

THE FORGOTTEN SIEGE: STARVATION AS A WEAPON AGAINST CONGO'S BANYAMULENGE

**Pope Leo Reaffirms
Vatican Support for
Palestinian Statehood,
Calls It the Only Path
to Lasting Peace**



Aboard Papal Flight — Pope Leo has reiterated that the creation of a Palestinian state remains the only realistic solution to the decades-long conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, underscoring a central pillar of Vatican diplomacy as tensions continue to shape the Middle East. The pontiff delivered the remarks on Sunday during an in-flight conversation with journalists as he traveled from Turkey



In the cloud-forested highlands of South Kivu, a silent siege is underway. For over 172,000 civilians, predominantly from the ethnic Tutsi Banyamulenge community,

the world has shrunk to a prison of jagged hills and blockaded valleys. Their access to food, medicine, and escape has been systematically severed, creating a man-made famine that human rights advocates and community leaders are calling a deliberate campaign of ethnic extermination.

The crisis centers on the Minembwe region, where a military coalition of Congolese armed forces (FARDC), over 10,000 Burundian troops, and various pro-government militias—including the FDLR,

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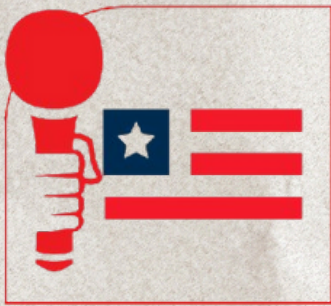
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RWANDA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO WASHINGTON – **BROKERED PEACE DEAL**



At a press conference held on 27 November 2025 in Kigali, Rwandan President Paul Kagame asserted that his country has fulfilled all obligations under the U.S.-brokered agreement with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). He pushed back firmly against suggestions that Kigali was responsible for delays. As he put it: “What is delaying, I can assure you... does not come from or relate to Rwanda. Nothing originates from Rwanda.”

Hopeful, But Waiting

Kagame conveyed cautious optimism that the deal could yet be signed soon, indicating that discussions could resume as early as early December. “For us, we have been here waiting,” he said, noting that Rwandan authorities remain on standby while awaiting further action from Kinshasa. He reiterated that Rwanda is ready to move forward, but that the ball is now firmly in the DRC’s court.

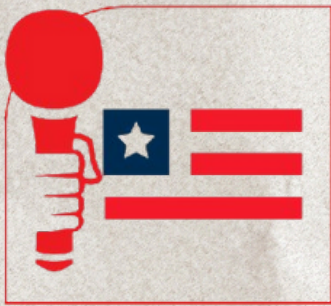
President Kagame also accused the DRC of repeatedly reneging on agreed terms. He described a pattern where commitments made publicly — even signed documents — were later reversed. “People... discuss, they near agreeing something, or sometimes they agree something, and then the next day somebody is just in the open saying, ‘No, I want to do this,’” he said.

He added that delegates might sign agreements abroad, only for new unagreed conditions. Kagame’s remarks reflect frustration with what he described as contradictory behaviour by DRC officials. According to him, these repeated reversals have stalled progress. “They sign... and then after that ... they set different conditions other than what was actually done and agreed,” he said.



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The Forgotten Siege: Starvation as a Weapon Against Congo's Banyamulenge

a Rwandan Hutu rebel group with a genocidal ideology—have enforced a tight blockade since early 2025. What the governments frame as a counter-insurgency operation against M23 and allied rebels has morphed into a collective punishment of a civilian population, raising alarm that the world is witnessing the early stages of a genocide.

“This is not a war against rebels; it’s a siege against our people,” said Moïse Nyarugabo, a prominent Banyamulenge advocate and lawyer, in a recent public discussion. “The genocide unfinished in Gatumba is being completed here,” he added, referencing the 2004 massacre of over 160 Banyamulenge refugees in Burundi.

A Strategy of Starvation and Strikes

Eyewitness accounts and field reports depict a strategy designed to inflict maximum suffering. In October, Banyamulenge traders were turned back at gunpoint from the Bijombo market, their last major lifeline for supplies. By November, peaceful protests in Minembwe saw residents holding banners pleading, “End the Blockade — We Are Congolese.”

