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Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes in Africa



MEDIA MONITORING

1 August 2014

A chacun son bout

Source: Le Potentiel

31 juillet 2014 - Entre la Majorité et l'Opposition, la bipolarisation se dessine sur la question de la révision de la Constitution. Pour les proches du chef de l'Etat, la loi fondamentale de 2006, rédigée dans un contexte poste-conflituel n'a plus droit de cité. Exit donc toutes les dispositions qui rappellent la belligérance de triste mémoire qui avait failli emporter le pays en plusieurs morceaux.

Aussi, préconise-t-on la recherche d'un nouveau consensus basé sur des principes démocratiques des Etats normaux.

La perspective de l'émergence qui se profile à l'horizon fonde la volonté de cette urgente adaptation à la nouvelle dynamique, se défendent les tenants de cette thèse. Le courant opposé, tracté non seulement par quelques ténors de l'Opposition, mais aussi les confessions religieuses de toutes les tendances représentatives, estime qu'il ne sert à rien de toucher aux dispositions verrouillées de la Constitution.

Cette tentative, craint-il, ouvrira la voie à une longue période d'instabilité constitutionnelle comme on en a connu pendant le 2ème République. Il y a donc intérêt, pense-t-il, à sauvegarder l'équilibre institutionnel durement négocié en 2006. Pour cette dernière tendance, la stabilité du pays et des institutions, ainsi que la consolidation de la démocratie en dépendent.

Les deux bouts tenus par les uns et les autres offrent la possibilité d'une photographie exacte de l'espace sociopolitique du pays.

La communauté internationale a également donné de la voix, estimant que l'heure a sonné pour l'alternance démocratique en République démocratique du Congo. Les Etats-Unis ont mis à profit la moindre occasion pour insister sur cette nécessité. Des intrusions à la politique interne de la

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RDC ne gênent plus les partenaires extérieurs. Des ambassadeurs accrédités à Kinshasa déclinent dans toutes les langues possibles la position de leurs gouvernements respectifs.

Normal, dit-on à l'Opposition, dans un monde mondialisé. Souveraineté ? Le cadet des soucis !

D'autre part, la Constitution de février 2006 a prévu des dispositions verrouillées pour lesquelles un consensus avait été dégagé afin d'aérer la démocratie congolaise. L'expérience mobutiste ayant rendu les Congolais prudents, le législateur avait pensé verrouiller cette disposition avec en prime la possibilité offerte aux Opposants de penser à l'alternance un jour.

Faudrait-il leur barrer la route en opérant cette modification de la Constitution sans rompre le consensus ? Par ailleurs, faudrait-il enfermer le pays dans une logique d'intangibilité de certaines dispositions constitutionnelles malgré la dynamique de l'émergence qui se s'annonce ?

A toutes ces questions, la sagesse africaine de la palabre peut apporter des réponses. Mais en attendant, la bipolarisation est bien là, avec son corollaire de vicier le débat politique et d'exacerber la tension sociopolitique. La déflagration risque de devenir inévitable avec ses conséquences néfastes sur la paisible population.

UN mission accuses rebels of abuses against civilians in northeastern D.R. Congo

Text of report by D.R. Congo's UN-sponsored Radio Okapi on 31 July

[Presenter] Rebel fighters of the Front for Patriotic Resistance in Ituri [FRPI] have been accused of committing many abuses against civilians in Walendu Bindi and Bahema Boga [Northeastern D.R. Congo] areas since the beginning of this week. Information received by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in D.R. Congo [MONUSCO] indicated cases of rape, looting and abduction of civilians. The rebel fighters rejected the accusations and said they denounced crimes reportedly being committed in villages controlled by government forces. This was however neither confirmed nor refused by local government authorities and independent sources in the region.

[Reporter] An FRPI officer known as Osou was accused of having alongside his fighters made an incursion into Kitoma village, situated about 22 km south of Bukiringi. It is reported that a 20 years old woman got raped by 5 rebel fighters and abandoned at the crime scene by the attackers. The victim did not receive proper medical attention due to lack of medicine at Boga hospital where her neighbours took her. One day earlier, nine FRPI fighters kidnapped two civilians in Kereka village. Witnesses said the rebel fighters beat up the victims and made them ferry their loot of goats and chicken. These men were set free following intervention by FARDC soldiers, who were alerted by civilians. Contacted today, Mbadu Adirodu, FRPI's army chief of staff rejected his men's involvement in these attacks. He said the crimes had been reported in areas controlled by government forces. Contacted, Gen Falsie Kabwe declined to comment on the matter.

