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## ONE) - LAMY: DOHA ROUND AGAIN ON THE BRINK OF FAILURE

Le cycle des négociations de Doha sur la libéralisation des échanges entre les 153 membres de l'[Organisation mondiale du commerce](#) est "une fois de plus au bord de l'échec", a estimé vendredi le directeur de l'OMC, Pascal Lamy. La semaine dernière, l'OMC a publié des documents faisant le point sur l'état des négociations. Réunis vendredi, les ambassadeurs et M. Lamy devaient discuter de ces textes et des prochaines étapes de la négociation. "Mon évaluation franche est que dans de bonnes conditions de température et de pression un accord serait faisable, en gardant à l'esprit que +rien n'est convenu tant que tout n'a pas été accordé+", a déclaré M. Lamy. Toutefois, il a précisé que son jugement ne vaut que si les pays parviennent à trouver un accord sur les produits industriels" où l'ampleur des écarts entre les principaux acteurs bloquent les progrès dans d'autres domaines et met sérieusement en doute la conclusion de l'Agenda de Doha cette année". "Le cycle (de Doha) est, une fois de plus, au bord de l'échec", a-t-il constaté, se disant déçu qu'"aucun compromis n'ait été trouvé concernant les droits de douane". La semaine passée, M. Lamy avait déjà souligné que les "différences" concernant le dossier des produits industriels "bloquent le processus et font peser de sérieux doutes sur la conclusion du cycle cette année". Les principales économies de la planète se sont engagées fin janvier à au Forum économique mondial de Davos à faire tout leur possible pour conclure d'ici la fin de l'année les négociations devant ouvrir plus largement les marchés mondiaux, qui piétinent depuis leur lancement au Qatar en 2001. Alors que 80% de l'accord, qui prévoit des baisses majeures des subventions agricoles, est déjà acquis selon M. Lamy, les oppositions entre les membres se sont cristallisées ces derniers mois sur le deuxième dossier phare de l'accord, les produits industriels. (See full text of [Lamy statement](#)) (AFP)

## TWO) – EU URGES WORLD TO EXPLORE ALL OPTIONS FOR DOHA DEAL

The European Union presented world trade negotiators with a last-minute plan to rescue stalled free trade talks on Friday, saying there were still avenues of negotiation to explore after 10 years of trying. In a presentation to a key meeting of [WTO](#) member countries, the plan aims to find some middle ground between the United States and major emerging economies, especially China, on the key sticking point of the discussions -tariffs on industrial goods. "Our view has always been that not all options and avenues, in this market access area had been explored," said Jean-Luc Demarty, EU Commission Director General for Trade. "This is why we felt we should formulate ideas to stimulate further engagement," he said in a statement released as the Geneva meeting of the 153-member WTO's Trade Negotiations Committee began. "We have sought over the last few days and hours to engage with a large number of members... and would like to report briefly on this today in a proper multilateral setting, so as to ensure full transparency towards all members," he said. "To summarize the objective of our initiative: We tried to demonstrate that it is technically and realistically possible to bridge the gaps if the political will is there." WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy, who has staked his reputation on getting a deal done this year, begged delegates in the closed-door meeting not to return to the "law of the jungle". The EU's plan focuses on tariffs for chemicals, machinery and electronics and seeks an approach that is tailored for different products. **U.S. TO STUDY EU PROPOSAL** The United States said it would be studying the EU proposal over coming days. "The key question to us is whether the EU proposal can catalyse new give and take between the members because that's what's lacking right now," Michael Punke, U.S. Ambassador to the WTO told reporters outside the meeting. "That's a question all of the key members can answer pretty quickly. We can't know the outcomes might be but we can certainly know very quickly whether or not it can catalyse negotiations" he said. The Doha talks are the disarmament negotiations of the commercial world -aiming to keep at bay the self-defeating spiral of tariffs, subsidies and quotas that can choke trade and, economists argue, global prosperity. U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk, speaking in Washington, said this week that countries should give another push to finish the negotiations despite wide differences that have raised fears that the round is dead. Lamy told delegates on Friday that from here on he would consult in various configurations, including at the ministerial level, in APEC and at an OECD meeting on May 26. Lamy told delegates his "door is open" for delegations and that negotiators should continue their work. (Reuters)

### THREE) – DOHA PESSIMISM PREVAILS IN GENEVA

Trade diplomats expressed pessimism about prospects for a new global free trade pact Friday, after admitting that their negotiations in recent months have failed to break the impasse between rich and poor countries. Fears are growing among members of the World Trade Organization that the so-called Doha Round of commerce liberalization talks could now collapse with little to show for almost ten years of haggling. "We remain very committed to Doha, but at the same time we are collectively facing very hard choices," the U.S. ambassador to the WTO, Michael Punke, told reporters in Geneva. "We can't fall into the trap of deciding through indecision," he added. Diplomats are now scrambling to examine what 'Plan B' might look like, with some suggesting that common ground on areas such as easing trade bureaucracy and lowering export tariffs for the poorest countries could form the basis of an agreement. This would leave unfinished areas of major dispute including tariffs on manufactured goods, agricultural subsidies, market access and intellectual property rules. Officials expressed little optimism that a European Union proposal to resolve differences between Washington and major developing countries over industrial tariffs would work. Instead, the idea of a political push to break the deadlock was again raised. "The gaps that we face right now are political, they are not about process," Punke said. "Certainly over the weeks ahead there will be opportunities for ministers to speak directly to each other," he said. Brazil, which like China and India has resisted U.S. demands to lower taxes on imports of manufactured goods, said it was time to change the approach of the talks. "We cannot bury our heads in the sand and keep working in the same mode we were before," said Brazilian ambassador Roberto Azevedo. (AP)