The response, witnesses say, has been brutal. Unmanned aerial vehicles, attributed to the coalition forces, have struck displacement camps near Mikenge, killing civilians and destroying makeshift shelters. The UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) describes aid delivery as “impossible,” with children succumbing to severe acute malnutrition and preventable diseases running rampant.

“No entry, no exit,” one resident posted on social media platform X. “Hunger is our new enemy.” Accompanying videos show families fleeing into forests littered with landmines, forced to forage for survival.

Roots of Persecution: ‘Foreigners’ in Their Own Land

The current blockade is the latest horrific chapter in a long history of persecution for the Banyamulenge. Despite centuries of residence in the region, they have been systematically branded as “foreigners,” a toxic narrative rooted in colonial-era “Hamitic” theories that painted them as invaders.

This othering has repeatedly exploded into violence. In the 1990s, Congolese lawmakers voted for their mass expulsion, triggering waves of massacres. Since 2017, violence has intensified, with Mai-Mai militias looting their culturally vital cattle herds and razing their villages.

Genocide Watch has labeled the situation a “genocide emergency,” and the UN has documented “alarming hate speech” inciting ethnic cleansing. In response, some Banyamulenge have formed self-defense groups like Twirwaneho, which has allied with the M23 rebel movement—a fact Kinshasa uses to justify its crackdown and to taint the entire community as proxies of Rwanda.

International Apathy and a Regional Powder Keg

The crisis in Minembwe is not an isolated event but a flashpoint in a regional conflagration. Eastern Congo's conflicts, fueled by vast mineral wealth and ethnic rivalry, have displaced millions and killed an estimated six million people since 1996. M23's recent advances have prompted Kinshasa to forge security alliances with Burundi and the Southern African Development Community (SADC)

U.S. and Ukrainian representatives are scheduled to meet in Miami on Sunday

Washington DC - The U.S. and Ukrainian representatives are scheduled to meet in Miami on Sunday morning ahead of planned discussions in Moscow between President Trump's envoys and Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to officials from both nations.

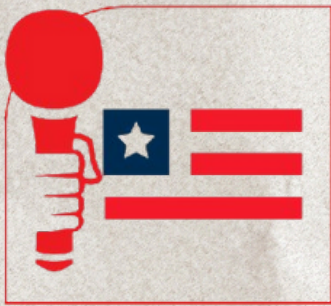
Why it's important: Washington and Kyiv are attempting to finalize their shared positions on the updated U.S. peace proposal—an outline that has undergone significant revisions in recent days to better align with Ukraine's concerns. Trump's negotiators, Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, are expected to present the refined plan to Putin on Tuesday.

Last week, Trump stated he would only sit down with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Putin once the sides had made substantial progress toward a potential war-ending agreement.

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AFRICA-EUROPE SUMMIT IN ANGOLA: DEBT, TRADE AND MINERALS TAKE CENTRE STAGE



Luanda, Angola — From 24–25 November 2025, the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) convened in Luanda for the 7th AU–EU Summit under the banner “Promoting Peace and Prosperity through Effective Multilateralism.” The summit commemorates 25 years of formal partnership between the two blocs — a milestone that coincides with Angola presiding over the AU and underscores Africa’s increasing leadership role.

Co-chaired by Angolan President João Lourenço (AU Chair) and the President of the European Council António Costa, the gathering also included the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and the Chair of the AU Commission Mahmoud Ali Youssouf. The summit brought together heads of state and government, ministers, private-sector actors, civil society and youth representatives, reflecting the AU–EU ambition for inclusivity and broad-based engagement. Key Themes: Reform, Trade and Investment

A central announcement at the summit came from President Lourenço, who issued a high-profile call for reforming the global financial architecture, pressing for “fairer and more effective debt-restructuring tools” to help African nations currently facing unsustainable debt burdens. He criticized existing frameworks — such as the G20’s “Common Framework” initiated during the COVID-19 crisis — for their slow progress in alleviating debt stress in countries like Ghana and Zambia.



