

Botswana denies president "was trained by the CIA"

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Abstract

Allegations that the CIA-funded National Endowment for Democracy (NED), orchestrated [Ian Khama]'s rise to [the] presidency, with Ministers such as Kitso Mokaila, Tshekedi Khama and Ramadeluka Seretse having been trained by the NED on governance are raised by the report. The NED is said to target all liberation movements in Africa and remove them so that they can set up new constitutions and presidential terms that are aligned with the US. The source in the report, noted that although Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) is a 'liberation movement' it would not be overthrown by the US. "Botswana's opposition parties and unions are not strong enough... in the eyes of many African states... its economy is equivalent to a municipality. BDP won't be touched mainly because of Ian Khama," the report stated.

Government spokesperson, [Jeff Ramsay] has said the report has been cooked up to cause a rift in politics within the region. "Further to the above we note that the said same report with its truly bizarre claims that the 'National Endowment of Democracy,' a US based NGO in cahoots with the World Movement for Democracy is somehow micro-managing this region's politics has been treated with derision by mainstream media within South Africa, as well as commentators from across the political spectrum," Ramsay said. Ramsay countered the report's allegation that Khama came from training 15 years ago and became president. He said that Khama studied at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst during the early 1970s,

and only became president in 2008. "One wonders why anyone would dignify a so-called intelligence report that in its crude ignorance claims that 10 to 15 years after said training he became president? Given the simple fact that individuals such as Tshekedi Khama and Mokgweetsi Masisi were never employed in the military or security establishments of this or any other country, one wonders why anyone would wish to escalate bizarre and slanderous claims to the contrary, wondered Ramsay. Ramsay also wondered why the report claimed the Thebephatwa Military Base to be a US base when it has been accessible even to journalists."Perhaps more to the point we would ask why anyone would wish to take such an obvious example of disinformation seriously. As the Government of Botswana we too will look forward with interest to the outcome of such an inquiry, should it take place."

Full Text

Text of report by Botswana newspaper Mmegi on 27 August

[Report by Lawrence Seretse: "Govt denies Khama-CIA link"]

The government has responded angrily to allegations that linked President Ian Khama to Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of United States of America (USA).

The 'Ground Coverage Report' has caused consternation in Botswana as it states that through International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana, 85 Rwandans have already undergone intelligence training and get posted back in Rwanda. ILEA has offices in Otse and its website redirects to the US Embassy to Botswana portal.

ILEA Director, Kelebemang Motlhanka admitted that Botswana trains Rwandans at their base but denies any ties with the CIA and former Rwandan General Faustin Kayumba."We do train Rwandans and the number is absolutely less than 80. We train with 34 other countries as well. It's not our business to know who recruits them afterwards but I can say I am not well aware of any General Nyamwasa. We have no relationship with the CIA but we are being funded by the US government and our own government," Motlhanka said.

There are allegations that Nyamwasa is based in South Africa and is recruiting the Rwandans trained in Botswana to set up a military team. Nyamwasa's profile reveals that he was Head of Intelligence in Rwanda throughout the RPA struggle. At the time of his demise, Kayumba was Rwanda's High Commissioner to India [as received - Kayumba Nyamwasa is still alive].

Rwandan media have reported that during his tenure as head of intelligence, Deputy Commander of Gendarme, Army Chief of Staff, SG NSS and Rwanda's High Commissioner to India, colleagues remember him as a man of intrigue and patronage. He used his position to fabricate accusations against anyone he saw as a potential contender to a position that gave him closer proximity to RPA leadership. Such fabricated accusations usually led to

imprisonment, demotion or demobilisation for the victims. To date, there is in Rwanda and elsewhere, former RPA fighters who given a chance would want to settle scores with Nyamwasa, most especially now that he does not control any instruments of power, Rwandan media has reported.

Motlhanka denied any alleged ILEA's affiliation with the NED, which is supposedly a multi-billion-dollar private, non-government, non-profit foundation that receives a yearly appropriation from the US government. Botswana has trained Rwandans under the ILEA, which is a cooperative effort between Botswana, the USA and 34 other countries, Motlhanka said. The first ILEA was established in Budapest, Hungary, under the leadership of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in 1995. A second ILEA, under the leadership of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), was opened in Bangkok. ILEA Gaborone is the third ILEA opened outside the US. It was set up under the leadership of the US Federal Law Enforcement Training Centre (FLETC), whose parent organization is now the US Department of Home Land Security.