### FOUR) - AFRICAN OCEAN CURRENT TURNING NORTHERN EUROPE WARMER, SAYS STUDY

An ocean current that flows down the east coast of Africa could strengthen a circulation pattern that brings warmth to Europe, according to a new study that challenges existing climate science. In a study in the latest issue of the journal [Nature](#), scientists examining the Agulhas Current found more of the current's warm, salty water was entering the southern Atlantic, whose waters are cooler and fresher. This in turn could strengthen the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic that brings warm waters and warmer temperatures to northern Europe. Until now, most studies suggest climate change would weaken the Gulf Stream over the coming decades. In a further twist, the research team led by Lisa Beal of the University of Miami found signs that climate change had boosted the amount of water from the Agulhas current "leaking" into the south Atlantic over the past few decades. **UN CLIMATE PANEL GOT IT WRONG AGAIN** This could challenge the findings of the U.N.'s [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#). In its last global assessment report in 2007, the panel said climate models showed it was very likely the Gulf Stream, also called the Meridional Overturning Circulation, would slow down during this century. Normally only a small amount of the Agulhas current reaches the Atlantic after reaching the southern tip of Africa. The rest is normally swept back into the Indian Ocean. But satellite data and ocean current measurements taken during the study tell a different tale. "This could mean that current IPCC model predictions for the next century are wrong, and there will be no cooling in the North Atlantic to partially offset the effects of global climate change over North America and Europe," said Beal. The Gulf Stream is driven by cold, salty waters in the far northern Atlantic sinking to the depths and travelling south back to the equator. This drives the flow of warmer surface waters northwards as part of a continuous cycle. But studies have suggested climate change could slow or stall the Gulf Stream by dramatically increasing the melting of Greenland's ice sheet, creating a flood of cold fresh water that would overwhelm the current. "Instead, increasing Agulhas leakage could stabilize the oceanic heat transport carried by the Atlantic overturning circulation," said Beal. The researchers found evidence to suggest dramatic peaks in the flow of water from the Agulhas current over the past 500,000 years may have triggered the end of glacial cycles. They also found the current had been warming since the 1960s and a general movement south of warmer Indian Ocean waters, patterns consistent with climate change. "This study shows that local changes in atmospheric and oceanic conditions in the Southern Hemisphere can affect the strength of the ocean circulation in unexpected ways," said Eric Itsweire of the [National Science Foundation](#), which funded the research. (See full text of the study [On the role of the Agulhas system in ocean circulation and climate](#)) (Reuters)

#### **FIVE) – DEATH TOLL IN MOROCCO ATTACK RISES TO 16**

The death toll in one of Morocco's worst terrorist attacks has risen to 16, the state news agency reported, as police sought to restore calm Friday to a city that is the jewel of this country's tourism industry. The MAP news agency said two people died of injuries in the hospital after Thursday's explosion in a tourist cafe in Marrakech, bringing the number of dead from 14 to 16. At least 11 of those killed were foreigners, and at least 20 people were injured. The emergency room chief at Marrakech's main Tofail Hospital told The Associated Press that one of the injured died at the hospital and another en route in an ambulance. Police were at the site searching for clues Friday morning, keeping back onlookers who showed up to see the dramatic sight. The explosion ripped off the facade of the Argana cafe, leaving awnings dangling. Morocco's deadliest attack in eight years hit the heart of the city's bustling old quarter, in Djemma el-Fna square, one of the top attractions in a country that depends heavily on tourism. Government spokesman Khalid Naciri told the AP it was too soon to lay blame for what he called a terrorist attack. But he noted that Morocco regularly dismantles cells linked to al-Qaida, and says it has disrupted several plots. Authorities were struggling to coordinate the response to the attack. Some questioned whether it would prompt a new security crackdown like that after suicide bombings in Casablanca in 2003, or undermine constitutional changes that King Mohamed VI recently pledged in response to protests. Two of the dead were a Jewish couple who lived in Shanghai, an Israeli citizen and her Moroccan husband, according to the Israeli consul in Shanghai, Jackie Eldan. At least eight French citizens were being treated at Marrakech's main Tofail Hospital, along with one Canadian, a British citizen and three Moroccans, emergency room chief Hicham Nejmi said. Others were being treated at a military hospital and a handful in private clinics. (AP)