Somalia Declares Drought Emergency; Warns of 'Catastrophe' as Aid Funding Plummet

MOGADISHU — Somalia is facing a rapidly escalating humanitarian disaster following four consecutive failed rainy seasons, prompting the Federal Government to formally declare a drought emergency on November 10.

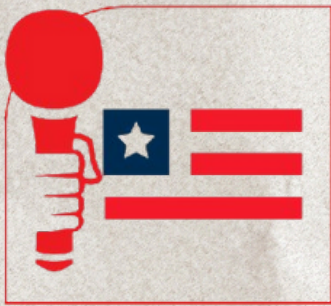
United Nations humanitarians warned on Wednesday that vast swaths of the country are now parched, leaving millions at risk of severe hunger and displacement. The crisis is compounded by a critical funding shortfall that has forced aid agencies to drastically cut support just as conditions deteriorate across northern, central, and southern regions.

While the drought is widespread, the semi-autonomous state of Puntland has emerged as one of the worst-affected areas. Authorities there estimate a staggering toll on the local population:

- 1 million people are currently in need of support.
- 130,000 people are facing immediate, life-threatening needs.

A recent UN assessment mission to the Bari and Nugaal regions revealed communities grappling with acute shortages of food and water. Across the region, water points have dried up, vegetation has withered, and pastoral settlements that were once bustling now stand abandoned.





MUSHIKIWABO AND BELGIAN FM PREVOT DISCUSS POLITICAL “CLIMATE” WITHIN FRANCOPHONIE



Borcelle, a leading innovator in consumer lifestyle products, today announced the official launch of Borcelle One, designed to make daily living smarter, simpler, and more sustainable. With its sleek design and cutting-edge technology, Borcelle One is set to revolutionize the way we interact with our living spaces. The product seamlessly blends into any home environment, offering personalized experiences that cater to individual needs and preferences.

Equipped with intuitive features and powered by advanced AI, Borcelle One learns from your routine to intelligently optimize energy usage, enhance home security, and improve overall living comfort.

A message posted on the OIF’s official account stated that they “discussed the political climate in French-speaking countries, Belgium’s role within the OIF, and the promotion of multilingualism within international organizations.”

In her opening address at the conference, Louise Mushikiwabo noted that she leads the organization at a time when there is a “bad political climate” in some member countries. She cited examples such as populations contesting electoral results, leading to unrest and protests, as well as public dissatisfaction with various political issues across the Francophone world.

“The OIF’s role in resolving these various problems remains crucial because we focus on the quality of political and governmental processes in different states,” she said.



Historic Framework Agreement Signed Between DRC Government and M23 Rebels in Doha

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the M23 rebel group have signed a new framework agreement in Doha, Qatar, marking what mediators describe as a historic step toward peace in the country’s war-torn east. The deal, finalized on Saturday, comes after months of negotiations led by Qatar, the United States, and the African Union, and aims to end years of devastating conflict in the mineral-rich provinces of North and South Kivu.

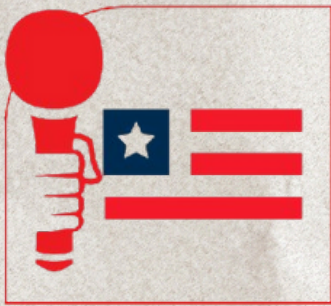
Background of the Conflict

Since late 2021, the Rwanda-backed M23 has waged a renewed insurgency, capturing swathes of territory and displacing millions. In January 2025,

the group seized Goma, eastern Congo’s largest city, and later advanced into Bukavu, triggering a humanitarian crisis that left thousands dead. The offensive underscored the fragility of earlier ceasefire deals and intensified accusations of Rwandan support for the rebels—a claim Kigali has consistently denied.

The newly signed Doha Framework for a Comprehensive Peace Agreement builds on earlier accords, including a July ceasefire deal in Qatar and a June bilateral peace agreement between Kinshasa and Kigali signed in Washington. While previous agreements faltered amid violation....





