room needs to be made for diplomacy that is authentically human, for a diplomacy where peoples are concerned for other peoples, for a diplomacy centred not on control over land and resources, expansionism and increased profits, but rather on providing opportunities for people to grow and develop. In the case of this people, one has the impression that the international community has practically resigned itself to the violence devouring it. We cannot grow accustomed to the bloodshed that has marked this country for decades, causing millions of deaths that remain mostly unknown elsewhere. What is happening here needs to be known.

The current peace processes, which I greatly encourage, need to be sustained by concrete



THINK AGAIN OF THE DIAMOND

deeds, and commitments should be maintained. Thank God, there are those who are contributing to the good of the local population and to a genuine development through successful projects: not merely through handouts but through projects aimed at an integral development.

I express immense gratitude to the countries and the organizations that are providing substantial aid in this regard, helping to combat poverty and disease, supporting the rule of law and promoting respect for human rights. It is my hope that they can continue to carry out these efforts courageously and to the full.

Let us think again of the diamond. Once polished, its beauty also derives from its shape, from the harmonious arrangement of its many facets. In the same way, this country, with its precious legacy of pluralism, has a “polyhedral” character. That richness must be preserved, avoiding any form of regression to tribalism and hostility. A partisan spirit that stubbornly promotes one’s own ethnic group or particular interests, thus nurturing spirals of hatred and violence, is detrimental to everyone, since it blocks the necessary “chemistry of the whole”.





THE TRUE WEALTH IS FOUND IN PEOPLE



Congolese children welcoming pope Francis

As brothers and sisters of a single family and to work for a future together with others, and not against others.

Indeed, from a chemical standpoint, it is interesting that diamonds are made up of simple atoms of carbon which, if differently bonded, form graphite: in effect, the difference between the brilliance of the diamond and the darkness of graphite comes from the way the individual atoms are arranged within the crystalline network. Leaving aside the metaphor, the problem is not human nature or the nature of ethnic and social groups, but the way in which they choose to live together: their willingness or not to encounter one another, to be reconciled and to start anew makes the difference between the grimness of conflict and a radiant future of peace and prosperity.

Dear friends, the heavenly Father wants us to accept one another as brothers and sisters of a single family and to work for a future together with others, and not against others.

Bintu bantu

Dear friends, the heavenly Father wants us to accept one another as brothers and sisters of a single family and to work for a future together with others, and not against others.

Bintu bantu: thus one of your proverbs eloquently states that true wealth is found in people and in their relationships with one another.

In a particular way, the religions, with their patrimony of wisdom, are called to contribute to this richness, in the daily effort to renounce every form of aggression, proselytism and constraint, for these are means unworthy of human freedom.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BRILLIANCE OF THE DIAMOND AND THE DARKNESS OF GRAPHITE COMES FROM THE WAY THE INDIVIDUAL ATOMS ARE ARRANGED WITHIN THE CRYSTALLINE NETWORK



When people stoop to imposing those means through deceit and force, in an indiscriminate attempt to collect followers, they severely wound the conscience of others and turn their backs on the true God, because – let it never be forgotten – “where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (2 Cor 3:17) and where there is no freedom, there is no Spirit of the Lord. In the effort to build a future of peace and of fraternity, the members of civil society, some of whom are here present, also have an essential role to play. Often they have demonstrated the ability to stand up to injustice and social decay at the cost of great sacrifice, in order to defend human rights, the availability of a quality education and a more dignified life for everyone.

I am deeply grateful to the women and men, and particularly to the young people of this country, who have suffered in various degrees for this, and I pay them homage.

The diamond, in its transparency, marvellously reflects the light it receives. Many of you are similarly “illustrious” for the role you play in society.

Those holding civil and governmental offices are called to operate with crystalline clarity, experiencing the charge they have received as a means of serving society. Power is meaningful only if it becomes a form of service. How important it is that civic responsibilities be carried out in this spirit, avoiding authoritarianism, the quest for quick profit and the greed that the apostle Paul defines as “the root of all evils” (1 Tim 6:10).



THE MOST PRECIOUS DIAMONDS OF CONGO ARE THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THIS NATION.

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Those holding civil and governmental offices are called to operate with crystalline clarity, experiencing the charge they have received as a means of serving society. Power is meaningful only if it becomes a form of service. How important it is that civic responsibilities be carried out in this spirit, avoiding authoritarianism, the quest for quick profit and the greed that the apostle Paul defines as “the root of all evils” (1 Tim 6:10).

Likewise, that free, transparent and credible elections be promoted; even greater participation in the peace processes be allowed to women, to young people, to different groups and to socially marginalized groups; that the common good and people’s security be pursued, rather than personal or group interests; that the presence of the state in every part of the territory be strengthened; and the many refugees and displaced persons be cared for.

May no one be manipulated, much less bought, by those who would foment violence in the country, and exploit it in order to make shameful business deals. This leads only to discredit and disgrace, together with death and misery. It is better to stay close to people, be aware of how they live. People are trusting when they feel the closeness of those who govern them, not out of expediency or for show but to serve others.

What dims the light of goodness in a society is often the darkness of injustice and corruption. Centuries ago, Saint Augustine, who was born on this continent, asked:

“If there is no respect for justice, what are states if not a great confederacy of thieves?” (De civ. Dei, IV, 4).

God is always on the side of those who hunger and thirst for justice (cf. Mt 5:6).

One must never tire of promoting law and equity everywhere, combating impunity and the manipulation of laws and information.

The most precious diamonds of these lands are the sons and daughters of this nation.

A diamond emerges from the earth valuable, but rough and needing to be polished.

The most precious diamonds of these lands are the sons and daughters of this nation; they need to have access to an education that enables them to make their innate talents shine brightly. Education is fundamental: it is the path to the future, the road to take for achieving the complete freedom of this country and of the African continent. It is urgent to invest in education, in order to prepare societies that will be unified only if they are educated well, autonomous only if they are aware of their own possibilities and capable of developing them with responsibility and perseverance.

Yet many children receive no schooling.

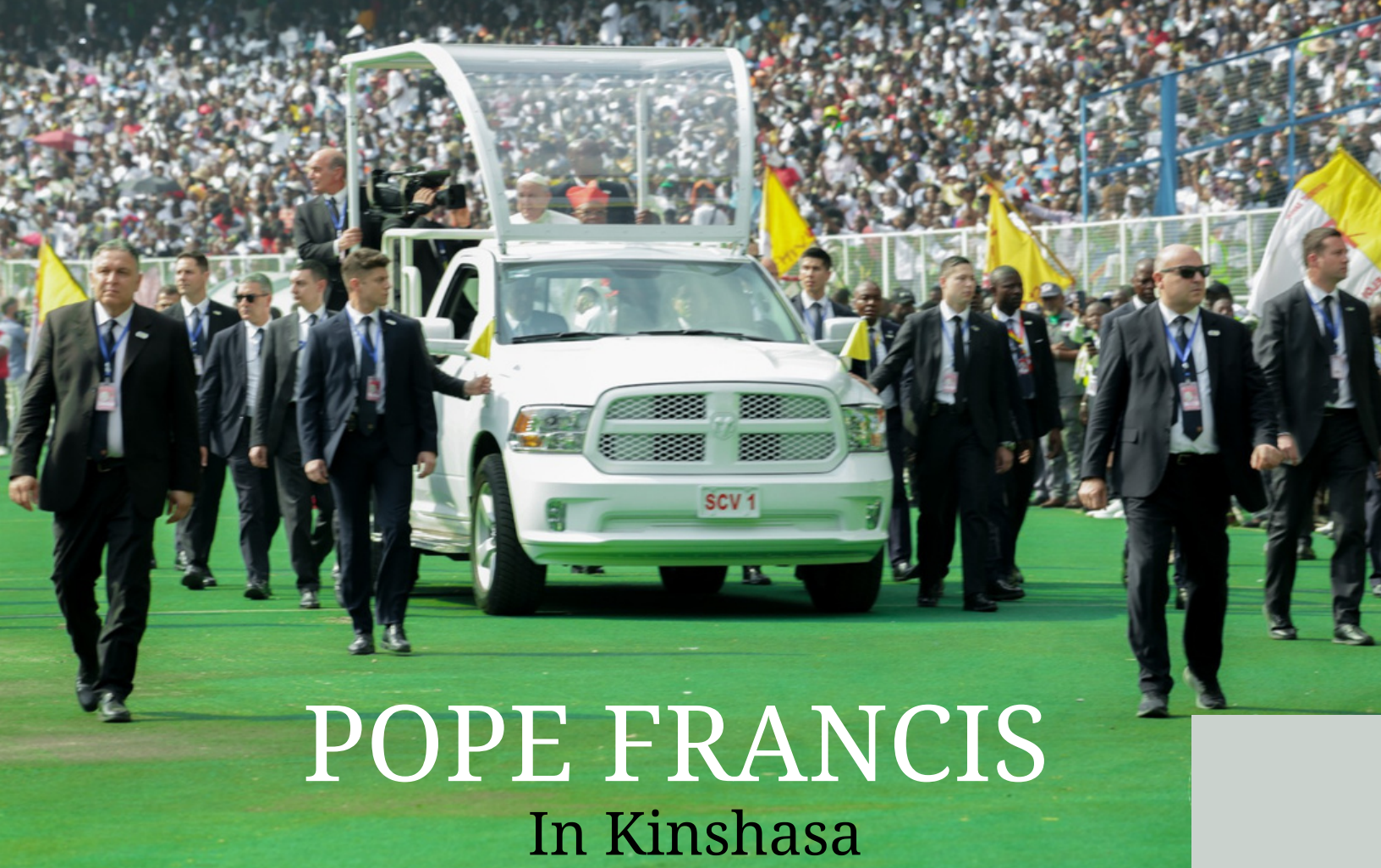
How many of them, instead of receiving a good education, are exploited! All too many of them die, subjected to servile labour in the mines. No effort should be spared to denounce and finally end the scourge of child labour.

How many girls are marginalized and their dignity violated!

Children, young girls and all young people are the “now” of hope, they are hope: let us not allow that hope to be stifled, but instead cultivate it with passion!

The diamond, as a gift of the earth, recalls our responsibility to be good stewards of creation, to protect the natural environment. Situated in the heart of Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is host to one of the great green lungs of the world, which must be preserved.

As with peace and development, also in this area there needs to be an ample and fruitful cooperation that can permit an effective intervention without imposing external models that are more useful to those who help than to who are helped.



POPE FRANCIS

In Kinshasa

GOD BLESS THE ENTIRE CONGOLESE NATION!

Many have offered Africa help in the effort to combat climate change and the coronavirus. While these are certainly opportunities to be welcomed, the greatest need is for healthcare and social models that do not simply respond to pressing needs of the moment, but help improve the life of society: through sound structures and honest and competent personnel, so as to overcome the grave problems that block development from the outset, like hunger and disease.

The diamond, to conclude, is the hardest of the minerals found in nature; it is highly resistant to chemical agents. Repeated violent attacks and so many situations of unrest could weaken the resistance of the Congolese people, undermine their resolve and lead to discouragement and resignation.

Yet in the name of Christ, who is the God of hope, the God of every possibility, who always gives us the strength to begin anew, in the name of the dignity and worth of the most precious diamonds of this land, which are its citizens, I would like to encourage everyone to undertake a courageous and inclusive social renewal.

This is demanded by the splendid yet wounded history of this country, and by its young people and children in particular. I stand with you and I accompany with my prayers and closeness every effort made to achieve a peaceful, harmonious and prosperous future for this great country.

