

Beat: Politics

## Obama states "Ebola : a National Security Priority"

### Interview with Guinea's First Lady

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**USPA NEWS** - President Barack Obama issued a global call to action to fight West Africa's Ebola epidemic, warning the deadly outbreak was unprecedented and "spiraling out of control," threatening hundreds of thousands of people. Speaking as he unveiled a major new US initiative, which will see 3,000 US military

The 3,000 US military personnel deployed to West Africa to combat the growing health crisis, Obama said the outbreak was spreading "exponentially." "Here's the hard truth. In West Africa, Ebola is now an epidemic of the likes that we have not seen before," Obama said.

An "Ebola" resurgence in a West African region previously believed to have contained the virus has health officials worried the outbreak could be spinning out of control. President Barack Obama on Sunday called the fight against Ebola a "national security priority." Doctors Without Borders staff moved on from Guinea's Macenta region in May, believing that the virus was under control in the area, according to The Associated Press. The international aid group had returned to Macenta by the beginning of September, after new cases cropped up for the first time in months.

"Everything we do is too small and too late," said Marc Poncin, emergency coordinator for Doctors Without Borders in Guinea, according to the AP. "We're always running after the epidemic."

This issue of Ebola shall be largely discussed, as Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has officially established the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response and has instructed the advance teams for the first-of-its-kind operation to head to its base in Accra, Ghana, by Monday, 22 September.

The President of Guinea Alpha Condé, Conakry and his wife, the first lady will be attending the General Assembly of UN, in New York this week, to discuss this sensitive matter amongst other topics of projects of developments.

Rahma Sophia Rachdi, a journalist with special interest in economy and politics, with her fellow Ben Bangoura (alloconakry.com) sat down with Mrs Condé Djéné Kaba Prosmi (Guinea First Lady) and had the following candid conversation, this summer during the US Africa Summit, in Washington DC:-----

USPA24 : How have connections with the other First ladies organized by Michelle Obama at the Summit US Africa, one of a kind?

Mrs First Lady : "The first connections were very successful weaving a network. A program was established with the appointment of resource persons. Michelle Obama has shown an interest and has congratulated the merit of the first ladies African women from afar to the US. She welcomed us warmly. Besides she submitted its own shares as first lady in America (Fight against obesity for example), and the foundation of Laura Bush whose experiences are rich and interesting in our respective countries, especially in the field of health. For example, the cervical cancer kills more women than HIV, knowing that it is a taboo subject in our country, often leading to death of the affected women. I was touched because in Europe there is a vaccine to fight against this cancer of the uterus, while it is unknown or not given to us.

I like the direct way and rapid execution of Americans how they go to the point quickly and are taking concrete actions. "

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USPA24 : Could you talk about the Millennium program and current situation about the beginning of the spread of the Ebola virus, which has affected the Guinea to Sierra Leone neighbour of your country?

Mrs First Lady : This program involves a problem of primary health care. The President said that this is a national problem. This millennium program converges with the activity of my association in that national context to try to stop all evil, whose "Tristuma."

The state cannot do everything, which is why the initiatives are welcome, Guinea has led to senior management, some intelligent women with high levels of education in the Diaspora

In regard to Ebola, but I have made (My foundation) available to caregivers, and medical logistical support (latex gloves, soaps, accessories, masks) and transmission of information by intensive campaign about the hygiene. It should also explain how to make washing hands, avoiding some contacts for maximum limiting contamination. It is true that the situation is worrying and we hope the

international community will rally to our side to stop the virus, thanks to the goodwill of medical interventions at home in collaboration with those outside.-----

USPA 24: Do you think Guineans from the diaspora settled in the rest of the world will come back to the country one day or another?

Mrs First Lady :

It is the love of the country that will bring back the diaspora to the homeland. It's the least we can do to be patriotic with respect to the country of origin. It's a throwback to ancestors, land of origin. Everything has to evolve the country is full of riches. Besides we have developed a contest to reward operation "The cleanest school and the most flowered" in order to germinate the idea of "loving the Earth of the country" in the minds of young children. "

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