#### **SIX) – EU, NATO LEADERS CONDEMN ATTACK IN MOROCCO**

European Union and NATO representatives on Friday condemned the deadly attack that took place a day earlier in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh, which authorities blamed on terrorists. "We strongly condemn this hideous terrorist act that killed and injured innocent people from different countries in Marrakech," European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said in a joint statement. NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen meanwhile said he had sent a message of condolences on Thursday to the Moroccan king, Mohammed VI. Rasmussen "praised Morocco for its exemplary role in promoting peaceful coexistence. He conveyed NATO's readiness to pursue and deepen its cooperation with Morocco, a valuable partner, in combatting the scourge of terrorism," NATO said. Fifteen people were killed in the bomb attack in a central square popular with tourists. So far two Moroccans, two French, two Canadians and one Dutch citizen have been identified among the fatalities. (Dpa)

#### **SEVEN) – LIBYA REBELS RETAKE TUNISIA BORDER CROSSING**

Libyan rebels have regained control of the Dehiba crossing point on the Libyan-Tunisian border from government forces, a rebel told Reuters on Friday. "Right here at this point I'm looking at the new (rebel) flag flying up there at the border. The rebels have got control of it, the freedom fighters. We're just in the process of opening it up," rebel Akram el Muradi said by telephone. (Reuters)

#### **EIGHT) – NATO AIRSTRIKES RAISE QUESTIONS OVER MOTIVES**

A NATO air strike that Libya said killed one of Muammar Gaddafi's sons raises new questions about just how far the West is willing to go to get rid of the Libyan leader. The attack, which a Libyan government spokesman said also killed three of Gaddafi's grandchildren, appeared to be the second time in 24 hours that NATO forces struck an area close to the Libyan leader's base. NATO denied it had targeted any individuals and said the strike was part of its strategy to damage Gaddafi's ability to organise and conduct attacks on civilians during a bloody rebellion against his rule. Britain stepped in quickly to defend the NATO campaign in which it plays a leading role, with Prime Minister David Cameron telling the BBC that such airstrikes were well within the alliance's U.N. mandate that calls for military means to protect civilians. "The targeting policy of NATO ... is absolutely clear. It is in line with the U.N. resolution," Cameron said. "It is about preventing a loss of civilian life

by targeting Gaddafi's war-making machine, so that is obviously tanks and guns, rocket launchers, but also command and control, as well." But Russia, an outspoken critic of the Libya intervention, accused NATO of trying to assassinate Gaddafi. Western powers have made it clear there was no place for Gaddafi's leadership in any peace solution in Libya and have repeatedly called on him to step down. But would they go as far as to attempt to kill him? Cameron's argument could suggest NATO commanders are at least willing to take the risk of hitting the Libyan leader while pursuing their military campaign, experts said. "You have to accept NATO knew it was running the risk of accidental assassination and judged it was acceptable," said Shashank Joshi of London's Royal United Services Institute. Underscoring this argument is the fact that NATO officials have repeatedly said in recent days that "command and control" facilities were a priority for airstrikes. **RADICAL OPTIONS** But by denying Gaddafi was directly targeted, is NATO attempting to paper over a shift in the alliance's strategy towards speeding up the end of the civil war by eliminating Gaddafi? After more than a month of Western air strikes, there are few signs of the balance of power tipping in favour of the rebellion against Gaddafi's four-decade rule, fuelling unease about the campaign in the West. One answer could be that Western powers are simply hoping to terrify Gaddafi into giving up. "It appears pretty clear the alliance is using real political and physical pressure on Gaddafi," said Tomas Valasek of the Centre for European Reform think tank. "It is clear they want him to feel unsafe and that his own future is at stake," he said. Or, perhaps, eliminating Gaddafi's power structure is also an option. During the Iraq invasion in 2003, two of the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's sons died in a shoot-out with U.S. troops. But the fact that Saif al-Arab Gaddafi, the son allegedly killed in Saturday's airstrike, was better known for partying than politics suggests otherwise. What is clear is that hurting Gaddafi, or even any appearance of NATO adopting such a strategy, would be risky. "I am sceptical this was an assassination attempt," said Joshi. An open attempt on Gaddafi's life would inevitably deepen divisions about the war and could, over time, push some countries to pull out of the western coalition which is now led by the United States, France and Britain, Joshi said. The three governments have already pushed for more participation from other NATO members. But some countries have been reluctant -- or in the case of Germany, flat out opposed -- with arguments against a wider involvement ranging from cost to concern over getting bogged down in another long war, such as Afghanistan. "Assassination doesn't have broad support," Joshi said. "And NATO wants to hold the coalition together." It would also raise questions over the support for intervention in Libya in the Arab world, which Western governments are eager to maintain. International condemnation of the NATO strike began on Sunday, with a Russian parliament member saying it proved the alliance is overstepping its U.N. mandate to protect civilians through air strikes and enforce an arms embargo and a no-fly zone over Libya. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, a long-time ally of Gaddafi, called the attack attempted murder. Of course, assassinating Gaddafi would not necessarily put a quick end to the fighting in Libya, with the leader's sons -- including western-educated Saif al-Islam -- well positioned to step in and take over his role. "You can't continue bumping them off, one by one," Joshi said. (Reuters)