HISTORIC AWAKENING: LONG-DORMANT VOLCANO IN ETHIOPIA'S 'GATEWAY TO HELL' ERUPTS AFTER 12,000 YEARS



ADDIS ABABA — In a geological event that has stunned scientists and disrupted aviation across the Indian Ocean, a volcano in Ethiopia's remote Afar region has erupted for the first time in recorded history, ending a silence that lasted roughly 12,000 years.

While initial reports and social media chatter pointed to the famous Erta Ale—known for its persistent lava lake—geologists have confirmed the eruption actually stems from Hayli Gubbi, a shield volcano located just southeast of Erta Ale in the same volcanic range. The event marks a significant shift in the geological activity of the East African Rift.

The eruption began on Sunday morning, sending a massive plume of ash and smoke roughly 45,000 feet (14 km) into the atmosphere. The explosion was powerful enough to be detected by satellite imagery and tracked by the Toulouse Volcanic Ash Advisory Center in France.

This eruption serves as a dramatic reminder of the tectonic forces at play in East Africa. Ethiopia sits atop the East African Rift, where the African continent is slowly splitting in two. The Nubian and Somali tectonic plates are pulling apart, allowing magma to press up through the thinning crust.

"The reawakening of a volcano after 12,000 years is a rare opportunity to study how dormant systems reactivate in rift zones," noted a statement from regional geologists. "It suggests the magmatic plumbing system in the Afar region is currently undergoing a period of high pressure."



Tanzania Scraps Independence Day After Disputed Vote Sparks Bloodshed

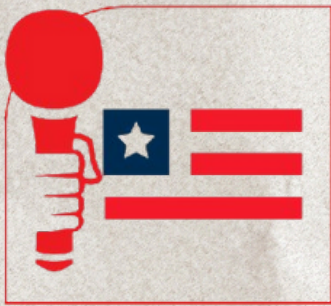
DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania — In a move that underscores the depth of the political crisis gripping the nation, the Tanzanian government has cancelled its 63rd Independence Day celebrations, choosing instead to funnel the festivities' budget into repairing infrastructure damaged in widespread unrest following last month's bitterly disputed elections. The announcement by Prime Minister Mwigulu Nchemba is a stark acknowledgment of the public fury over alleged mass killings by security forces and a deeply controversial electoral process. It comes as the administration of President Samia Suluhu Hassan struggles to contain the most significant challenge to the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party's decades-long hold on power.

"We must come together and discuss the issues affecting the nation," Nchemba stated, urging calm. The cancelled December 9 celebrations will be replaced by a "simple flag-raising ceremony," with the saved funds redirected to a nation "that needs to heal."

The decision lands on the same date that a coalition of opposition parties and civil society groups had planned for nationwide protests, setting the stage for a potential flashpoint.

**A Legacy of Election Troubles
Comes to a Head**





Gunmen Seize More Than 200 Children in Nigeria Catholic School Mass Abduction



More than 200 children are missing after gunmen stormed a Catholic school in western Nigeria early Friday, in one of the country's largest mass kidnappings in recent years, which has prompted a national outcry and forced the president to cancel an international trip.

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) said attackers struck St Mary's School in the Papiri community of Niger State's Agwara district, seizing 215 pupils along with 12 teachers. The assault comes just days after armed men abducted 25 schoolgirls from a secondary school in northwestern Kebbi State, underscoring a persistent and brazen kidnapping epidemic targeting educational institutions.

Daniel Atori, spokesperson for CAN in Niger State, who travelled to the besieged community, described a scene of anguish. "I just got back to the village tonight after I visited the school where I also met with parents," he said, adding that the association is working "to ensure our children's safe return."

Panic and a Desperate Search

Residents described scenes of panic as families searched frantically for missing children in the wake of the pre-dawn attack.

"We don't know what is happening now, because we have not heard anything since this morning," said Dauda Chekula, 62, who told The Associated Press that four of his grandchildren, aged seven to 10, were among those taken. "The children who were able to escape have scattered ...