GOD BLESS THE ENTIRE CONGOLESE NATION!

THE CULINARY DIPLOMACY

THE ART OF BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

AT MUAMBI INTERNATIONAL NETWORK, WE PROMOTE NOT ONLY THE CULTURE OF DIALOGUE AND DEBATE BUT ALSO AFRICAN CULTURE AND CULINARY DIPLOMACY. THIS PROVIDES A HEALTHY CONNECTION OF DIFFERENT PEOPLES



FOR A POSITIVE IMAGE





WELCOME SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, FELIX TSHISEKEDI, TO HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS ON THE OCCASION OF AN APOSTOLIC VOYAGE TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO. PALAIS DE LA NATION - 31 JANUARY 2023.

Your Holiness, With great joy, the Congolese people and I welcome the honour you do to the Democratic Republic of Congo by coming for a pastoral visit here starting today

under the motto, "All reconciled in Jesus Christ." The Congolese people welcome you with joy and gladness, as they did your venerable predecessor, Pope John Paul II, of happy memory, on 14 August 1985, during his last Apostolic journey to the Democratic Republic of Congo, after an initial visit five years earlier.

On behalf of all our people, in the diversity of their religious sensitivities; on behalf of all present and those who, for various reasons, could not make the trip, as well as on behalf of my family, I wish you a warm welcome

Your Holiness,
The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a large country in the heart of the African continent, consisting of 26 provinces where more than 450 tribes live.

These tribes have a rich and harmonious cultural diversity, and this, rather than being a separating factor, has become, throughout the history of our nation, a ferment for the advent of a land of peace and hospitality, as well as a welcome for the peoples of Africa and the world.

Your Holiness,
While the Democratic Republic of the Congo has proclaimed the secularity of the state as a constitutional principle, the lives of our people remain deeply tied to the religious convictions that translate the dynamism and vitality of their faith.

These beliefs structure our collective actions, and the lives of our families are based mainly on religious values. One of these values is hospitality, a cardinal value shared by all our families and individuals.

Unfortunately, we must note that in the past three decades, this hospitality that characterises us has been undermined by enemies of peace and terrorist groups, especially from neighbouring countries. This misfortune has made part of our territory, which has been plagued by violence for almost three decades, an area where,



Kinshasa is the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo

FELIX TSHISEKEDI

PRESIDENT OF DR CONGO

in addition to armed groups, foreign powers eager for the minerals of our subsoil are committing cruel atrocities with the direct and close support of our neighbour Rwanda, making security the first and most significant challenge for the government.

Indeed, thanks to the inaction and silence of the international community, more than 10 million people have already been atrociously snatched from their lives. Innocent women, including pregnant ones, are being raped and disembowelled, young people and children are having their throats slit, families, the elderly, and children are being condemned to brave fatigue and exhaustion as they move away from their homes in search of peace because of the exactions committed by these terrorists in the service of foreign interests.

We cannot and will not remain silent in the face of this injustice and complicit silence of the international community. In this regard, you should know that I did not fail to name and challenge, during my last speech at the United Nations, on behalf of all Congolese, those responsible for this tragedy and to confront them with their responsibilities.

Let it also be assured that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is and will continue to assume its responsibilities, particularly that of defending the integrity of its territory with the help of its people; indeed, despite this worrisome security situation, the patriotism and determination of the Congolese people in defence of their homeland is their strength. Know, Your Holiness, that the Congolese people are and will remain a great people, a united and strong people in the face of any threat to the integrity of their territory and the survival of their nation.

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**CONGO IS
AND WILL
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RESPONSIBILITIES,
PARTICULARLY
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DEFENDING
THE
INTEGRITY OF
ITS
TERRITORY**

In this regard, I am pleased by your willingness to receive a delegation from this martyred population of the East of our country, which I am convinced will allow you to grasp this unprecedented resilience that today, more than ever, defines and characterises us as a nation. Moreover, beyond the diversity of their religious beliefs, these populations remain appreciative of your presence on Congolese soil, and the echo of your pastoral visit, as well as your prayer on the land of our ancestors, will bring them comfort.

Thank you on behalf of the entire Congolese population for the interest you have always shown in the security situation in our country, praying fervently for peace in the eastern region of our nation.

THE GOVERNMENT PAYS SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY.



YOUR HOLINESS,

The second challenge of government is that of the economy in relation to the values of sharing, equity and responsibility. These values, embodied in our collective action as citizens and political leaders, can serve as the basis for building a more just and humane society.

Described as a geological scandal because of the magnitude of its wealth and mineral potential, the fact remains that, to date, this immense potential is still not benefiting the Congolese. Indeed, with its rich economic potential, the Democratic Republic of Congo contains in its subsoil most of the mineral resources the world needs today to ensure ecological transition and environmental protection. Our responsibility is to leave no one on the sidelines of the road to economic development, working together for the collective good to reduce, if not eliminate, poverty.

Although the obstacles on this path are many, they are not insurmountable, as evidenced by the government's commitment to include the poorest and most disadvantaged in the national education system by making effective the constitutional principle of free primary education, which had not been applied for many years. The benefits of this bold and courageous decision are undeniable for our children's future and for building the Congo of tomorrow.

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School children in Kinshasa waiting to get a glimpse of Pope Francis.

This is an opportunity to pay a well-deserved tribute to the Catholic Church in the Democratic Republic of Congo for the services it has rendered in this area. Indeed, successive governments have always maintained and consolidated their partnership with the Church, and the Catholic Church in particular, to ensure upstream education and the management of educational and hospital infrastructure to meet basic social needs, particularly in education and health.

However, to sustain the efforts made, it has proven necessary to adapt economic and financial resources to demographic change and population density challenges. It is with this in mind that we encourage and call for mutually beneficial partnerships in the exploitation of our wealth so that it contributes to increasing job opportunities and improving the living conditions of our people; at the same time, we work vigorously to combat corruption and capital flight, so that these resources genuinely serve the interest of all.

Your Holiness,

The third major challenge is that of environmental protection. Indeed, regarding this challenge, the Government of the Republic and I share the values defended in your encyclical "Laudato si'," published in 2015, on one of the main challenges facing humanity today, namely the fight against global warming.

I am glad that the fight against climate change is your forte. However, the Democratic Republic of Congo and its government are very sensitive to humanity's urgency and responsibility in building the planet's future and protecting our common home.



PRESIDENT TSHISEKEDI

Within the country, protecting the environment is part of our responsibility in opening the country to fossil fuel and resource exploitation. Therefore, all contracts with partners who intend to exploit our natural resources can only be regularly concluded with a serious and prior study of the project's environmental impact to be implemented.

In addition, the government pays special attention to the protection of biodiversity in nature parks scattered throughout our territory, where rare species important to the balance of this biodiversity still suffer from insecurity and where animals, including endangered ones, are also victims of the barbarism of armed groups.

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Very recently, we have very carefully issued tenders for the exploitation of some oil fields in strict compliance with environmental protection regulations and principles, drawing on our proven experience in this field.

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**ANIMALS,
ARE ALSO
VICTIMS
OF THE
BARBARIS
M OF
ARMED
GROUPS.**

In the context of the economic recession following the post-Covid crisis and the armed conflict in Ukraine, this judicious choice will, in the long run, enable our economy to absorb the shock of these crises and our people to finally benefit from the riches of their subsoil.

In any case, the members of the Government of the Republic and I do not stop reaffirming this commitment, as was the case during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference, where we presented the Democratic Republic of Congo, in front of the world, as a "solution country" to the climate crisis and the fight against climate change.



POPE FRANCIS

FELIX TSHISEKEDI

PRESIDENT OF DR CONGO

Welcome at the airport.

In fact, our country has 165 million hectares of forest, the second largest tropical forest in the world, a great reserve of biodiversity, which has as its main resource its carbon absorption capacity, the first in the world, able to absorb almost 1.2 billion tons of carbon dioxide per year.

For this reason, to better protect our forests, we have always fought for climate justice so that the major polluters at the root of environmental destruction compensate the custodians of the planet that we are. These compensations could enable us to strengthen our ability to pursue and implement innovative investments and infrastructure development in renewable energy and waste management.

Finally, I firmly believe that eliminating security threats in our country will undoubtedly contribute to the effectiveness of combating climate change and protecting the environment.

Your Holiness,

These are the main challenges, among many, of our country, which, with the determination of its people and their support, we will not fail to face.

Your pastoral visit will surely strengthen this determination, and our people are ready to welcome your message of peace, hope, comfort, support and brotherhood.

I want to conclude my remarks by wishing you, on behalf of all our people, a pleasant pastoral stay in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Be welcome, or as we say in our four national languages:

BOYEI BOLAMU !

DIFIKA DILENGA !

KUISA MBOTE

FEMMES D'AFRIQUE, Interview SOCLE D'UNE NATION

IL Y A DES FEMMES EN RÉPUBLIQUE DU CONGO ET, PARTOUT EN AFRIQUE QUI TRAVAILLENT POUR LEUR RÉUSSITE, EN METTANT DE LA VOLONTÉ ET DU PROFESSIONNALISME DANS LEURS ACTIVITÉS. C'EST LE CAS DE MADAME BASILDE MASSAMBA, LA 30TAINE D'ÂGE RÉVOLUE, APRÈS PLUSIEURS ANNÉES PASSÉS DANS L'ENSEIGNEMENT DE LA LANGUE FRANÇAISE, DANS LA COMMUNICATION. APRÈS UN CONTRAT DE 2 ANS AVEC L'ONG (MINES ADVISORY GROUP), ELLE A CHOISI DE PRENDRE EN MAIN, SES RESPONSABILITÉS, SON DESTIN PROFESSIONNEL, EN CRÉANT ET GÉRER UNE ENTREPRISE PERSONNELLE " MK MOTOR'S SERVICE ",DEPUIS DÉCEMBRE 2018, SUR FONDS PROPRE.



Parlez-nous de votre parcours ?

J'ai fait mes études primaires et supérieures au Congo, Je suis titulaire d'un " cefem" diplôme pour l'enseignement primaire. C'est dans l'enseignement que j'ai fait mes premiers pas professionnels comme enseignante en Français dans diverses écoles primaires privées à Brazzaville. Chemin faisant, lors des événements dramatiques (les explosions de Mpila, le 4 mars 2012). Je suis sollicitée par l'ONG MAG pour travailler avec eux.

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Quelle a été votre mission au sein de l'Ong MAG ?

Déjà l'Ong, avait la mission à Brazzaville de déminer et d'enlever les munitions sur le terrain. Parce que en 2012, la République

du Congo a connue des explosions d'un entrepôt de stockage des munitions de guerre qui ont fait plusieurs morts. Et durant deux ans, j'ai fait partie de l'équipe des communicateurs. Pour sensibiliser la population sur les dangers des mines, les risques des mines non explosées. Nous sécurisons aussi la zone minée et donc zones de danger, en mettant les balises. Plusieurs Ong ont travaillé sur ce projet, dont Ong " MAG".

par

**ROBERT DE
PRÈS
BANIALLAS**

BASILDE MASSAMBA

Femme entrepreneuse



Votre contrat avec Ong MAG, ayant pris fin. Et que faites-vous ?

Sans travail durant deux ans, j'ai dû me faire commerçante en vendant au marché pour subvenir à mes besoins. Mais toujours en quête d'un emploi, très vite une autre porte s'ouvre à moi. Cette fois-ci, dans une station TOTAL distribution en tant que graisseuse mécanicienne.

Pour tout vous dire, je n'avais aucune formation dans ce domaine.