## NINE) – LIBYANS BURN UK, ITALY MISSIONS AFTER NATO BOMBS GADDAFI'S RESIDENCE

Angry mobs have attacked Western embassies and a U.N. office in Tripoli after NATO bombed Moammar Gadhafi's family compound in an attack officials said killed the leader's second youngest son and three grandchildren, ages six months to two years. Russia said the Western alliance exceeded its U.N. mandate of protecting Libyan civilians with the strike. The embassies vandalized on Sunday were empty and nobody was reported injured, but the attacks heightened tensions between the Libyan regime and Western powers, prompting the United Nations to pull its international staff out of the capital. Alliance officials and allied leaders emphatically denied they were hunting Gadhafi to break the stalemate between the better trained government forces and the lightly armed rebels. Canadian Lt. Gen. Charles Bouchard, who commands NATO's operation in Libya, said that "we do not target individuals." In some of its strongest language, the Russian Foreign Ministry on Sunday accused NATO of a "disproportionate use of force" and cast doubt on NATO's assertion that it is not targeting Gadhafi or members of his family. Russia called for an immediate cease-fire. NATO warplanes have shifted their focus in the past two weeks from support for rebels on the front lines to attacking the regime's 'communications centres'. Saturday's strike reduced most of the Gadhafi family compound, which takes up an entire block in the residential Garghour neighbourhood, to rubble. **THREE GRANDCHILDREN KILLED** Officials said it killed 29-year-old Seif al-Arab Gadhafi, who had survived a 1986 U.S. airstrike on his father's Bab al-Aziziya residential compound. Also killed were 2-year-old Carthage, the daughter of Gadhafi's son Hannibal; six-month-old Mastura, daughter of Gadhafi's daughter Aisha; and 15-month-old Seif Mohammed, son of Gadhafi's son Mohammed. Dr. Gerard Le Clouerec, a French orthopaedic surgeon who runs a private clinic in Tripoli, inspected the bodies of an adult and two infants at Tripoli's Green Hospital on Sunday. He told reporters that the adult's face was intact and that "in relation to a photo we have seen most

probably was the son of Gadhafi." He said the adult had a thin moustache and a full beard. The two children had been badly disfigured, the doctor said. The complex targeted Saturday, hidden from view by blast walls and tall trees, contained three one-story buildings and a large yard with lawns, geranium flower beds, a woodshed, a swing and a table soccer game. A dead deer and a twisted bathtub lay on the debris-strewn grass. A kitchen clock, knocked from the wall, had stopped at 8:08 and 45 seconds, the time of the explosion. Cooking pots with food, including stuffed peppers, noodles and a stew, had been left on the stove, covered with aluminum foil. Thick gray dust covered crates of onions and lemons in the pantry. In one of the living rooms, a pile of video games, including FIFA 10, were scattered on a sofa. In what looked like a children's bedroom, half an apple and a glass container of Nutella chocolate spread stood on a night stand. Foreign ambassadors, many from Africa, were given a tour by government spokesman Moussa Ibrahim, who told them that Africans, must stick together against attempts at foreign meddling. **ANGRY MOBS AFTER BOMBARDMENT** After news of the air strike spread in Tripoli, angry mobs trashed the embassies of Britain and Italy, a U.S. consular department and a U.N. office, said Libyan Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Kaim. The British Foreign Office said only burned shells remained of the British embassy buildings, including the ambassador's residence. The buildings had been "ransacked, vandalized and completely destroyed," a spokeswoman said. Britain, which has taken a leading role in supporting the rebels, responded by ordering the expulsion of the Libyan ambassador, saying he must leave by Monday. The Italian embassy in Tripoli was also burned, the Italian Foreign Ministry said, accusing the Gadhafi regime of failing to take measures to protect foreign missions. Italy withdrew its diplomats weeks ago and promised the attack on the embassy "will not weaken" its determination to continue with its partners in that mission. Kaim said a U.S. consular department was also attacked. A Libyan anti-Gadhafi activist who toured Tripoli said he saw scorch marks outside the building's windows and a green Libyan flag draped over the roof on one side. The windows in the guard shack at the entrance were smashed, said the activist, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. The U.S. evacuated its diplomatic staff at the start of the Libyan crisis, leaving Turkey to represent American interests in the country. Vandals also entered empty U.N. offices in Tripoli and some vehicles were taken, according to Stephanie Bunker, spokeswoman for the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Bunker said 12 foreign staffers left for neighbouring Tunisia because of the unrest. Bunker told AP Sunday night that the foreign minister personally apologized to the U.N. and promised to compensate any losses and to expedite the U.N.'s return. Kaim said the attacks were "regrettable" but that police had been outnumbered by angry crowds of hundreds of people. He said Libya would pay compensation for the damage. **REBELS DELIGHTED** Rebels celebrated the news of the airstrike that killed Gadhafi's son, although some questioned the veracity of the claim, saying the regime could be trying to discredit the international military campaign. Libyan state TV broadcast footage apparently shot in a morgue showing what appeared to be two bodies, covered by green Libyan flags, lying on metal gurneys. A flower wreath leaned near a wall. Two smaller shapes were covered by white sheets on separate gurneys. Gadhafi and his wife, Safiya, were in the family compound at the time of the attack but escaped unharmed, said Ibrahim, the government spokesman. Seif al-Arab was the second-youngest of Gadhafi's seven sons and brother of the better known Seif al-Islam Gadhafi, who had been touted as a reformist before the uprising began. He also has a biological daughter, Aisha. The younger Gadhafi had spent much of his time studying and partying in the southern German city of Munich in recent years and was not involved in Libyan power structures as were many of his siblings. Even photos of him are scarce. On Sunday, Ibrahim distributed a headshot showing him with a full black beard and wearing a black shirt. (AP)