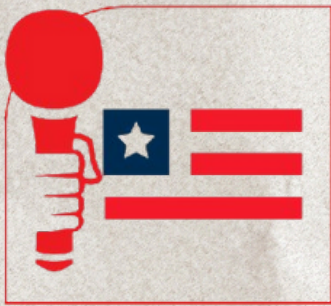
ISRAELI STRIKE IN BEIRUT KILLS SENIOR HEZBOLLAH COMMANDER, RAISING FEARS OF RENEWED ESCALATION



A powerful Israeli airstrike hit a residential building in Beirut on Sunday, killing a senior Hezbollah military commander and several others in one of the most significant incidents since last year's temporary halt in hostilities. Both the Israeli military and Hezbollah confirmed that Haytham Ali Tabatabai, a high-ranking field commander, died in the strike.

Lebanese emergency officials reported that five people were killed and at least 28 others wounded when the missile struck an apartment block in Haret Hreik, a crowded neighborhood in the capital's southern suburbs. The area is widely known as a political and logistical stronghold for Hezbollah, and past conflicts have seen it repeatedly targeted.

Authorities did not immediately release the names of the civilians who died, citing ongoing identification efforts. Hours after the blast, Hezbollah announced that four of its fighters were among the dead, describing Tabatabai as a key operational leader. His death marks the most senior loss for the group since a ceasefire was reached in November 2024 after more than a year of near-daily exchanges of fire along the Lebanon-Israel border.



NBA AFRICA SELECTS 10 STARTUPS TO COMPETE FOR 2025 TRIPLE-DOUBLE ACCELERATOR PRIZE



NBA Africa has announced the 10 startup finalists selected for the second edition of its Triple-Double Accelerator, a pan-African initiative to support early-stage ventures in the sport and creative industries. The finalists were chosen from over 700 applications submitted from across Africa, representing diverse innovations in sports tech, creative platforms, and wellness solutions.

These startups will present their projects at a “Demo Day” scheduled for 5 December 2025 at Carnegie Mellon University Africa (CMU-Africa) in Kigali, Rwanda. Five of the finalists will be awarded financial support and a place in CMU-Africa’s 12-month Business Incubation Program (Innovation Hub), helping them scale from prototypes or pilot stage to market-ready solutions.

The 10 finalists selected for this year’s accelerator include:

1. Athlon Technology (Egypt) – Mobile and AI solutions for amateur sports video analysis.
2. Atsur (Nigeria) – Blockchain platform to support African artists and art communities.
3. CoLab (South Africa) – Collaboration platform for creatives and entrepreneurs.
4. Contestify (Nigeria) – Transparent, real-time contest management for events and competitions.
5. Fitclan (Egypt) – Digital fitness hub with flexible subscription models.



Portugal Claim Historic First U-17 World Cup Title in Doha

Today, the 2025 FIFA U-17 World Cup reached a dramatic conclusion at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, where Portugal claimed their first-ever title at this level with a slender but fully earned 1–0 victory over Austria. In a tournament that marked a new era for youth football, expanded from 24 to 48 teams and staged annually for the first time, the final encapsulated the ambition behind the competition: a modern showcase of tactical maturity and pressure beyond youth expectations.

Portugal entered the competition as one of Europe’s most promising youth outfits but not necessarily as pre-tournament favorites. However, their consistency in possession, defensive discipline, and collective intensity became their greatest weapon across Qatar 2025.

Their path to the final showcased wins built on structure rather than individual stardom, a style that mirrored the rise of Portuguese academy systems, which have become global references for player development. Against Austria, that same philosophy proved decisive.

The match itself unfolded as a tightly contested tactical duel dominated by midfield battles and stringent defensive lines. Austria, a surprise finalist for the first time in their history, employed a compact pressing strategy designed to block Portugal’s progressive play. Yet it was a moment of precision, not dominance, that broke the deadlock. In the second half, forward Anísio Cabral converted the decisive goal, turning a low delivery into the strike that sealed the championship.