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RDC: l'ex-patron de l'armée de terre innocenté

Par Lefigaro.fr avec AFP

31 juillet 2014 - Le général Gabriel Amisi, ex-chef d'état-major de l'armée de terre en République démocratique du Congo, a été innocenté d'accusations de trafic d'armes à destination de braconniers et de groupes armés dans l'Est, a annoncé le Conseil supérieur de la défense. "Après examen des éléments supplémentaires apportés par la commission d'enquête (...) et faute d'autres preuves probantes exigées", le Conseil a "approuvé" le rapport de la commission ayant "blanchi l'intéressé", indique le compte-rendu d'une réunion du Conseil qui s'est tenue hier.

Le 15 novembre 2012, un groupe d'experts de l'ONU avait publié un rapport dans lequel il expliquait que le général Amisi, surnommé "Tango Fort", "contrôlait un réseau de distribution de munitions de chasse à destination de braconniers et de groupes armés". "La police congolaise et les autorités locales ont informé le groupe (d'experts) que, en juillet 2012, le général Amisi a envoyé un camion de l'armée fournir environ 300 fusils AK-47 à des membres de la milice Nyatura", accusée de graves exactions contre des civils, ajoute le rapport. Des proches du général sont aussi mis en cause dans le trafic de munitions, de même que d'autres haut gradés.

"Les forces armées congolaises continuent d'être gangrenées par des réseaux criminels qui permettent aux officiers supérieurs de s'enrichir à travers leur emprise sur les ressources naturelles et la contrebande, notamment le trafic d'ivoire mené par les groupes armés", avait conclu le rapport. Le 22 novembre 2012, le président Joseph Kabila a suspendu le général Amisi et ordonné une "enquête approfondie" sur "les responsabilités dans ce trafic illégal et criminel", avait dit à l'époque Lambert Mende, porte-parole du gouvernement. Depuis la suspension - intervenue alors que Goma, capitale du Nord-Kivu (Est), était aux mains de la rébellion M23 - le général François Olenga assurait le rôle de chef d'état-major de l'armée de terre. Le compte-rendu ne précise pas si le général Amisi reprendra ce poste. Ses fonctions militaires suspendues, "Tango Fort" présidait l'Association Sportive Vita Club (AS V Club), un club de football très populaire à Kinshasa.

Participation active de la RDC à la Conférence ministérielle des pays les moins avancés organisée à Cotonou au Bénin

Source : Digital Kongo

Le ministre des Affaires étrangères Raymond Tshibanda représente la RDC à la Conférence ministérielle des pays les moins avancés organisée depuis lundi à Cotonou au Bénin sous les auspices des Nations Unies, assises dont le coup d'envoi a été donné par le président béninois Boni Yayi

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30 juillet 2014 - La République Démocratique du Congo participe, par le biais du ministre des Affaires étrangères, de la coopération internationale et de la Francophonie, Raymond Tshibanda Ntungamulongo, à la Conférence ministérielle des Pays les moins avancés (PMA) qui se tient depuis lundi à Cotonou, au Bénin sur le thème: « Développer de nouveaux partenariats pour le renforcement des capacités productives des PMA ». Le Président béninois Boni Yayi, qui a ouvert ces assises organisées sous les auspices des Nations Unies, a souhaité plein succès aux travaux pour que les Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement (OMD), soient effectifs dans les pays respectifs.

En savoir plus>>

Tshisekedi, Kamerhe et Fayulu appellent au rassemblement le 4 août contre la révision constitutionnelle

Source : Jeune Afrique / MCN, via mediacongo.net

Kinshasa, 30 juillet 2014 - Dans une lettre commune publiée mardi 29 juillet, l'UDPS d'Étienne Tshisekedi, l'UNC de Vital Kamerhe et l'Ecide de Martin Fayulu appellent les Congolais à se réunir le 4 août sur une grande place de Kinshasa pour dénoncer tout projet de révision de la Constitution en RDC.

Trois partis, un objectif. Barrer la route à une éventuelle candidature de Joseph Kabila à la présidentielle de 2016. Dans une lettre publiée le 29 juillet, l'Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social (UDPS) d'Étienne Tshisekedi, l'Union pour la nation congolaise (UNC) de Vital Kamerhe et l'Engagement pour la citoyenneté et le développement (Ecide) de Martin Fayulu, appellent au rassemblement des congolais le 4 août sur une grande place de Kinshasa.