## TEN) – LIBYANS MOURN GADDAFI SON

Crowds chanting Muammar Gaddafi's name gathered in Tripoli on Monday for the funeral of his son and three grandchildren, killed in a NATO airstrike that has raised new questions about the role of Western powers in the uprising against the Libyan leader. Saturday's NATO air raid on a Gaddafi compound, which the government says killed his 29-year-old son Saif al-Arab and three young grandchildren, added a new twist. The deaths triggered attacks by angry crowds on the British and French embassies and the U.S. diplomatic mission in Tripoli, and accusations from the Libyan officials that NATO had been trying to assassinate Gaddafi. About 2,000 people carrying flags and pictures of Gaddafi turned out for the funerals. They pumped their fists in the air and chanted pro-Gaddafi slogans. "We are all with Gaddafi's Libya," read one placard. Saif al-Arab's coffin, covered in flowers and wrapped in the green flag that has represented Libya since Gaddafi took power in a 1969 coup, was carried through the crowds to the grave at Hani cemetery in the Libyan capital. Gaddafi did not appear to be at the funeral but Saif al-Islam, the most prominent of his sons, attended in dark tribal robes. Saif al-Arab had no children but three of his young nieces and nephews were also killed in Saturday's blast.

They were the children of his siblings Hannibal, Aisha and Mohammed Gaddafi. **RAID CRITICISED** Despite denials from Western leaders that the air raid was an assassination attempt on Gaddafi, it has provoked renewed debate on whether the British and French-led strikes are exceeding a United Nations mandate to protect civilians. The South African government, which has led an African peace initiative, condemned the attack and said the U.N. resolution which authorised air strikes did not cover the assassination of individuals. "The attacks on leaders and officials can only result in the escalation of tensions and conflicts on all sides and make future reconciliation difficult," it said in a statement. Britain's Independent newspaper said it was a strategic error and gave the impression that the conflict was a confrontation between Gaddafi and the West. "They leave the Libyan opposition looking helpless on the sidelines. That turns an internal revolt against a vicious dictator into another Western military adventure." (Reuters)

#### **ELEVEN) – CHINA URGES LIBYA CEASEFIRE AFTER NATO KILLS GADDAFI'S SON, GRANDCHILDREN**

La Chine a "pris note" lundi de la mort de l'un des fils du colonel Mouammar Kadhafi dans des frappes aériennes de l'Otan et a de nouveau appelé à un cessez-le-feu en Libye. Seïf al-Arab Mouammar Kadhafi, 29 ans, l'un des six fils du colonel Kadhafi, et trois de ses petits-enfants ont été tués dans la nuit de samedi à dimanche dans un bombardement aérien de l'Otan sur Tripoli. Dans la nuit de samedi à dimanche, Moussa Ibrahim, porte-parole du gouvernement libyen, a annoncé que la maison de Seïf al-Arab Mouammar Kadhafi, 29 ans, un des six fils du colonel Kadhafi, avait été "attaquée avec de puissants moyens" qui ont tué le jeune homme et trois petits-enfants du dirigeant libyen. L'Alliance atlantique a reconnu avoir frappé "un poste de commandement et de contrôle" dans la zone, mais n'a pas confirmé la mort du fils Kadhafi. "La Chine a pris note du fait que le fils de Kadhafi, Seïf al-Arab, et d'autres (personnes) ont été tués dans une attaque. Nous exprimons notre inquiétude devant la mort de simples citoyens avec l'escalade du conflit en Libye", a déclaré le porte-parole du ministère des Affaires étrangères, Mme Jiang Yu. "La Chine s'est de tout temps opposée aux actions qui outrepassent l'autorisation du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU et nous espérons que toutes les parties pourront cesser le feu immédiatement et résoudre la crise (...) par le dialogue et la négociation", a-t-elle dit. Lors du vote de la résolution de l'ONU ouvrant la voie aux frappes aériennes occidentales en Libye, la Chine, comme la Russie, autre membre permanent du Conseil de sécurité, s'était simplement abstenue, par crainte de victimes civiles, renonçant à utiliser son droit de véto. (AFP)