Government spokesperson, Dr Jeff Ramsay has moved to dismiss the allegations carried by the report. He said the report has been alleged to be a political dirty campaign designed to discredit individuals in South Africa and elsewhere in the region. This controversial report has accused Botswana of being a central operation base for the United States of America (USA) plot to train militants and incite rebellion in African countries, which is why US will never stage a coup in Botswana.

The viral "Ground Coverage Report" which received mixed reactions about its legitimacy in South Africa with suspended secretary general of Confederation of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) Zwelinzima Vavi requesting the South African Minister of Defence to investigate its validity. Of the many allegations raised, the report has claimed that Khama was trained by the CIA and labelled Botswana as America's close ally while at the same time disclosing internal communication between intelligence agents and their attempt to recruit Vavi.

Allegations that the CIA-funded National Endowment for Democracy (NED), orchestrated Khama's rise to [the] presidency, with Ministers such as Kitso Mokaila, Tshekedi Khama and Ramadeluka Seretse having been trained by the NED on governance are raised by the report. The NED is said to target all liberation movements in Africa and remove them so that they can set up new constitutions and presidential terms that are aligned with the US. The source in the report, noted that although Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) is a 'liberation movement' it would not be overthrown by the US. "Botswana's opposition parties and unions are not strong enough... in the eyes of many African states... its economy is equivalent to a municipality. BDP won't be touched mainly because of Ian Khama," the report stated.

An exposition by Philip Agee titled: News You Wont Find On CNN-How US Infiltrates 'Civil Society' To Overthrow Governments, Agee mentions that money to NED is channelled

through four "core foundations". These are the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, (linked to the Democratic Party); the International Republican Institute (Republican Party); the American Centre for International Labour Solidarity; and the Centre for International Private Enterprise (US Chamber of Commerce).

"The NED has been labelled the CIA Trojan Horse: How many Americans could identify the National Endowment for Democracy? An organization, which often does exactly the opposite of what its name implies. The NED was set up in the early 1980s under President Ronald Reagan in the wake of all the negative revelations about the CIA in the second half of the 1970s. The Agency was getting an exceedingly bad name, and it was causing the powers-that-be much embarrassment. "Something had to be done. What was done was not to stop doing these awful things. What was done was to shift many of these awful things to a new organization, with a nice sounding name, The National Endowment for Democracy. The idea was that the NED would do somewhat overtly what the CIA had been doing covertly for decades, and thus, hopefully, eliminate the stigma associated with CIA covert activities," it read.

Government spokesperson, Ramsay has said the report has been cooked up to cause a rift in politics within the region. "Further to the above we note that the said same report with its truly bizarre claims that the 'National Endowment of Democracy,' a US based NGO in cahoots with the World Movement for Democracy is somehow micro-managing this region's politics has been treated with derision by mainstream media within South Africa, as well as commentators from across the political spectrum," Ramsay said. Ramsay countered the report's allegation that Khama came from training 15 years ago and became president. He said that Khama studied at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst during the early 1970s, and only became president in 2008. "One wonders why anyone would dignify a so-called intelligence report that in its crude ignorance claims that 10 to 15 years after said training he became president? Given the simple fact that individuals such as Tshekedi Khama and Mokgweetsi Masisi were never employed in the military or security establishments of this or any other country, one wonders why anyone would wish to escalate bizarre and slanderous claims to the contrary, wondered Ramsay. Ramsay also wondered why the report claimed the Thebephatwa Military Base to be a US base when it has been accessible even to journalists." Perhaps more to the point we would ask why anyone would wish to take such an obvious example of disinformation seriously. As the Government of Botswana we too will look forward with interest to the outcome of such an inquiry, should it take place."

The following is a publicly available list of some of the various NGOs that are either known or are broadly accepted as CIA front operations. These organizations funnel money directly from their budget into various unknown aid foundations, humanitarian groups, and private companies to further CIA priorities:

*National Democratic Institute for International Affairs,

*National Endowment for Democracy ,

*Freedom House,

*Millennium Challenge Corporation,

*International Centre for Journalists and;

*Centre for International Private [?Enterprise].

Credit: Mmegi, Gaborone, in English 27 Aug 13

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