"Nous lançons un appel à la population de Kinshasa à venir nombreux assister à un meeting populaire de sensibilisation que nous organisons le lundi 4 août 2014 à la place Sainte-Thérèse de Ndjili (est de Kinshasa)", indique la déclaration des opposants lue mardi après-midi à la presse.

"Inopportunité de la révision constitutionnelle"

Conformément à la Constitution de la RDC, les organisateurs ont prévenu le gouverneur de Kinshasa, André Kimbuta, de leur rassemblement, en précisant qu'il visait à débattre avec la population (...) plus principalement de "l'inopportunité de la révision constitutionnelle."

La lettre a également été adressée pour information au ministre de l'Intérieur, Richard Muyej, et au chef de la mission de l'ONU en RDC (Monusco).

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RDC : Tout le monde est d'accord pour un toilettage à fond du Code minier

Source : Kongo Times

1 August 2014 - En vigueur depuis 2002, le Code minier a permis de relancer le secteur des mines de la République démocratique du Congo. Les observateurs sont d'avis que la croissance de l'économie est en grande tributaire de gros investissements entrepris dans le secteur minier. Si le secteur est en pleine croissance, des opérateurs miniers ont, à maintes reprises, dénoncé un certain nombre de dysfonctionnements dans ce secteur. Si bien que dix ans après sa mise en œuvre, tout le monde est d'accord pour un toilettage à fond de ce code. Malheureusement, des avis sont partagés entre partenaires impliqués dans ce processus. Dans les milieux l'on dénonce notamment l'intransigeance de l'Etat à imposer ses orientations. Ce qui apparemment explique le blocage d'un processus qui devait en principe être bouclé depuis 2012, au 10ème anniversaire du Code minier de 2002.

[Learn more>>](#)

20 villages repris à des groupes armés dans l'Est de la République Démocratique Du Congo

Source : Sudinfo.be

30 juillet 2014 - L'armée congolaise et les Casques bleus ont repris la semaine dernière une vingtaine de villages à des groupes armés actifs dans l'Est de la République Démocratique Du Congo, a annoncé mercredi la Mission de l'ONU (MONUSCO). « Environ vingt villages ont été reconquis par les militaires congolais durant la semaine écoulée » dans les territoires de Beni, Walikale et Lubero, situés dans la province minière du Nord-Kivu, a déclaré le lieutenant-colonel Felix-Prosper Basse porte-parole de la Monusco. Ils ont été repris pendant une phase d'opérations conjointes de l'armée et des Casques bleus qui a commencé le 2 juillet pour mettre fin aux exactions (meurtres, viols, enrôlements d'enfants, pillages...) des groupes armés qui s'affrontent pour des raisons ethniques, économiques ou foncières.

Rwanda: 30,000 Genocide Convicts Disappeared From Community Work

Source: All Africa

Kigali, 30 July 2014 - Some 30.000 Rwandans sentenced to community service for their role in the 1994 genocide have disappeared, according to the Rwandan prison authorities. Community service was introduced under a Rwandan law as an alternative to prison for certain categories of

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genocide perpetrator who confessed. One of the goals was to reduce overcrowding in the country's jails.

The semi-traditional village courts or gacaca (pronounced gatchatcha) that tried most genocide suspects had, by the time they closed in June 2012, sentenced 84,896 people to community service, according to the authorities.

A report by the Rwandan prison service says only 53,366 of these turned up in the camps where they were to serve their alternative sentence. The prison service says it does not know where they are. "This is a matter of great concern for us," prison service director Paul Rwarakabije told Hirondele.

"It is extremely worrying for the survivors," says Naphtal Ahishakiye, secretary general of the main survivors' organization Ibuka.

According to the same report, out of the 53,366 who presented themselves for community service, 46,270 have served their sentence, 1,996 escaped during community service and 340 have died natural deaths.

During community service, convicts help with public works such as building roads, bridges, public schools, orphanages and houses for the elderly.

Rwanda: Premier Salutes Police for Consolidating Peace

Source: The New Times via All Africa

31 July 2014 - Prime Minister Anastase Murekezi yesterday commended the Rwanda National Police for playing a central role in not only restoring law and order but also fostering peace and security following the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

Murekezi was speaking at the launch of a new Police Book, entitled 'Policing a rapidly transforming post-genocide society; Making Rwandans feel safe, involved and reassured.