J'ai dû bénéficier d'une formation interne de 6 mois, et à la fin. J'ai été mis à l'épreuve, je me suis rendu disponible et professionnel dans l'immédiat. En peu de temps, j'ai occupé une place importante dans les différentes grandes stations de Brazzaville, en tant que titulaire, mécanicienne graisseuse. Quatre années m'ont suffi pour, comprendre l'importance du lubrifiant dans un moteur.

Et que la vidange est importante pour la longévité d'un moteur, aussi pour la voiture.

Quand et comment avez-vous décidé de créer votre Entreprise?

Ayant eu une bonne connaissance et l'expérience dans le domaine de l'entretien de la voiture, j'ai senti en moi, une envie de créer mon entreprise avec les mêmes concepts. Un garage professionnel de lavage graissage et premier entretien de la voiture. Pour cela, j'ai démissionné de TOTAL stations.

Et créer dans la foulée, mon association YWLGEC (Jeune femme leader de genre et d'égalité au Congo), ma propre Entreprise MK Moto service en décembre 2018, que je gère actuellement avec les produits MOTUL MUAMBI | PAGE 32

qui nous est fourni à Brazzaville par TPI de monsieur Alain Roux. Au début, ce n'était pas facile. Il m'a fallu passer par la "school motul" pour mieux connaître les viscosités et les grades de lubrifiant MOTUL, qui est une des meilleures huiles "moteur" au Congo. L'entreprise "MK motor's service", c'est l'entretien complet de la voiture, c'est-à-dire la vidange, le graissage, le lavage professionnel, aspiration, parking et gardiennage. Et une boutique et un restaurant.

Comment recycler vous, l'huile de vidange?

L'huile de vidange est stockée dans des fûts, puis revendue à une société chinoise qui l'utilise dans la construction des bâtiments (dans le BTP).

Si vous avez rencontrées difficultés les quelles ?

Les difficultés rencontrées, il y en a de nombreuses. En premier lieu, ce sont, celles de se faire octroyer un crédit, parce que personne ne croit en vous. Je pense aussi parce qu'on a pas des garanties nécessaires, on est, peut-être, pas solvable d'après leur statistique?. Mais, On a au moins nos petites économies.

La plus récurrente, c'est, une fois installée, arrivent les difficultés de se procurer les matériaux professionnels pour mieux exécuter mon travail. Dans mon cas, on arrive à en trouver en quantité insuffisante.

Quels sont vos objectifs, à court, moyen et long terme?

En tant que femme, c'est de me faire former dans la mécanique automobile générale (diésel et essence) dans un centre professionnel en Afrique ou ailleurs.

Interview

Puis avec le temps, ouvrir un centre d'apprentissage en mécanique automobile et lavage professionnel qui sera dédié spécialement, à la formation des jeunes filles, une façon de les emmener de poser et à briser les barrières à se prendre en charge surtout à se spécialiser dans les métiers autrefois réservés aux hommes.

Ceci dit, je recherche des partenaires, je suis en quête des suggestions, de formations sur mon personnel.

En tant que femme, quel est votre message à l'endroit des femmes qui veulent se lancer les affaires ?

D'abord, nous sommes des mamans et jeunes filles mères. Nous avons tous le droit de rêver. Oser de briser les barrières et de passer à l'action.

Je vous demande de plus en plus, continuer à rêver, transformer,

vos rêves aux réalisations, il suffit d'un peu de détermination. A

toutes les femmes peu importe le secteur d'activité, il faut vous lancer

dans l'entrepreneuriat. Certes, le chemin est rempli d'obstacle. Mais, il faut savoir rien n'a été donné et rien ne se fait facilement. Nous avons tous le potentiel de faire mieux, si on le

désire... D'où, cette aventure mérite d'être vécue. Ainsi, je reste ouverte et prête à tout partenariat.



NOORTJE KESSELS AND CHRISTINE OTTEN

10 WRITERS ON THE INSIDE MEET 10 WRITERS ON THE OUTSIDE

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or the first time in Dutch history, writers in detention published new literary work together with writers from outside (including Huub van der Lubbe, Lale Gül, Raoul de Jong, Ronelda Kamfer, Hannah van Binsbergen, Pelumi Adejumo and yours truly).

At the presentation, on Nov. 15, 2022, comedian and writer Jeffrey Spalburg hosted us through an inspiring evening with performances by writers from inside and outside the prison who collaborated on the book and live music by Cheyenne Toney.



Because seeing someone read felt so beautiful to me

I did not grow up in a healthy environment, a very violent community and family, but you've read my work so you know, more or less what I mean. But I had a grandfather, he was a farmworker, and worked his whole life on an apple farm, he knew every single thing there was to know about apples, from seed to fruit, he could read the weather with the way the sky looked and by listening to the wind.

I adored him. When I was very small, my parents had to work and they did not have a proper place to stay or anyone to look after me, so they left me with my grandparents on the farm.

My entire early childhood was spent outside in the sun, following my grandfather like a shadow, one afternoon, I think it was a Sunday, the whole house was quiet, I woke up from a nap and sleepily walked down a long passage into the living room, where my grandfather was sitting reading a newspaper. I remember thinking, this is the most beautiful moment I have ever seen and I will remember this forever. That moment made we want to be a writer, because seeing someone read felt so beautiful to me.

To this day, every time I write, I think of that moment and feel grateful for a grandfather who showed me such beauty and love at that young age, that when I eventually left the farm and moved to the Cape Flats, I had that unshakeable belief inside me, that there is beauty in this world and all these bad things are not all there is.



by
**RONELDA
S KAMFER**

Sea Food

My mother, like many other mothers, was honest, hard-working and only occasionally criminal. My parents' generation viewed laws as a broad guide that didn't apply to every situation. We lived law abidingly, within reasonable bounds. Murder was a crime for instance but, assault was permissible, depending on the circumstances. Stealing was a crime, only if you got caught.



Prison was a hard hustle even for tough guys.

Or if you stole from your neighbours. If you were fired from your job for stealing, you'd become a case study. You'd be derided, and everyone would offer an opinion on why you got caught and what they would have done differently. If someone got caught stealing and they went to prison, everyone would stop stealing at their jobs for a while. Going to prison wasn't funny. Because prison had the power to change people. For the worse. Prison was a hard hustle even for tough guys.

In prison small-time thieves shared lodgings with big time murderers. Bad boys were housed with bad men. South African prisons don't discriminate.

It was really up to you, how much of your prison experience would carry over into your release.

What we didn't really have, was "ex-convicts". Prison didn't really have that stigma. You did your time, you got out and then you went on. It was really up to you, how much of your prison experience would carry over into your release. It was like going overseas, and you either returned roughly the same as you left, or with a new accent and funny new notions. For the most part, no-one really cared or held prison against you. In the ghetto the present is everything. If you're alright now, then you're alright.

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Maybe powerful people shouldn't make laws for powerless people

I wonder sometimes if the reason for this relaxed attitude toward crime, was because a lot of our struggle heroes went to prison during apartheid. I wonder if something stuck and stayed with us. Like maybe, not everyone who does a crime deserves to go to prison. Maybe powerful people shouldn't make laws for powerless people. Perhaps the system is too corrupt to judge us. People stole from their employers, because they were underpaid and overworked. Or maybe you knew, that next time it might be your turn to get caught.



I have family who've lived their whole lives in a little fishing community.

Making their livelihoods off the ocean. During the '90s new fishing laws were introduced. These laws overwhelmingly favoured big fishing corporations. Suddenly, all my uncles who were fishermen and divers weren't allowed to dive or fish freely anymore. It was the seafood equivalent of big pharmaceutical companies cornering the drugs market. The consequence of being caught illegally fishing was a serious fine or serious jailtime. Sometimes both.

YOU GET A LOT OF YEARS IN PRISON FOR ABALONE

My uncles ignored these laws. And they continued to fish and dive for abalone. You get a lot of years in prison for abalone. I'm talking about five, ten, twenty year stretches. This didn't deter my mother. Because every few months she and my father drove down to our family on the coast. And they'd pack our car boot full of abalone and crayfish. And then we'd drive the long road home, like we'd done nothing wrong. I was a kid still, but I always knew when the adults were playing outside the rules. Their demeanours would change, and slivers of their younger selves would appear in and out of focus.

One night on our way home from collecting seafood, we drove into a roadblock. The police were searching everyone's vehicles, looking for people to make an example of. I was old enough to realize, that my parents looked nervous. I looked at the officer approaching our car, and I saw my mother's eyes in the reflection of the rear-view mirror. She was thinking and calculating. And I thought, tonight we're going to prison.

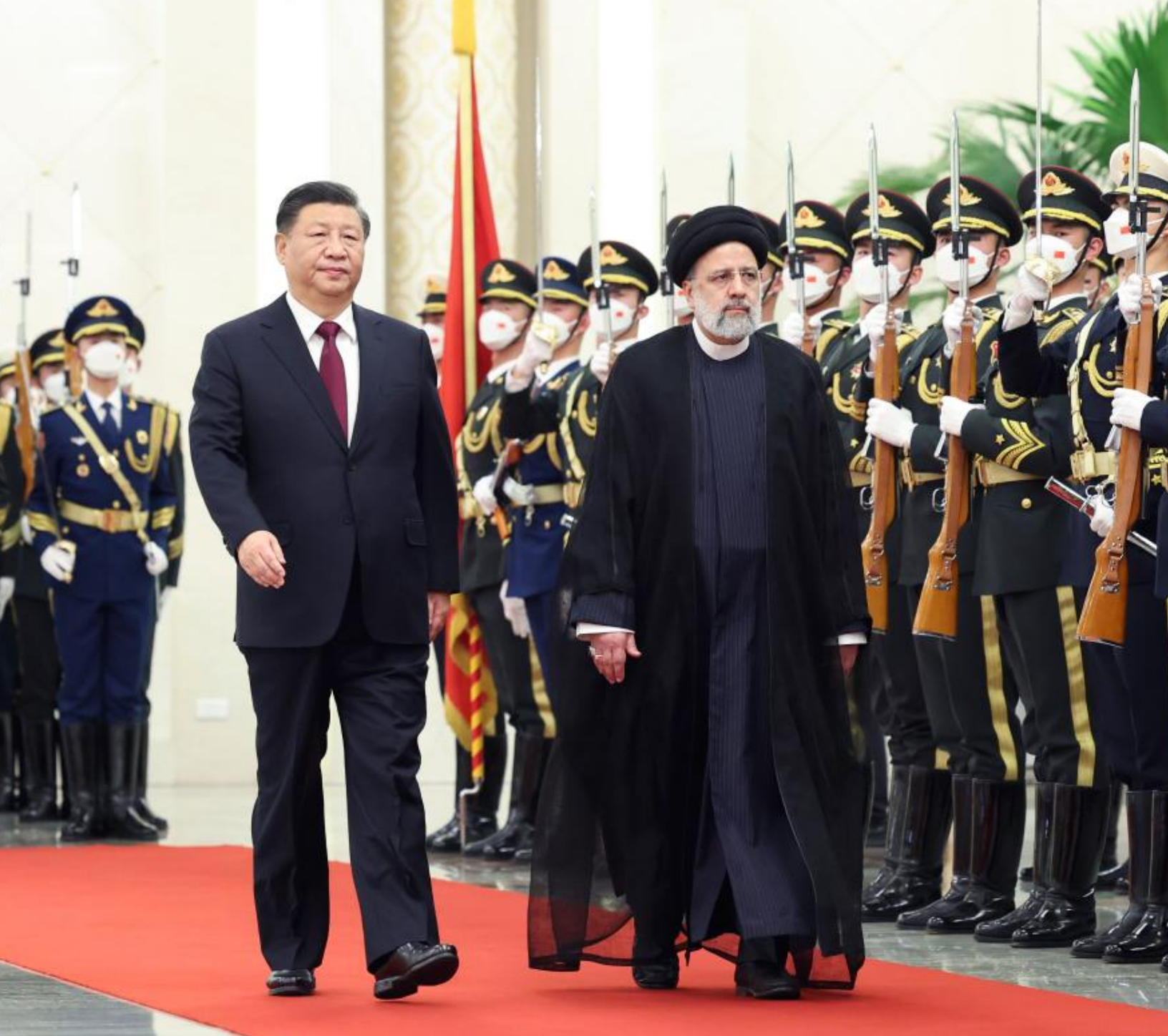
MY PARENTS GOT LUCKY

The police were searching everyone's vehicles, looking for people to make an example of.