#### **TWELVE) – 3,000 IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES ARRIVE IN LAMPEDUSA IN TWO DAYS**

Une météo favorable et une mer plus calme ont favorisé l'arrivée sur les côtes italiennes dimanche d'un bateau de près de 300 réfugiés africains fuyant la Libye venus s'ajouter à 461 autres, portant à plus de 3.000 l'afflux de migrants depuis vendredi. Dans la nuit, un bateau de pêche qui avait lancé un SOS samedi après-midi est arrivé à Lampedusa, petite île du sud de l'Italie, avec 461 réfugiés africains partis de Libye. Dimanche matin, une autre embarcation chargée de 298 migrants originaires d'Afrique subsaharienne a débarqué ses passagers à Lampedusa. Une autre en très mauvais état et transportant aussi 300 migrants africains a été localisée à une vingtaine de km au sud de Lampedusa et les migrants ont été transférés sur des vedettes italiennes. Au total, selon les décomptes des autorités plus de 3.000 réfugiés sont arrivés depuis vendredi à Lampedusa. Le ministre de l'Intérieur Roberto Maroni a dit craindre dimanche un exode massif depuis les côtes libyennes. "Si on continue comme ça, ma prévision de 50.000 arrivées pourrait malheureusement se réaliser", a déclaré M. Maroni, en rappelant que les réfugiés "ne peuvent pas être renvoyés à cause du conflit en Libye et de la règle européenne prévoyant qu'ils doivent rester dans le pays où ils arrivent". Pour les accueillir, l'Italie va utiliser un plan mis au point avec les régions pour les répartir dans toute la péninsule. Le ministère italien des Affaires étrangères a par ailleurs protesté officiellement via son ambassadeur à La Valette contre les autorités maltaises pour n'avoir pas secouru samedi le bateau qui avait lancé un SOS alors que l'embarcation se trouvaient dans leurs eaux territoriales. Entre 25.000 et 30.000 migrants ont débarqué sur l'île de Lampedusa depuis la mi-janvier, mettant sous pression l'Italie qui a alors demandé en vain que l'Europe l'aide à les prendre en charge. Sur ce total, plus de 20.000 étaient des candidats à l'immigration venus de Tunisie qui ont obtenu des permis de séjour provisoires et sont massivement partis vers la France à la recherche d'un travail. Les quelque 5.000 autres étaient des réfugiés africains arrivés de Libye, répartis dans des centres d'accueil. (AFP)

### THIRTEEN) – REINTRODUCING BORDER CONTROLS IS A POSSIBILITY, SAYS BARROSO

The European Union executive is considering allowing member states to reinstate some border controls, its president said on Sunday, responding to demands for more national power to stem immigration. The announcement lent momentum to a campaign by France and Italy to reimpose some of the border checks, abolished in 1995 under the Schengen agreement, as they grapple with an influx of migrants fleeing political upheaval in North Africa. In a letter to Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, [Jose Manuel Barroso](#), president of the European Commission, said it would be possible to permit countries reintroduce limited controls. "The temporary restoration of borders is one of the possibilities, provided this is subject to specific and clearly defined criteria, that could be an element to strengthen the governance of the Schengen agreement," Barroso wrote. EU countries may already introduce temporary border checks as Germany has done to stop foreign soccer hooligans visiting football games, but new EU rules could widen countries' freedom to do so, said a source familiar with the plans. "To reinstate border controls now, you have to justify that based on the threat to public order," said the source. "With the new system, you would no longer need to invoke a threat to public order. This would extend the possibilities to reinstate controls." **COMMISSION TO UNVEIL PROPOSALS** The EU executive, which writes the first draft of EU laws that are then sent to countries for approval, plans to present an outline of its legal proposals in the coming days. If accepted, the new EU rules would alter one of the biggest achievements of the single European market, passport-free travel, but one which makes it harder to curb illegal migration. The proposals could become law as soon as they are agreed by the EU's 27 member states and the bloc's parliament, a process that could be concluded in months but could also easily drag on for more than a year. The arrival of thousands of immigrants from North Africa prompted France in April to shut its borders to trains carrying African migrants from Italy. The two countries accused each other of flouting the spirit of the Schengen treaty, which eliminates many border controls within the EU. So far this year, around 25,000 migrants, most from France's former colony Tunisia, have arrived in southern Italy on small, overloaded fishing boats, creating a humanitarian emergency on the tiny island of Lampedusa where most of the boats landed. Italy says it has been left to deal with the problem on its own while Paris has accused Rome of trying to escape its responsibilities by allowing illegal immigrants free transit across the border. Last Tuesday, French President Sarkozy visited Rome to try to defuse tension. (Reuters)

