



WATCHING THE WORLD

READING PROJECT

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CABINDA, Angola (Reuters) – Two members of Togo's soccer delegation died on Saturday and one was undergoing surgery, a day after the team bus was ambushed and sprayed with gunfire on its way to the African Nations Cup in Angola.

“Togo quits soccer cup after ambush kills three”

CABINDA, Angola (Reuters) – Two members of Togo’s soccer gation died on Saturday and one was undergoing surgery, a day after the team bus was ambushed and sprayed with gunfire on its way to the African Nations Cup in Angola.

A Togolese minister said the government had decided to pull the team out of the tournament because of “this dramatic situation,” but Ivory Coast and Ghana confirmed they would take part.

Seven members of Togo’s delegation were wounded and the bus driver was killed in Friday’s attack in the province of Cabinda. It was claimed by the FLEC, a rebel group that has been fighting for secession sporadically for decades.

It was the second militant attack on an international sports team in less than a year. Last March, six policemen and a driver were killed when gunmen attacked a bus carrying Sri Lanka’s cricket team in Pakistan.



The assault raised questions about security for the soccer World Cup taking place in South Africa in June, but organizers of that event said it was ‘nonsensical’ to draw comparisons.

Togolese officials named the dead men as media officer Stanislas Ocloo and assistant coach Amalete Abalo, and said reserve goalkeeper Kodjovi Obilale had been evacuated to Johannesburg for medical treatment.

Obilale was rushed to Milpark hospital for surgery, and hospital spokesman Barry Bedford said: “He is going into theater now, but he is in a stable condition.”

In the Togolese capital Lome, Territorial Administration Minister Pascal Bodjona said the government had decided to recall the team. “We could not continue the African Nations Cup in this dramatic situation,” he said in a statement.

“This was necessary because our players are in a state of shock and because we do not think the security which should have been placed around our players is giving the necessary guarantees.”

Togo’s captain and star striker Emmanuel Adebayor, who escaped the attack badly shaken but unharmed, was already flying home, his English club Manchester City said.



“Angola's province of Cabinda”

(Reuters) – Togo's national soccer team was ambushed on its way to the African Nations Cup on Friday by gunmen in the Angolan province of Cabinda.

The attack was claimed by FLEC rebels, who are waging a low-level struggle for independence.

Following are some facts about Cabinda:

HISTORY

Portuguese colonialists ruled Cabinda from 1885 until 1975, when Portugal gave up its overseas colonies following a left-wing revolution.

The independence treaty signed with Angola's main independence movements – but not Cabinda's FLEC (Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda) – incorporated Cabinda into Angola as a geographically separated exclave.

SECESSIONIST ASPIRATIONS

Cabinda's secessionists fought a low-level guerilla war to throw off Angolan rule from 1975 until they were largely crushed as Angola's post-colonial civil war ended in 2002.

Violence has continued sporadically, despite a ceasefire signed by FLEC rebels in 2006 in return for pledges of a greater share of oil revenue. The deal was rejected by a faction of the FLEC led by its president, N'Zita Tiago.

CONTINUING VIOLENCE

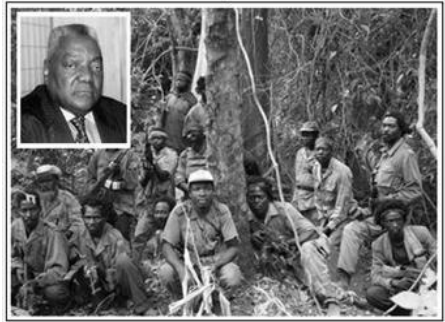
Antonio Bento Bembe, a former FLEC fighter who is now a minister without portfolio, said in December that FLEC now consisted of only a few disaffected individuals.

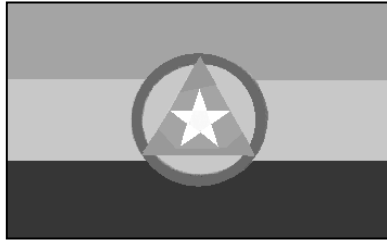
Bento Bembe himself signed the 2006 ceasefire agreement as FLEC secretary general, but Tiago says he still leads a war against the government from exile in Paris.

In November, FLEC said it had kidnapped a Chinese oil worker. It had also earlier said it had killed several members of Angola's armed forces – claims that Bembe denied.

The U.S. – based Human Rights Watch last June accused the Angolan government of extensive unlawful detention and torture of people suspected of rebel activities in Cabinda.

(TO BE CONTINUED...)





OIL

The waters off Cabinda have earned it the epithet "the Kuwait of Africa." They provide more than half of the 2 million barrels per day of oil produced by Angola, which rivals Nigeria as Africa's leading producer.

Oil accounts for around 90 percent of Angola's income from exports.

Since 2006, the central government has been reinvesting 10 percent of Cabinda's oil taxes in the province.

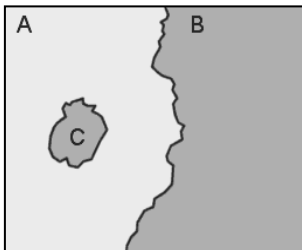
GEOGRAPHY

The kingdoms that make up modern-day Cabinda adjoined Angola until 1885, when the country that is now the Democratic Republic of Congo was given sovereignty over a 60-km wide strip of land surrounding the mouth of the River Congo. Cabinda covers 7,823 sq km (3,020 sq miles) and has a population of around 300,000 out of Angola's roughly 16.5 million.

It borders the Democratic Republic of Congo to the south and east and Congo Republic to the north. The provincial capital, also named Cabinda, is the main port on its Atlantic coastline.

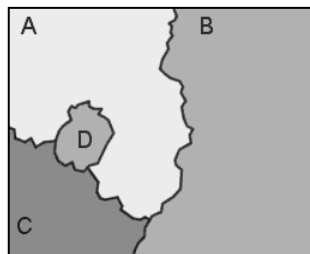
Most Cabindans speak French rather than Portuguese, the dominant language of Angola, as well as the indigenous language Cabindes.

Sources: Reuters, GlobalSecurity.org



(Fig. 1) C is A's enclave and B's enclave

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(Fig. 2) D is an enclave of B, but not an enclave of A since it also shares a border with C