A few people got arrested that day, it was even on the news. But my parents got lucky, the officer turned out to be the same guy my mom bought her driver's licence from.

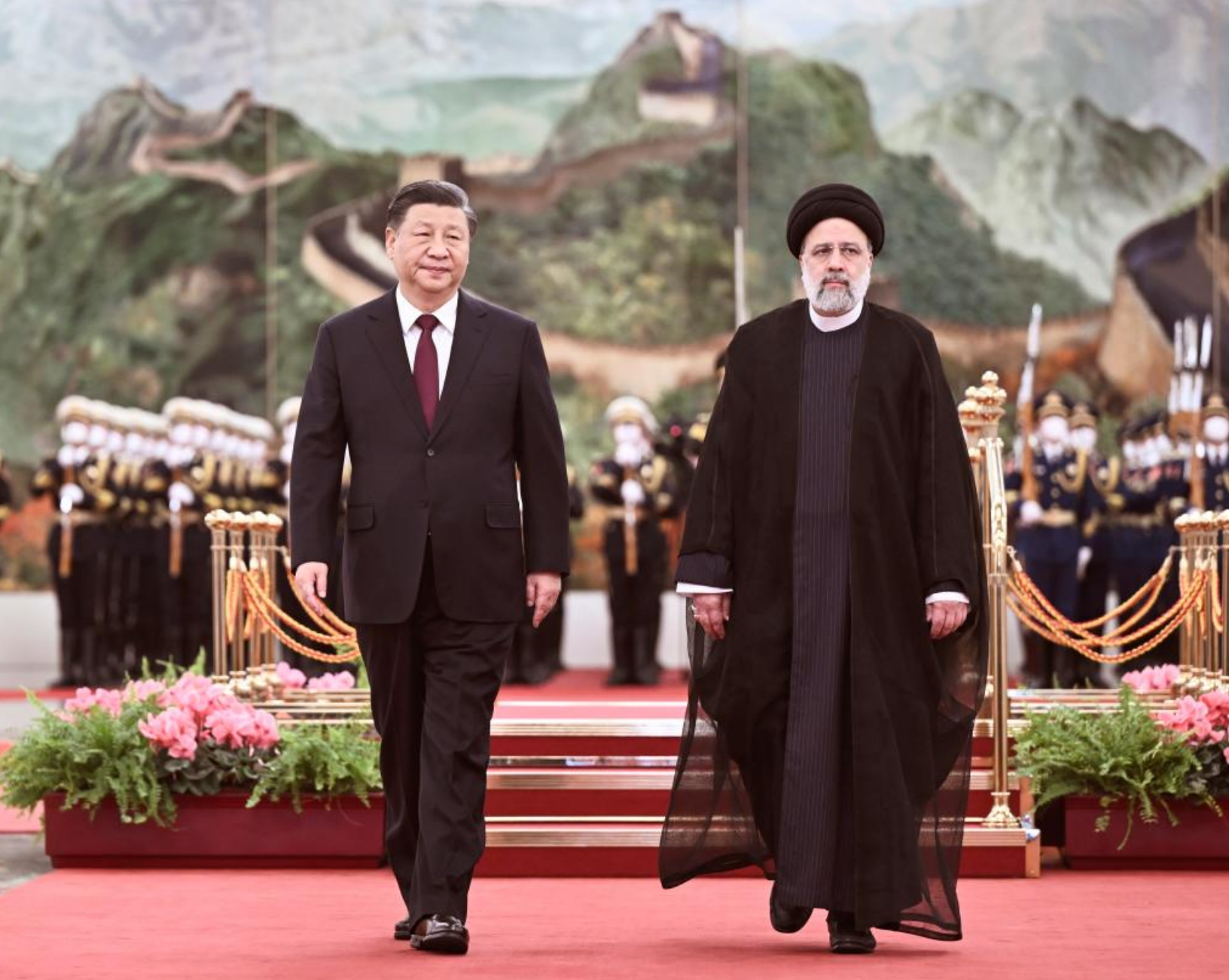
Ronelda S Kamfer





WHAT DOES THE MEETING BETWEEN THESE TWO LEADERS MEAN IN THE NEW WORLD RELATIONSHIP?

This can include articles, stories, photographs, and advertisements.



IRAN'S PRESIDENT
EBRAHIM RAISI MET
CHINA'S LEADER XI
JINPING TUESDAY
FEB. 14, 2023



DADY KIYANGI
AND ANGÉLIQUE
MBUNDU, THE
PERSONS
BEHIND THE
IAFRICA FILM
FESTIVAL



By
**CHRISTINE
OTTEN**

MUAMBI INTERNATIONAL NETWORK AND THE POWER OF BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER WHO NORMALLY WOULD NOT MEET SO EASILY!

Apart from a great end-of-year dance party, the Muambi International Network event in The Hague was an enlightening meeting of kindred spirits and souls with roots in all parts of the world, particularly Africa. It elevated me from my 'normal' end-of-year blues and feeling of being locked up in my own life and perspective.

The Muambi International Network had the power of bringing people together who normally would not meet so easily. Opening up other perspectives. I listened to talks of people like the writer Babah Tarawally, who stressed the importance of the voices and opinions of African-Dutch people in the (Dutch) debate about slavery and its aftermath in today's reality. I learned about the history and political resistance in Guinea, stories Dutch newspapers hardly ever write about.

What touched me most about this event was the personal encounters with people whom I would otherwise not have met, and unexpectedly made me feel very much at home.

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I think a person can only truly know oneself by opening up to different perspectives and seeing oneself through the eyes of someone else, particularly someone from a different background or culture.

I met a Nigerian scientist and writer who lives in Atlanta. Dr. Jude Roys Oboh wrote a book about Nigerian 'cocaine hoppers' and the international drug trade. I told him about my visit to Atlanta to interview Chuck D. and Professor Griff of the hiphop-formation Public Enemy for my novel about The Last Poets, the legendary group of poets of the black power era, and how Griff and I drove for hours through the streets of Atlanta.

In this one conversation I traveled from Nigeria to the United States, back to The Hague, meanwhile sharing personal thoughts and feelings. Making new friends.

I think a person can only truly know oneself by opening up to different perspectives and seeing oneself through the eyes of someone else, particularly someone from a different background or culture. The Muambi International Network is all about that. It was a great honor to be part of this wonderful event.











As organization we host several gatherings each year with interesting speakers and trainers to be close to our target group and create a connection with our Dutch and European society.

Our events are informative and educative. We pay attention to the diversity and intergenerationality.

One such meeting was held in late 2022 at the Marriot Hotel in The Hague. Admire the beautiful photos of the beautiful people, inside and out.





MOHAMED BAH

SPEAKER



LA RUSSIE DÉCLARÉE PAYS SPONSOR DU TERRORISME, QUELLES CONSÉQUENCES ?



L

Le 23 novembre dernier le Parlement européen a voté une résolution pour déclarer la Fédération de Russie « un état sponsor et commanditaire du

terrorisme dans le monde ». Le vote est passé au Parlement de Bruxelles par 494 voix contre 58 contre, et 44 abstentions. Ce vote absurde et qui marque également

une étape sinistre de la politique internationale dans le Monde faisait suite à des appels nombreux du Président Zelensky à déclarer « terroriste » la Russie et le régime du Kremlin.

By Laurent Brayard

Ce vote inutile et surtout dangereux pour l'avenir aura été annoncé par les médias occidentaux eux-mêmes « comme une décision symbolique en l'absence de cadre juridique adéquat dans l'Union européenne, à la différence des USA ». Mais que signifie vraiment cette décision ? Est-elle vraiment seulement symbolique ?

L'affaire bien sûr n'est pas nouvelle, car comme le signale l'Agence France Presse, les États-Unis ont depuis longtemps légiféré sur les « ennemis terroristes » de la noble et démocratique Amérique. Tout avait commencé pourtant dans l'ombre pour les USA et la CIA, avec l'organisation et le financement de véritables opérations terroristes afin de déstabiliser des pays et gouvernements.





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L'idée américaine et otaniste était dès les années 50, mais plus activement à partir des années 70, le déclenchement de révolutions colorées pour faire chuter des régimes souvent démocratiques mais jugés contraire aux intérêts atlantistes, ou d'influencer des élections. Plusieurs grandes opérations plus ou moins connues ont émaillé l'histoire de la politique internationale. Les plus meurtrières et graves de conséquences furent le coup d'État au Chili (1973), ordonné et financé par le Président américain Nixon (1913-1994), qui conduisit à l'assassinat du Président chilien Salvador Allende, puis à l'instauration d'un terrible régime criminel, celui du sanglant général Pinochet (1915-2006) qui pratiqua les répressions politiques et la torture (1973-1990).

Plus sournoise et scandaleuse fut l'opération Gladio (1956-1990), visant à organiser des attentats terroristes meurtriers, à liquider physiquement des gêneurs et à manipuler les opinions publiques en Italie, en Belgique, en France et en Allemagne particulièrement.

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Dans les années 80 en Italie, des attentats terroristes meurtriers furent organisés par la CIA usant de réseaux d'extrême-droite,

qui posèrent des bombes et firent des dizaines de victimes. Les attentats furent ensuite mis sur le dos de

« terroristes d'extrême-gauche », afin de faire pencher les élections italiennes vers les partis européens et

favorables à l'OTAN. En France les événements de la Révolution de Mai 68 posent toujours à l'heure actuelle des questions, en particulier sur le financement occulte des mouvements trotskystes en France ou

la mise en place du Système Octogon en Allemagne Fédérale (Seconde Guerre mondiale aux années 90), vaste système de financements illégaux de l'armée Ouest-allemande et surtout du parti européen de la CDU (attention la vidéo en circulation a été censurée par Arte, il manque toute une partie de l'enquête notamment à propos d'Helmut Kohl). Lorsque les révolutions n'étaient pas utiles, ce furent les assassinats, à la manière des truands et des criminels qui furent commandités par la CIA. Parmi eux, l'ex

Premier Ministre turc Adnan Menderes (1899-1961), renversé par un coup d'État militaire, le Président américain Kennedy (1917-1963), l'ex Premier Ministre italien, Aldo Moro (1916-1978), assassiné officiellement par un commando des Brigades Rouges, mais la vérité se fit finalement jour (2005-2006),

ou encore Olof Palme, Premier Ministre suédois (1927-1986). Ce ne sont que des exemples, et des suspicions persistent également sur les tentatives ratées comme celle contre Jean-Paul II (1981). La liste

des forfaits et crimes américains est sans fin tout au long de la deuxième partie du XXe siècle jusqu'à nos jours, près de 80 ans d'horreurs et de tueries. Pourtant jamais le Parlement européen ne vota, malgré les

preuves éblouissantes (sans parler de l'Afghanistan, de l'Irak, de la Somalie, de la Syrie et bien sûr de l'Ukraine), une loi qualifiant les USA de « support du terrorisme ».