### FOURTEEN) - TOUGH DEBATE AHEAD

Rétablir temporairement les contrôles aux frontières, comme réclamé par la France, est une "possibilité" mais devra être un ultime recours, pour éviter de marginaliser les pays situés aux confins de Schengen, l'espace européen sans frontières, a averti le président de la Commission européenne José Manuel Barroso, dans une lettre. Il répondait à un courrier franco-italien du 26 avril, demandant à Bruxelles d'examiner cette possibilité "en cas de difficultés exceptionnelles". "Il n'est pas question d'avoir un espace Schengen à deux vitesses", a cependant mis en garde un porte-parole de la Commission, Olivier Bailly. La Commissaire chargée de la Sécurité Cécilia Malmström présentera mercredi un "paquet global" d'actions pour lutter contre l'immigration comportant des propositions pour adapter les règles de Schengen. Actuellement, un pays peut temporairement rétablir les contrôles à ses frontières nationales en cas de menace grave à l'ordre public et à la sécurité. "C'est trop restrictif", juge la France, qui demande de prévoir deux autres cas de figure. Tout d'abord, la "défaillance" d'un Etat périphérique dans sa capacité à assurer durablement le contrôle de ses frontières, comme cela s'est produit en Grèce. Et ensuite la nécessité de faire face à "un événement inattendu" pouvant créer des désordres, comme la décision du gouvernement italien de régulariser des migrants arrivés illégalement sur son territoire avec la volonté de gagner la France. Mme Malmström se veut prudente. "Il y a des problèmes de frontières extérieures. Il faut en parler, mais sans remettre en cause le système", soutient-elle. L'hypothèse d'une défaillance d'un Etat est prise en compte dans sa réflexion, souligne-t-on à la Commission. La possibilité de fermer temporairement "une portion" du territoire national en cas d'événement "soudain et inattendu" est également envisagée. Mais l'idée de permettre les contrôles aux frontières nationales dans l'espace Schengen pour lutter contre l'immigration illégale pose problème. "L'action de certains courants politiques affecte le débat", déplore la commissaire. La demande française révèle un manque de confiance à l'égard de certains pays de la "première ligne", notamment la Grèce et l'Italie, soupçonnés de vouloir exporter leurs difficultés. Et surtout de la Bulgarie et de la Roumanie, dont l'adhésion à Schengen est bloquée à cause des doutes sur leur capacité à assurer le contrôle de leurs frontières. Les débats s'annoncent houleux au cours d'une réunion extraordinaire des ministres de l'Intérieur de l'UE le 12 mai à Bruxelles. D'autant que la France demande beaucoup et offre peu en échange. La Grèce et Malte

demandent une révision de la règle qui impose aux pays d'arrivée dans l'UE de traiter les demandes d'asile. Pas question, a averti Nicolas Sarkozy. La France refuse également l'idée d'une libéralisation des visas, contrepartie possible à un engagement des pays d'origine des migrants de lutter contre l'exode de leurs ressortissants et de faciliter leur retour. Nicolas Sarkozy a une autre approche: "la conditionnalité". Il recommande à l'Union européenne d'imposer aux pays du Sud de la Méditerranée de lutter contre la migration illégale et de coopérer aux retours des irréguliers pour bénéficier du soutien européen. (AFP)

#### **FIFTEEN) – TUNISIAN IMMIGRANTS OCCUPY PARIS BUILDING**

Une cinquantaine de jeunes immigrés tunisiens, pour la plupart arrivés d'Italie, occupaient lundi matin un immeuble à Paris appartenant à la mairie, a-t-on appris auprès d'une association d'aide aux immigrés et d'un collectif de migrants. Ces jeunes migrants, qui depuis plusieurs jours dorment dans des parcs à Paris, ont envahi un immeuble du 19<sup>e</sup> arrondissement, dans le nord-est de la capitale, vers 01H00 du matin, a expliqué à l'AFP Mouhieddine Cherbib, membre de la Fédération des Tunisiens pour une citoyenneté des deux rives (FTCR). Des forces de police ont été déployées autour du bâtiment, a-t-il précisé. "Nous vivons dehors, passons de 24 à 36 heures sans fermer l'œil, nous avons peur, nous avons froid, nous avons faim et manquons de tous les besoins fondamentaux de la vie quotidienne", explique dans un communiqué le Collectif des Tunisiens de Lampedusa à Paris. "Le Collectif des Tunisiens de Lampedusa à Paris demande pour nous tous au maire de Paris un lieu pour vivre ensemble et nous organiser", ajoute-t-il, tout en soulignant que "la mairie de Paris a plusieurs fois exprimé son soutien aux Tunisiens récemment arrivés à Paris". "Nous voulons interpeller le gouvernement, pour obtenir des logements décentes pour ces Tunisiens qui ont des autorisations de séjours provisoires délivrés par un pays membre de l'Union européenne", a confirmé M. Cherbib. Des ONG, dont Emmaüs, France Terre d'Asile, ont indiqué vendredi qu'"entre 400 et 500 Tunisiens arrivés pour la plupart d'Italie" vivaient à Paris et sa banlieue proche "dans une situation de dénuement total". Le gouvernement français a choisi d'apporter une réponse très ferme à l'arrivée de ces migrants: des dizaines d'entre eux ont été interpellés la semaine dernière à Paris et Marseille (sud-est), et font l'objet de reconduites à la frontière. La question de l'accueil de ces migrants a provoqué des tensions entre la France et l'Italie. Paris avait été irrité par la décision italienne d'octroyer des permis de séjour de six mois aux Tunisiens, dont la majorité des quelque 30.000 arrivés en Italie depuis la mi-janvier espère gagner la France. Face à ces arrivées, Paris et Rome ont plaidé pour un rétablissement temporaire des contrôles aux frontières intérieures des Etats européens. (AFP)

#### **SIXTEEN) - MOVES TO UNDERMINE EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION**

More than two months since former president Hosni Mubarak was forced from office after 30 years in power, local political figures and analysts warn of "counterrevolutionary elements" still working behind the scenes to thwart Egypt's ongoing transition to democracy. "These elements have consistently worked to reverse the gains made by the Jan. 25 Revolution by sowing fear, chaos and fitna (discord) between different segments of society," Essam al-Arian, spokesman for Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood movement, told IPS.

In the first days of the 18-day uprising, the embattled Mubarak regime used its expansive state media machine to spread false news reports of murder and mayhem in hopes of terrorising the public and discrediting the revolution. It went so far at one point as to release convicted criminals from prison.

Mubarak, who relinquished executive power to Egypt's Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) in February, is now under house arrest, while his ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) has since been dissolved. Nevertheless, many political observers point to "remnants of the former regime" still actively working to maintain the Mubarak-era status quo.

"The counterrevolution is directed by regime holdovers, including security elements and hired thugs, along with certain politically-connected businessmen," said Daa Rashwan, assistant director of the Cairo-based Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies.

In an effort to destroy the national unity that had been an essential ingredient of the revolution's success, these elements - with help from the media - have tried to instigate sectarian conflict, say observers, especially between Egypt's Muslim majority and Christian minority.

On Mar. 4, for example, certain newspapers reported that several Christians had been killed after a church in the Atfeeh district south of Cairo was torched by a group of Muslims. Although the reports later turned out to be wildly exaggerated, they nevertheless resulted in violent clashes in which 13 people were killed - both

Christians and Muslims - and scores injured.

"Media reports about the Atfeeh church incident were based on rumour and exaggeration intended to stoke sectarian conflict," Ammar Ali Hassan, director of the Cairo-based Centre for Middle East Studies, was quoted as saying in the local press. Hassan went on to accuse elements of Mubarak's now- dissolved State Security apparatus of being behind the incident.

Even before its demise, the Mubarak regime had long been suspected of instigating sectarian conflict for its own political ends. In the first week of February, information emerged suggesting that State Security had played a role in the bombing of a church in Alexandria last New Year's Eve. At the time, regime officials had blamed the attack - in which 24 people were killed - first on "Al-Qaeda" and then on Palestinian groups. Recent weeks have also seen an unprecedented rash of attacks on religious shrines revered by Egypt's Sufi Muslim community.

Although certain newspapers hastened to blame the attacks on Egypt's ultra-conservative Salafist movement, little if any evidence has been produced to this effect. Salafist leaders, meanwhile, strenuously deny involvement in the attacks and accuse the media of trying to fan the flames of conflict between the two sects. "These crimes were not committed by Salafists, but rather by counterrevolutionary elements," prominent Salafist preacher Mohamed Hassan publicly charged on Apr. 20.

Magdi Hussein, secretary-general of the Islamist Labour Party (who is not himself a Salafist), pointed in particular to one recent attack on a Sufi shrine in the city of Qalioub north of Cairo. "Although the attack was widely attributed in the media to Salafists, subsequent police investigations found that the perpetrators were hired thugs with no religious affiliations," said Hussein.

Even an official security source quoted earlier this month conceded that authorities could not rule out involvement in the attacks by "counterrevolutionary forces seeking to heighten sectarian tensions between Sufis and Salafists."

Observers have been quick to highlight the central role played by the local news media in exacerbating sectarian tensions.

"The counterrevolution is being aided by certain segments of the news media, which have been caught publishing false and potentially damaging reports on more than one occasion," said al-Arian.

Rashwan agreed, noting that "much of the news currently being reported by the local press on sectarian issues is based on rumour, innuendo and exaggeration." This state of affairs, he added, "has led many Egyptian commentators to accuse particular newspapers of promoting a counterrevolutionary agenda."

Independent political activist Abdelrahman Abu Zeid pointed to two prominent independent dailies, Al- Masry Al-Youm and Al-Youm Al-Saabaa, in particular. "Both papers, owned by business interests known for their closeness to the former regime, have actively contributed to recent incidents of sectarian unrest by twisting and exaggerating the facts," Abu Zeid told IPS.

Al-Masry Al-Youm is owned by a handful of prominent businessmen, including Sallah Diab and Coptic-Christian billionaire Naguib Sawiris. Al-Youm Al-Sabaa's chief stakeholder, meanwhile, is the son of former NDP secretary-general Safwat Sherif.

Some political figures have also asserted that Egypt's counterrevolution was being aided by Israel, which had publicly described the Mubarak regime as a "strategic treasure."

In mid-April, Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar Ahmed al-Tayeb, Egypt's leading religious authority, while visiting the district of Atfeeh, said: "The sectarian disturbances that happened here last month are the work of the Zionist state, which wants to break the region into small, ethnically-based statelets."

Hussein agreed for the most part, saying that, "along with remnants of the former regime, the counterrevolution also involves U.S. and Zionist elements." He added: "After the fall of their chief agents in the region - Egypt's Mubarak and Tunisia's Ben Ali - religious discord now represents their primary means of influencing events on the ground."

But according to al-Arian, such attempts to sow discord in post-revolutionary Egypt are destined to fail, "due to a new political awareness on the part of the public and the solidarity between all segments of the Egyptian people." "The counterrevolution has already started to wane with the impending prosecution of Mubarak and his henchmen," said Hussein. "And with the democratic election of a new parliament and president, it can be expected to die out completely."

Egypt is scheduled to hold its first free parliamentary elections in September, to be followed by presidential elections shortly afterward.

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