Le règne américain du mythe du danger terroriste.

Cette manipulation fut un temps dénoncé courageusement par la France elle-même, dernier sursaut de la souveraineté française (14 février 2003). Quelques médias francophones se risquèrent encore à dénoncer les agissements pendables des Américains, comme dans ce reportage sur la chute de Ceausescu (2004), les révolutions organisées par la CIA dans les pays de l'Est (2005), ou encore le financement des terroristes islamistes utilisés dans la brigade afghane durant la guerre de Yougoslavie (reportage censuré il y a peu sur YouTube, d'une chaîne française en 2001). Le terrorisme fut de longue date financé au Moyen Orient par la CIA : de l'Afghanistan (1978-1989), en passant par ISIS et la Syrie. Dans d'autres cas, il fut la justification d'interventions militaires et déjà apparurent des accusations occidentales et américaines contre des « États

terroristes » à combattre et surtout à détruire. Parmi eux bien sûr l'Irak de Saddam Hussein (exécuté en 2006, ses deux fils assassinés par des commandos américains en 2003), l'homme était censé posséder une terrible arme biologique imaginaire. Citons l'Iran un plus gros morceau toujours dans le viseur américain, la Libye de Mouammar Khadafi, lui même accusé de financement des terroristes (assassiné en 2011), la Syrie de Bachar al Assad, qui fut accusé d'utilisation d'armes chimiques contre des civils et dont le pays fut attaqué pendant des années (2011-2017). Il réussit à vaincre ses agresseurs dont des terroristes islamistes financés par les USA (et aujourd'hui recrutés pour être envoyés en Ukraine). Durant plus de 30 ans, les médias occidentaux se sont échinés à vendre aux publics occidentaux, le mythe du danger terroriste. Une menace qui mettrait en danger tout le monde occidental. Ce fut bien sûr l'attentat des tours du World Trade Center (11 septembre 2001), qui justifia ensuite les nombreux conflits que nous avons évoqués. Des générations entières ont été élevées dans cette peur instrumentalisée, parfois dans une hystérie collective démente comme dans l'affaire des Je suis Charlie, où des millions de personnes dans le monde suivirent sans réfléchir une propagande massive et virant au ridicule (7 janvier 2015). Tout ce qui n'était pas Charlie était suspect et exécuté, l'image du mouton de Panurge avait pris corps.

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L'Ukraine et l'opération antiterroriste de l'ATO.

Voici longtemps que l'Ukraine, à l'image des USA, a usé des tactiques et stratégies de « l'ennemi terroriste ». Si vous lisez l'ukrainien et pouvez fouiller les médias d'Ukraine, vous vous rendriez compte que l'insurgé républicain du Donbass ne fut jamais autrement qualifié que comme « terroriste ». Il n'était même plus dénommé comme le « séparatiste », ou rêvé comme « le parachutiste russe » que les Ukrainiens virent partout en Ukraine au point de parler « des hommes verts ».

Très vite, des centaines, puis des milliers de fiches furent publiées (wikipedia et sites spécialisés), parlant du culte de « ces hommes qui ne meurent jamais ». Dans toutes ces fiches morbides de soldats ukrainiens tués, il n'y avait plus de combat contre un soldat, qu'il soit du Donbass ou d'ailleurs, mais contre des « terroristes ».

Pour déshumaniser leurs adversaires le régime de Kiev en se passant d'un vote à la Rada, lança l'opération antiterroriste ATO (avril 2014) : « sur la décision du Conseil National de Sécurité et de défense de l'Ukraine, et sur les mesures urgentes visant à surmonter la menace terroriste et à préserver l'intégrité territoriale de l'Ukraine ».

L'opération permettait de ne plus considérer les prisonniers de guerre comme tels, même pas comme des rebelles, mais comme des « terroristes ». Plus besoin dès lors de faire des prisonniers, plus besoin non plus de se justifier auprès d'autres pays, ou organisations dans le Monde, « le terroriste » pouvait et devait être éliminé. L'ATO permis aussi de justifier l'arrestation de milliers de personnes sur le territoire de l'Ukraine et de la zone, par la redoutable police politique ukrainienne, le SBU.

Terminé les mandats d'arrêts, les procédures judiciaires, il ne fut plus question que de prisons secrètes, et les libertés furent intégralement balayées en un tour de main. Le SBU pouvait arrêter désormais n'importe lequel « des terroristes », le conduire dans des lieux secrets, user de tortures et de maltraitements inouïes contre lui.

Les nombreuses interviews que j'ai réalisé des survivants de ces prisons (pour la plupart échangés, ou s'étant échappés) montrent bien avec quelle cruauté ils furent traités, dans l'irrespect complet de toutes les règles, lois ou usages moraux autour des Droits de l'Homme et de la démocratie. La subtilité de la zone ATO annulait aussi la protection nécessaire des populations civiles du Donbass et de l'Est de l'Ukraine, massivement ralliées à la cause républicaine et du retour au giron russe.

Ainsi furent commis, sans intervention, ni de politiques, ni de diplomates, ni d'aucunes autorités internationales, des massacres comme ceux d'Odessa (2 mai 2014), de Marioupol (9 mai et après le 13 juin 2014), de deux hameaux dans la région de Kommunar et tant d'autres tueries ignorées.

L'opération ATO se renforça au fil du temps de nouvelles mesures, notamment sur la circulation des biens dans la zone (2017). Elle faisait suite de toute façon à de vieilles pratiques des bataillons de représailles de pillages et de vols des propriétés « des terroristes séparatistes ».

L'opération ATO fut même transformée en opération OOS (2018), et les pouvoirs des militaires et des forces de l'ordre (dont le SBU) furent encore élargis.

Parmi les aménagements citons ceux similaires à la terrible Loi des Suspects (17 septembre 1793), qui lança la période de la Terreur révolutionnaire en France.

Parmi les interdictions paranoïaques inhérentes à ce statut de zone peuplée de « terroristes », l'interdiction de la chasse, l'obligation d'avoir des laissez-passer, la fouille systématique des personnes, véhicules et biens, l'instauration de tribunaux ATO d'exceptions etc.

Quand la démocratie agonise en Europe occidentale.

C'est donc tout naturellement que la zone ATO/OOS s'est finalement étendue à toute l'Ukraine (après février 2022), et que malgré l'intervention militaire de la Russie et l'opération spéciale, les médias ukrainiens ont étendu la dénomination de « terroristes » à tous les soldats russes.

Sur la liste Kill de l'Ukraine, la liste Mirotvorets ont été ajoutés tous les soldats russes identifiés, tous inscrits comme « des criminels de guerre et des terroristes ».

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Immédiatement le Président Zelensky avait demandé la reconnaissance de la Russie par l'Union européenne et d'autres institutions internationales, comme un état finançant le terrorisme. Voilà qui est désormais fait en UE. Les conséquences seront graves à court et moyen termes : 1) les crimes de guerre contre les Russes auront été commis contre des « terroristes » et non des soldats, 2) l'état russe lui-même sera de fait « terroriste ». Soutenir la Russie, par un drapeau, la parole, des actions ou manifestations privées ou publiques fera tomber chaque citoyen des pays de l'UE dans la catégorie « terroriste » avec tout ce que cela implique par rapport à la loi. 3) tant que ce vote sera maintenu, les négociations futures avec la Russie seront rendues presque impossibles, car il ne s'agit plus d'un état, mais d'un état support du « terrorisme ». 4) cette étape permet aussi la suivante, à savoir l'expulsion ou tentative d'expulsion de la Russie d'organisations internationales. 5) les citoyens étrangers servant la cause du Donbass et de la

Russie sur son territoire, sur le front de l'information comme journalistes, activistes, reporters de guerre pourront être attaqués en justice pour la justification du terrorisme, l'incitation à la haine et autres accusations farfelues. 6) enfin les citoyens étrangers servant dans les rangs russes les armes à la main seront bien sûrs eux-mêmes considérés comme « des terroristes », en plus d'être des mercenaires, avec les graves conséquences que cela pourra avoir : l'exécution sans autre forme de procès.

Un 7e et 8e points pourraient être ajoutés : la justification occidentale du fourniment de plus de moyens militaires, financiers et matériels à l'Ukraine, luttant « contre un état terroriste », la Russie devenant « une menace pour tous les pays » dans le monde. Enfin selon l'adage « No Money for Terror », les confiscations de biens et expropriations de biens immobiliers, voire mobiliers pourraient frapper aveuglément quiconque soutiendrait trop fermement la cause de la Russie et du Donbass. Décidément la mort de la liberté d'expression est cruelle et lente en Occident.

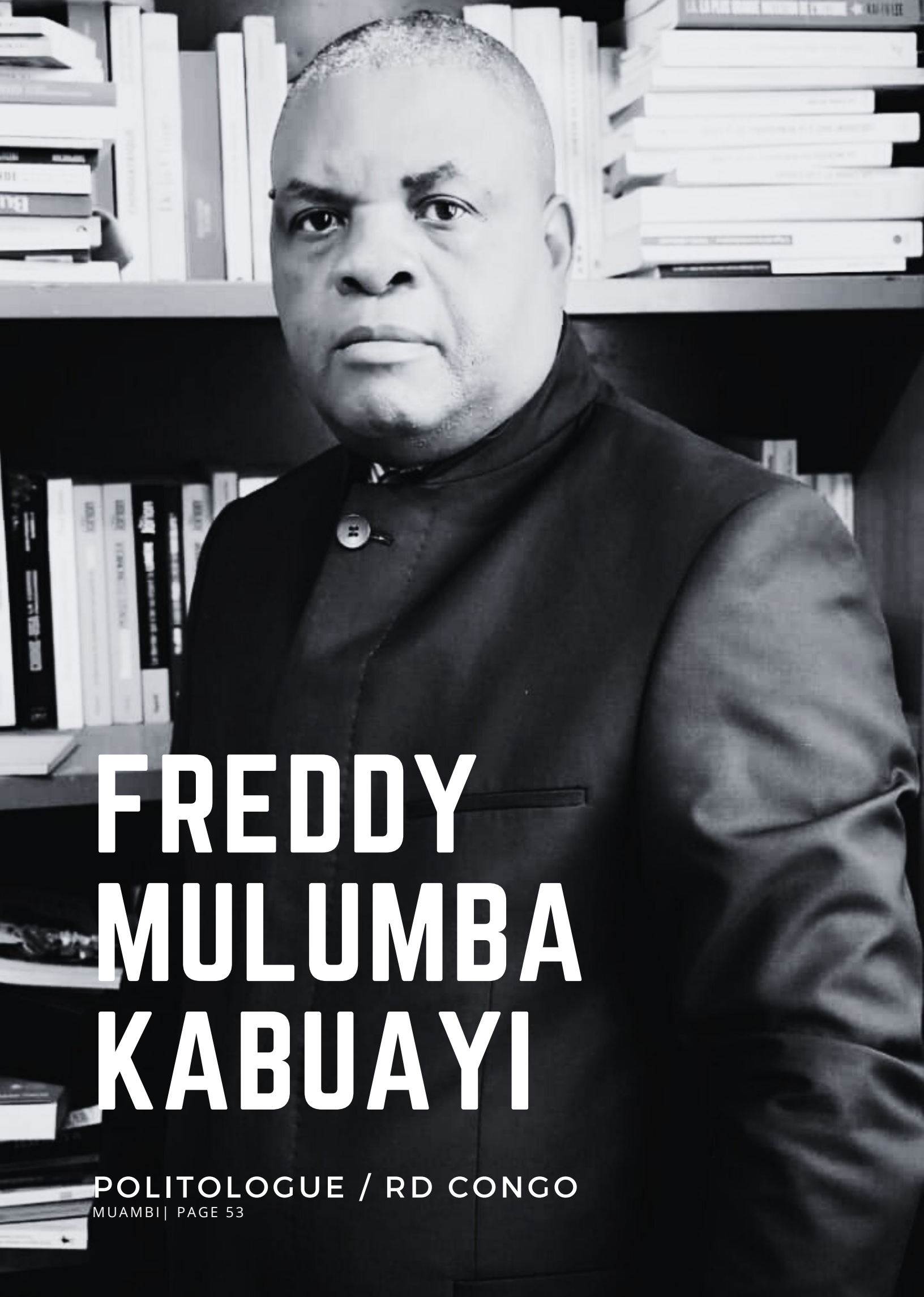
By Laurent Brayard
Journaliste / Moscou



MUSIC AND DANCE DON'T HAVE A RACE



**IT IS UP TO ALL OF
US TO DETERMINE
THE WORLD OF
TOMORROW**



FREDDY MULUMBA KABUAYI

POLITOLOGUE / RD CONGO
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L'importance de la République Démocratique du Congo dans le nouvel ordre mondial

Par Freddy Mulumba

Un nouveau monde est train de naître après la fin de l'unipolarité dominée par les américains. Faute de moyens financiers pour maintenir la présence militaire dans le monde, les Etats-Unis vont se retirer des espaces où ils n'ont pas d'intérêts vitaux pour se concentrer sur les régions où les intérêts géopolitiques sont nécessaires. Les espaces abandonnés seront occupées par les puissances émergentes telles que les BRICS d'une part et d'autre part les acteurs non étatiques comme les groupes islamistes, les globalistes et les multinationales... (Alfred W. McCoy, In The Shadows of the American Century, The Rise and Decline of Us Global Power, USA, 2017).

Avec ce déclin relatif de la puissance américaine dans le monde, la géopolitique du XXIème siècle se dessine autour de deux grandes puissances militaires et économiques rivales à savoir la Chine et les Etats-Unis d'Amérique d'une part, et d'autre part des puissances régionales. Cette nouvelle configuration du monde peut s'orienter vers une nouvelle guerre froide entre la Chine et les Usa dans un monde multipolaire. A cet égard, le Chancelier allemand Olaf Scholz s'interroge dans un article publié dans le magazine ForeignAffairs du mois de janvier/février 2023 sous le titre «Le Global Zeitenwende : Comment éviter une nouvelle guerre froide dans une ère multipolaire». Tout en réclamant sa nouvelle place dans cette nouvelle géopolitique en construction comme puissance, l'Allemagne privilégie la coopération avec la Chine à la place de la politique des blocs prônée par l'administration Joe Biden suite à la montée en puissance de l'Empire du Milieu.

«C'est pourquoi les Allemands entendent devenir le garant de la sécurité européenne que nos alliés attendent de nous, un bâtisseur de ponts au sein de l'Union européenne et un défenseur des solutions multilatérales aux problèmes mondiaux. C'est le seul moyen pour l'Allemagne de naviguer avec succès dans les divisions géopolitiques de notre époque»

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[Divisions géopolitiques de notre époque, l'idée est lancée par une puissance du XXème siècle organisatrice de la conférence de Berlin (1884-1885) sur le partage de l'Afrique par 14 puissances de l'époque]. *

Afrique, un terrain d'affrontement

Dans ce nouveau monde qui est en train de se mettre en place, l'Afrique est restée la banlieue de l'affrontement entre des anciennes puissances et les émergentes. Sur le continent africain, nombreux pays ont installés leurs bases militaires soit disant pour défendre leurs intérêts : Usa, Chine, la Russie, la France, l'Allemagne, la Grande Bretagne, la Turquie, les pays du golfe arabe, le Japon, l'Inde... Bref, 138 ans après la Conférence de Berlin de 1884-1885, le nouveau partage de l'Afrique a commencé sous le regard des élites africaines silencieuses, complices ou inconscientes.

Dans ce scénario du nouveau partage de l'Afrique, la RDC est au centre de compétition entre des puissances étatiques souverainistes et forces mondialistes-globalistes à travers les guerres d'usures dans les riches provinces de l'Est du Pays. Les puissances souverainistes tiennent au respect de l'intégrité du territoire congolais hérité de la colonisation comme le témoigne le Pape François. Lors de sa rencontre avec les Autorités congolaises, les représentants de la société civile et le Corps Diplomatique, Kinshasa, 31 janvier 2023, le Pape François s'oppose à la balkanisation de la RDC tant souhaitée par les globalistes mondialistes. «Vous, Congolais, vous luttez pour sauvegarder votre dignité et votre intégrité territoriale contre les méprisables tentatives de fragmentation du pays, je viens à vous, au nom de Jésus, comme un pèlerin de réconciliation et de paix. J'ai beaucoup désiré me trouver ici et je viens enfin vous apporter la proximité, l'affection et la consolation de toute l'Église catholique ».

La RDC est le pays le plus important au monde parce qu'elle contribue à la transition énergétique.

Par contre les globalistes-mondialistes et néo-libéraux mènent un projet de l'implosion du Congo en commençant par l'annexion des provinces de l'Est de la RDC au Rwanda et Ouganda afin de créer un nouvel Etat dans les grands Lacs africains composé de l'Ouganda, le Rwanda, la Tanzanie, le Kenya et le Soudan du Sud et le Burundi. Curieusement, ce projet coïncide avec la mise en place de la communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est (EAC) dominée par les britanniques et les globalistes. Ici, il faut placer ce projet dans le cadre d'un monde plus régionalisé, voire localisé, qui est en train de prendre forme après que la mondialisation ait atteint son apogée et ait commencé à reculer.

D'ailleurs dans ce monde post-néolibéral qui s'annonce, la production et la consommation seront plus étroitement liées au sein des pays et des régions. Bref, la mondialisation se transformera inévitablement en régionalisation et en localisation. (Rana Foroohar, Après le néolibéralisme, Toute économie est locale, novembre/décembre 2022 ForeignAffairs).

Contrairement aux mondialistes globalistes néolibéraux défenseurs de la disparition des Etats-nations, le penseur américain Francis Fukuyama exhorte les libéraux de ne pas renoncer à l'idée de la nation. En vérité, écrit-il, rien ne rend l'universalisme du libéralisme incompatible avec un monde d'États-nations. (Francis Fukuyama, Liberalism and Its Discontents, Profile Books Ltd, London, 2022).

Dans cet environnement post-néolibéral et post-mondialisation, la RDC sous le leadership du Président Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi retrouve sa place. «La RDC est le pays le plus important au monde parce qu'elle contribue à la transition énergétique », telle est la déclaration de monsieur Amos Hochstein, envoyé spécial du président américain Joe Biden et coordinateur des affaires énergétiques internationales dans une conférence de presse tenue à Kinshasa le 12 septembre 2022. On voit clairement que la RDC se retrouve dans le dispositif de la sécurité nationale américaine concrétisé par le projet de construction de l'usine de fabrication des batteries dans le cadre de coopération entre la Zambie et la RDC sur la sécurisation de la chaîne d'approvisionnement sous le patronage des Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

Les deux préalables

Compte tenu de sa nouvelle position acquise grâce aux minerais stratégiques utiles à la transition énergétique et la révolution du numérique, si le Congo veut retrouver sa place en Afrique et dans le monde, deux préalables s'imposent. La première est l'émergence des nouvelles élites aînées de la volonté de puissance et l'esprit de grandeur pour leur pays.

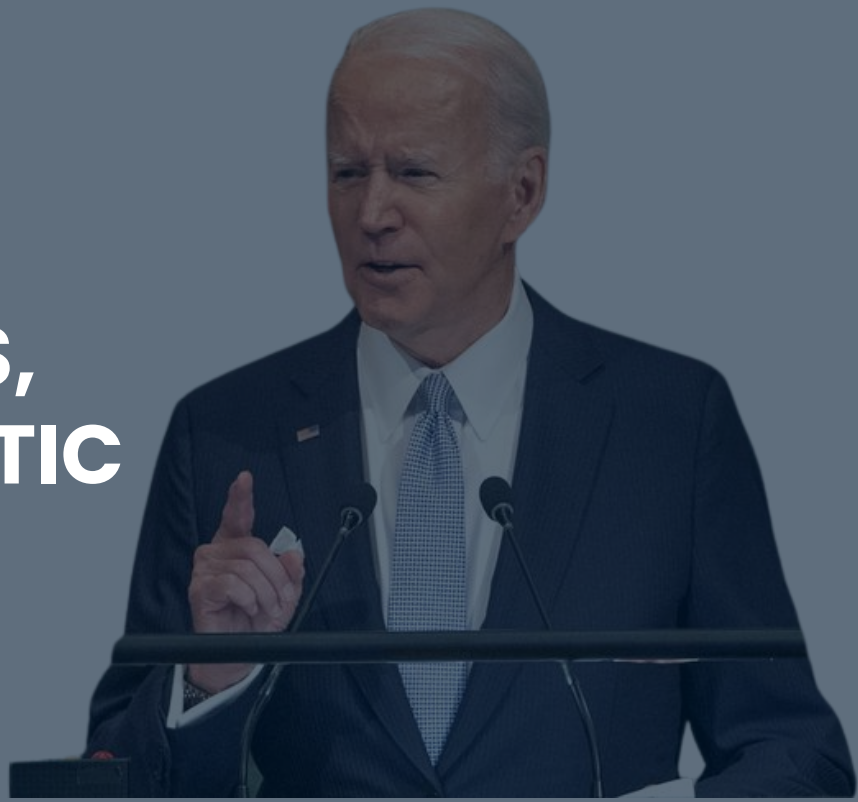
La qualité des élites d'une nation, note Michel J. Mazarr, joue un rôle essentiel dans la détermination de la légitimité de ses institutions gouvernementales. (Ce qui fait la grandeur d'une puissance, Michael J. Mazarr, ForeignAffairs,

juillet/août 2022). Mais, le drame de la RDC est que la majorité des élites est composée de mercenaires corrompus aux services des puissances étrangères, des multinationales, du Rwanda et de l'Ouganda. Ce conglomérat d'aventuriers n'est pas à la hauteur des enjeux du 21ème siècle d'un monde multipolaire.

Quant au deuxième préalable, la réinvention un Etat moderne actif et de droit demeure une nécessité. Les élites congolaises doivent construire un Etat au service du peuple avec un gouvernement cohérent, puissant, orienté vers un objectif et efficace qui investit dans les capacités nationales et les qualités sociétales bénéfiques. C'est qui n'est pas le cas dans la situation actuelle du Congo où l'Etat s'est effondré avec la fin du régime Mobutu. (Crawford Young et Thomas Turner, The Rise and Decline of the zairian State, The University of Wisconsin Press, USA, 1984).

En tout état de cause, sans les élites de qualités ayant des ambitions pour la grandeur du Congo capable d'imposer un leadership régional lui conférer par sa géographie et ses richesses et sans un Etat moderne capable de défendre l'intégrité territoriale, les intérêts congolais afin de donner l'espoir à la population, les chances pour la RDC de jouer un rôle de leader en Afrique sont hypothéqués. Mais, il y a une lueur d'espoir avec l'organisation des élections qui permettra de renouveler la classe politique qui sera à la hauteur des enjeux du 21ème siècle.

THE COBALT DIPLOMACY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND ZAMBIA.

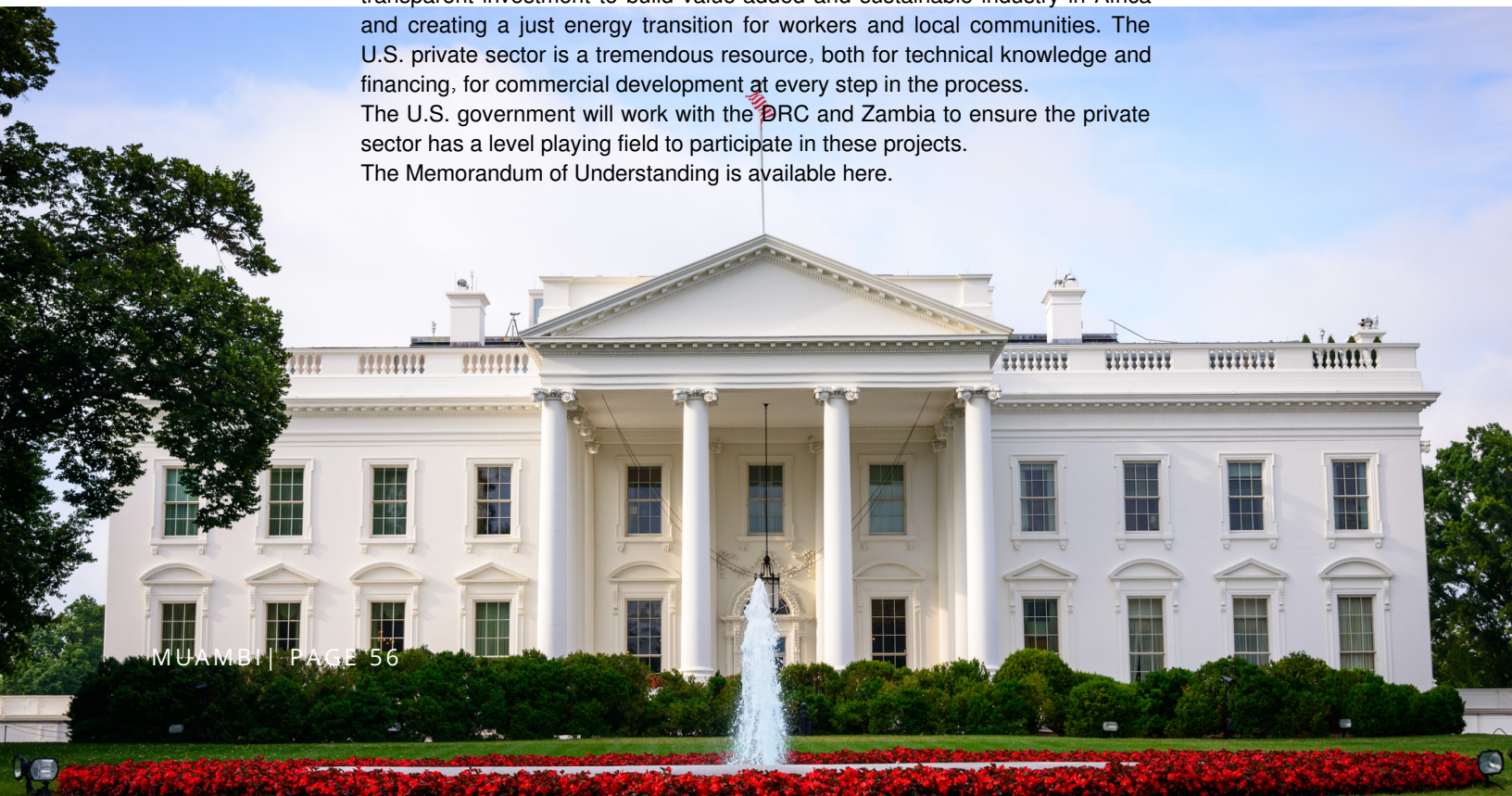


In januari 2023, the Department of State released the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on electric vehicle battery value chains signed by the United States on December 13, 2022, during the Africa Leaders Summit. Through this MOU, the United States will support the commitment between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia to develop jointly a supply chain for electric vehicle batteries.

The MOU supports the DRC and Zambia's goal of building a productive supply chain, from the mine to the assembly line, while also committing to respect international standards to prevent, detect, and take legal action to fight corruption throughout this process.

The DRC produces more than 70 percent of the world's cobalt. Zambia is the world's sixth-largest copper producer, and the second largest cobalt producer in Africa. These resources, and this commitment to cooperation, are crucial components of the urgently needed global energy transition. The plan to develop an electric battery supply chain opens the door for open and transparent investment to build value-added and sustainable industry in Africa and creating a just energy transition for workers and local communities. The U.S. private sector is a tremendous resource, both for technical knowledge and financing, for commercial development at every step in the process.

The U.S. government will work with the DRC and Zambia to ensure the private sector has a level playing field to participate in these projects. The Memorandum of Understanding is available [here](#).





**MARIAMMA
JALO**



THE ULTIMATE CONFERENCE

POSITIVE VIBES

By Mariamma Jalo

The 30th of December I had the honour to join the end of year event of Muambi network in collaboration with you for Guinea. As it was my first time attending I was very excited that one of the highlighted topics of the event would be Guinea. More specifically the ongoing trial about the 150+ innocent Guineans that were killed unfairly. As I myself have Guinean roots this topic hit close to home.

The speakers shed light on the topic and their views on the situation. It was truly amazing to see different people from the African continent come together at an event filled with positive vibes, good energy, food and music. As a first time attendee, the event exceeded all my expectations. I already look forward to the next Muambi International Network - event.



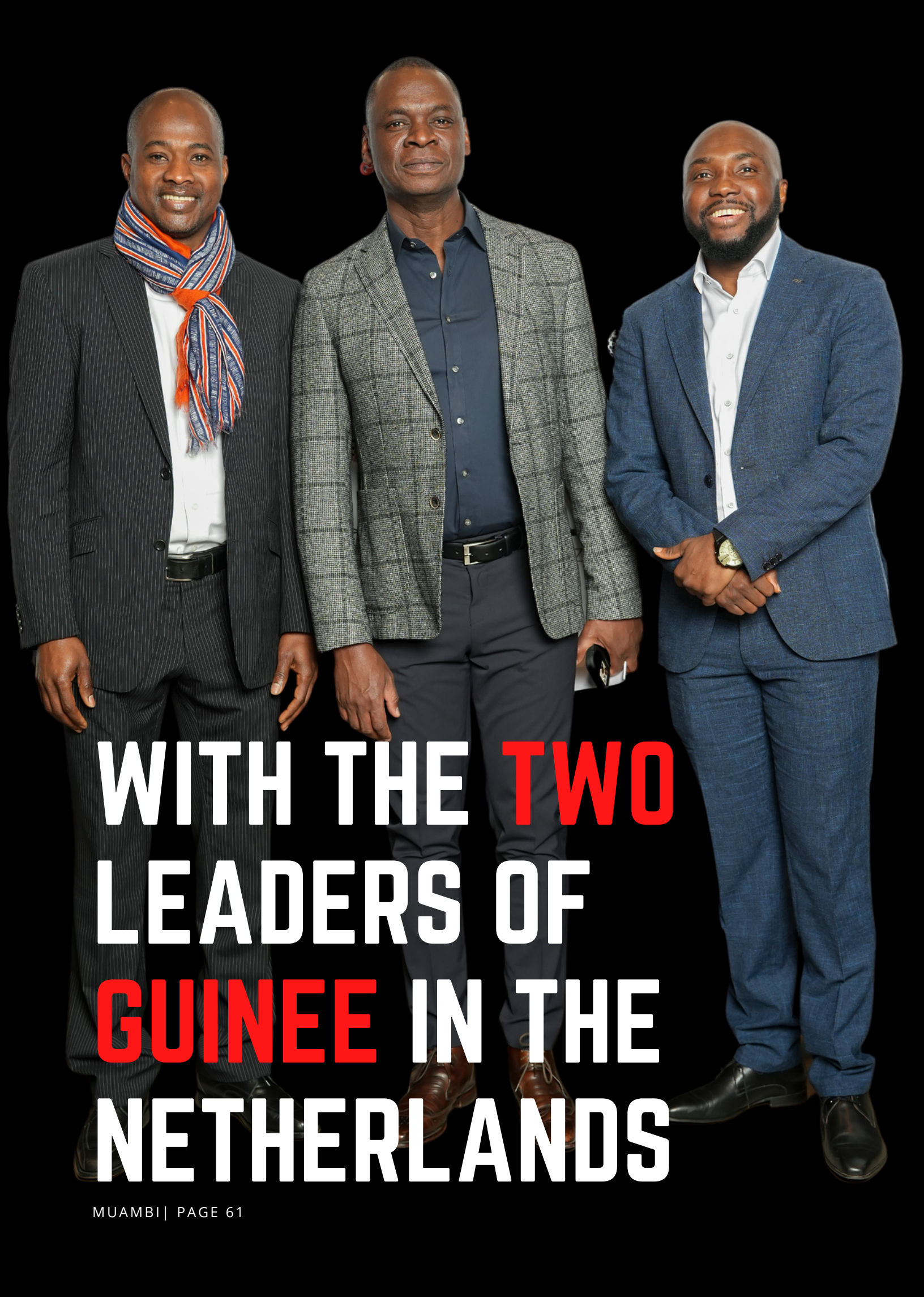
**WE BRING
THE HAGUE TO
THE WORLD AND
THE WORLD TO
THE HAGUE**



THE DREAM



TEAM



**WITH THE TWO
LEADERS OF
GUINEE IN THE
NETHERLANDS**

MUAMBI INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

FOR A POSITIVE IMAGE



MUAMBI INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

FOR A POSITIVE IMAGE



MALI



PRESIDENT ASSIMI GOÏTA (LAVROV'S LEFT SIDE)

The russian foreign minister Lavrov visiting Mali

the question

The question we in Europe must ask ourselves should not be why Africa in general and Mali in particular went into the arms of Russia, but who pushed Africa and Mali into Russian hands? Is there maybe the marriage of reason?

Questions are the beginning of the wisdom.

MALI & RUSSIA, THE MARRIAGE OF REASON?



MUAMBI INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

FOR A POSITIVE IMAGE



MUAMBI INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

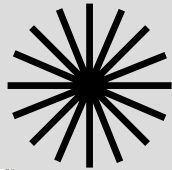
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THE EVENT OF 30
DECEMBER 2022



MUAMBI INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

FOR A POSITIVE IMAGE



MUAMBI INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

FOR A POSITIVE IMAGE



INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

FOR A POSITIVE IMAGE



MUAMBI INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

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MUAMBI INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

FOR A POSITIVE IMAGE



The Dutch government apologises for the Netherlands' role in the history of slavery. "With this apology we are writing not a full stop, but a comma.", he said.

At Muambi International Network, We accept the apology. But we will fill that space between the Prime Minister's full stop and the comma with our commandments and recommendations in order to do justice to wounded history, because we believe history should be rewritten.

For a long time I thought that the Netherlands' role in slavery was a thing of the past, something we had put behind us. But I was wrong.

**MARK
RUTTE**



Speech by Prime Minister Mark Rutte about the role of the Netherlands in the history of slavery Speech | 19-12-2022

**GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
AND FOR ANYONE LISTENING OR WATCHING IN
A DIFFERENT TIME ZONE:
BUN MORGU,
BON DIA,
GOOD MORNING,**

Here in the National Archives, history speaks to us through millions of documents. And though we can't hear the unwritten voices from the past, the story that emerges from all those documents is not always pretty.

Often it is ugly, painful, and even downright shameful.

That is certainly the case with the role of the Netherlands in the history of slavery.

We who live in today's world must acknowledge the evils of slavery in the clearest possible terms, and condemn it as a crime against humanity.

As a criminal system which caused untold numbers of people untold suffering.

Suffering that continues in the lives of people today.

And we in the Netherlands must confront our part in that history. It's therefore good that we are gathered here today at the National Archives.

This is the home of our national memory.

So this is the place to examine our national conscience.

MUAMBI | PAGE 76

Here, you can't get around the historical facts.

By 1814, more than 600,000 enslaved African women, men and children had been shipped to the American continent, in deplorable conditions, by Dutch slave traders.

Most were taken to Suriname, but others were sent to Curaçao, St Eustatius and other locations.

They were wrenched from their families and stripped of their humanity.

They were transported – and treated – like cattle.

Often under the governmental authority of the Dutch West India Company.

In Asia, between 660,000 and over one million people – we don't even know exactly how many – were traded within the areas under the authority of the Dutch East India Company.

The numbers are unimaginable.
The human suffering behind them, even more unimaginable.
Countless stories have been passed down, and witness testimonies given, proving that there was no limit to the arbitrary cruelty of the slave system.
And thus no limit to the injustice and the sheer terror.
We need only open Anton de Kom's book, *We Slaves of Suriname*, to read about the most horrific treatment and punishment.
We read of people being flogged and tortured to death.
Of people whose limbs were hacked off or whose faces were branded with hot irons.
Each person's fate more gruesome than the last.
Injustice upon injustice with every turn of the page.

And just as Anton de Kom described the horrors of Suriname, other horrors unfolded elsewhere, under the same Dutch governmental authority.
We can read about it.
We can know about it.
And still the awful fate of the people who were enslaved is barely conceivable.

So let us consider the hard facts contained in the archives.

Take, for example, the enormous administrative system set up around the time that slavery was abolished, in 1863. We can still study those records here today.

Page after page lists the names – and a few other personal details – of enslaved people, registered by plantation and owner.

The records are dry and concise, businesslike and systematic, which makes them all the more shocking.

Because they underline the absurdity of a system in which one human being makes a being commodity of another.

A system so inhuman and unjust, that in 1863 it was not the enslaved people who received financial compensation from the State, but the slave owners.

And yet it could be even more cruel, even more unfair, because everyone who nominally gained their freedom in Suriname in 1863 was forced to keep working under the supervision of the State for another 10 years.

For many this meant another 10 years of living an unfree life, a life of subjugation. Until 1873.

Which is 150 years ago next year.

That history concerns us all.

A complex history, in which different years and different events carry significance in different places.

Not just 1863 and 1873.

But 1860 too, for instance, the year in which slavery in the Dutch East Indies was formally abolished.

1814, when the Netherlands abolished its transatlantic slave trade.

1848, the de facto end of slavery on St Maarten.

Or 1795, when Tula led a revolt on Curaçao that is still commemorated every year.

So many moments, so many stories, so much history.

The Hague



THE
GOVERNMENT
OFFICE

Rotterdam



In recent years, that history has gained more attention – in exhibitions, in publications and in the public debate.

Social awareness is growing.

And that is leading to a change in the way we think.

This is good, and appropriate, and necessary, for the silence has gone on too long.

I have experienced that change in thinking personally – I want to be open about that.

For a long time I thought that we could not easily take meaningful responsibility for something that happened so long ago.

Something that none of us experienced first-hand.

For a long time I thought that the Netherlands' role in slavery was a thing of the past, something we had put behind us.

But I was wrong.

Centuries of oppression and exploitation still have an effect to this very day.

In racist stereotypes.

In discriminatory patterns of exclusion.

In social inequality.

And to break those patterns, we also have to face up to the past, openly and honestly.

A past that we share with other countries and that has forged a special connection between our societies for all time.

It is true that no one alive now is personally to blame for slavery.

But it is also true that the Dutch State, in all its manifestations through history, bears responsibility for the terrible suffering inflicted on enslaved people and their descendants.

So we cannot ignore the effects of the past on the present.

The report entitled Chains of the Past by the Slavery History Dialogue Group is playing an important role in the process of growing awareness that many of us are experiencing.

The report was published on 1 July 2021 and it contains a number of hard-hitting conclusions and clear recommendations.

The three key words are: acknowledgement, apology, recovery.

Today we are sending the official government response to this report to the Dutch House of Representatives.



HOW DO YOU DO JUSTICE TO ALL THE SPIRITUAL SYMBOLS AND RITUALS THAT ARE SO VERY IMPORTANT TO CERTAIN CULTURES?

In that response we embrace the analysis and conclusions of the Dialogue Group.

In the intervening year and a half, the government has spoken about the history of slavery, in various ways, in various places and with various people and groups.

I myself was in Suriname last September, where I learned how deeply history still affects people's daily lives, including in a spiritual sense.

I also learned how experiences, memories and feelings can be different for each group and each individual.

It makes a difference whether your forebears were stolen from Africa or were members of the indigenous population.

It makes a difference in which country or region they lived their lives.

And it also makes a difference in which period they lived.

Those historical, geographical and cultural differences between population groups and individuals matter, to this very day.

And this means that making general statements about the history of slavery is a very delicate matter.

How do you do justice to all those differences?

What is the best moment?

How do you do justice to all the spiritual symbols and rituals that are so very important to certain cultures?

And how can you encapsulate so much injustice, so much pain, so many atrocities, in mere words?

Any attempt to do so will always fall short, and will give rise to new questions and discussions.

With all the emotions that entails.

With all the tensions it creates.

We know there isn't one right moment for everyone; there are no right words for everyone, nor one right place for everyone.

And I acknowledge that the build-up to this day could have been better.

But we mustn't let that be a reason to simply do nothing.

We must take steps forward together.

We must progress together.

So please, let's have that conversation about the Netherlands' role in the history of slavery, even if it is difficult.



*WITH THIS APOLOGY WE
ARE WRITING NOT A FULL
STOP, BUT A COMMA.*

That conversation begins with acknowledgement.

Acknowledgement of the terrible suffering inflicted on generations of enslaved people.

Acknowledgement and rehabilitation of all those who put up resistance, like the courageous Maroons of Suriname.

Today, I respectfully speak the names of Tula on Curaçao, Jolicoeur, Boni and Baron in Suriname and One-Tété Lohkay on St Maarten.

And we remember all the nameless women and men who courageously strived for freedom throughout the centuries, and often suffered the most horrific punishments.

And of course acknowledgement of historical responsibility, together with the appropriate words.

These words.

For centuries, the Dutch State and its representatives facilitated, stimulated, preserved and profited from slavery.

For centuries, in the name of the Dutch State, human beings were made into commodities, exploited and abused.

For centuries, under Dutch state authority, human dignity was violated in the most horrific way possible.

And successive Dutch governments after 1863 failed to adequately see and acknowledge that our slavery past continued to have negative effects and still does.

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For that I offer the apologies of the Dutch government.

Today I apologise.

Awe mi ta pidi diskulpa.

Tide mi wani taki pardon.

Today, on behalf of the Dutch government, I apologise for the past actions of the Dutch State: to enslaved people in the past, everywhere in the world, who suffered as a consequence of those actions, as well as to their daughters and sons, and to all their descendants, up to the present day.

We are doing this, not to wipe the slate clean.

Not to close the book on the past and leave it behind us.

We are doing this – and doing it now – so that, standing on the cusp of an important commemorative year, we can find a way forward together.

We not only share a past; we share a future too.

So with this apology we are writing not a full stop, but a comma.

The dialogue on the history of slavery should be held as broadly as possible, not only in the Netherlands, but also, and especially, in the places where it happened, with everyone who is involved or feels involved.

That's why the apology I just offered will be echoed today in seven other places in the world; places where the pain and consequences of slavery are felt the most and are the most visible, to this very day.

It will be echoed in the words spoken by seven representatives of the Dutch government.

In Suriname.

On Curaçao.

On St Maarten.

On Aruba.

On Bonaire.

On Saba.

And on St Eustatius.



In consultation with all the groups and individuals from all the countries with which we share this history, the government wants to work more intensively to enhance knowledge of the history of slavery, thus ensuring more awareness, acknowledgement and understanding.

This process will take time, and we can only do this work together.

On the road to that important, symbolic date of 1 July 2023.

And then throughout the year of commemoration.

And in the years that follow.

The government response to the report by the Slavery History Dialogue Group discusses this extensively.

It is vital that the steps we take now are truly taken together.

By talking and listening to each other, and doing so with just one purpose: doing justice to the past and healing in the present.

A comma, not a full stop.

Together with Suriname, the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom and all the descendants in the Netherlands, we are working to make cultural heritage more visible, to foster awareness through education and to encourage academic historic research.

During the year of commemoration, all facets of the history of slavery and its effects up to the present day will be brought to light.

The King personally feels very engaged with this subject and will be present at the commemoration and celebration in Amsterdam on 1 July.

And we are looking ahead, beyond 2023.

An independent and broadly composed commemoration committee will consider the best way to respectfully commemorate the past as collectively as possible in the future.

We will also set up a fund for social initiatives throughout the Kingdom and in Suriname, so that the impact of the history of slavery is given the visibility, attention and action that is needed.

The healing process must start now, and we will write the programme for that process together.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The book of our shared history has many pages that fill us – as people of the 21st century – with dismay and horror.

And with deep shame.

Those pages cannot be erased with an apology, nor should they be.

We cannot change the past, but we can face up to it.

What the government fervently hopes, and what I personally fervently hope, is that this moment, this day, will help us – throughout the Kingdom and together with Suriname and other countries – to fill the empty pages that lie ahead with dialogue, acknowledgement and healing.

Thank you.

**THE KING PERSONALLY FEELS VERY
ENGAGED WITH THIS SUBJECT AND
WILL BE PRESENT AT THE
COMMEMORATION AND
CELEBRATION IN AMSTERDAM ON
1 JULY.**

MAN OF THE YEAR 2022!

KYLIAN MBAPPÉ (1998), CAMEROONIAN FATHER AND ALGERIAN MOTHER, IS A TRUE PARISIAN, A TRUE FRENCHMAN, A TRUE EUROPEAN AND A TRUE SOCCER PLAYER. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT BECAUSE OF THE BRAIN IN HIS FEET THAT WE CHOOSE HIM AS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MAN OF 2022, BUT BECAUSE OF THE BRAIN IN HIS HEAD.

WE HAVE DUG INTO THIS BRAIN TO DRAW CRITERIA THAT MAKE HIM A MAN OF THE YEAR; DETERMINATION, FIGHTING SPIRIT, FAIR PLAY, RESPECT FOR OTHERS, TOGETHERNESS ... MBAPPÉ IS ABOVE ALL A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD WHO IS INSPIRING THE YOUTH OF THE SUBURBS ACROSS THE GLOBE WHO ARE SAYING: I CAN DO IT TOO.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND SUGGESTIONS.

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Thanks for the pictures

MARTIJN BEEKMAN | SUSANNE MIDDELBERG | FEMI SOEWOU | JEAN VAN LINGEN, CHINESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JANITA SASSEN, GOVERNMENT OF MALI, EPA/ALI HAIDER, AND THE MUAMBI MEDIA TEAM (MMT).



**We reconcile
politics and
news with the
young people,
here and
elsewhere.**