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United States Pushes for Rwanda-style Peacekeeping Operations, Reports KT Press

Source: KT Press via Digital Journal

Kigali, July 31, 2014 - The United Nations "should draw lessons from the leadership of Rwanda" as it prepares a comprehensive review of peacekeeping to better protect civilians in conflict hotspots, the United States says.

The UN is currently gripped with growing demand to address increased deadly conflicts in various countries such as Central Africa, Mali, Sudan, Ukraine, and the Gaza strip.

A contingency of 12,000 peacekeepers led by the African Union is currently battling an insurgency of ethnic and religious militias in the Central African Republic.

For US ambassador to the UN Samantha Power, Rwanda "knows what it takes to protect civilians". "When the first killings began in Rwanda in the spring of 1994, Romeo Dallaire – the UN force commander there at the time – appealed for reinforcements," said Power on July 28 at a UN Security Council debate on regional partnership and its evolution in UN peacekeeping.

Power believes contributing countries can draw lessons from Rwanda. "Rwandans understand the importance of getting peacekeeping right," she said.

[Learn more>>](#)

Kenya, Rwanda join forces to fight terrorism

Source: Standard Digital

By Roselyne Obala

31 July 2014 - Kenya and Rwanda have pledged to continue working closely in the fight against terrorism, saying it poses a serious threat to the regions' peace and stability.

The visiting Rwandan President of the Senate Jean Damascene Ntawukuriryayo, while addressing the Kenyan Senate yesterday, said peace and security cannot be achieved in the region unless there are combined efforts among East African nations.

"It is for this reason that, Kenya and Rwanda are parties to the defence, peace and security pact signed this year. This framework of solidarity will primarily put in place mechanisms to safeguard regional infrastructure that our countries plan to put in place, in the fight against terrorism," he said.

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"These pacts are meant to strengthen regional security and partnership in the fight against terrorism," he added.

Rwanda: Who Is Behind the Discreet Porn Industry in Rwanda?

Source: All Africa

By Dean Karemera

We Have Rwandan porn stars in our midst. They work in a sophisticated closed circle and are so discreet that getting information about them or tracing their footsteps is as hard as seeing the eclipse in the next 50 years.

An investigation by The New Times has established that a well organised network is running an underground porn industry which stretches from Kigali to the neighbouring countries.

Who are the people behind this network, how do they recruit and who is their target. How bad is the situation?

Is it a multimillion dollar business like the porn industry in the west?

These are some of the questions we tried to unravel in the investigation we got a hint about two months ago.

[**Learn more>>**](#)

Museveni in Nairobi for infrastructure meet

Source: New Vision (Uganda)

By David Lumu

31 July 2014 - President Yoweri Museveni is in Kenyan capital Nairobi for an International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

"The leaders will be discussing issues to do with the pipeline and all the other infrastructure projects under LAPSET, especially linking the Lamu port to South Sudan," Ambassador James Mugume, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

The Lamu Port Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPPSET) corridor project covers Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan. [**Learn more>>**](#)

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Angola: DR Congo Interior Minister Leaves Luanda

Source: All Africa

Luanda, 31 July 2014 - The DR Congo Interior Minister, Muyej Mangeze Richard, who attended since Monday in Luanda, the 7th tripartite meeting amongst Angola, his country and UNHCR, left the Angolan capital this Thursday.

At Luanda's "4 de Fevereiro" International Airport, Muyej Richard, who did not speak to the press, was bid farewell by DR Congolese diplomats in Angola and senior employees of the Ministry of Assistance and Social Reintegration.

During his over 72-hour visit in Angola, the Congolese official discussed, among other issues, the process of voluntary repatriation and local integration, so as to contribute to the reduction of phenomenon and consequently the number of refugees in Africa.

The tripartite meeting analysed the repatriation process that will be concluded at the of 2014, and it established a timeline of activities for period of August and November of this year, as well as goals were outlined so as to issue by the Angolan consular services in DRC safe-conducts for former Angolan refugees.

The meeting also served to determine dates and place for the beginning and end of the voluntary repatriation operation, among others.

Briefing: South Sudan heads towards famine

Source: IRIN

Bentiu, 31 July 2014 - More than a third of South Sudan's population is at risk of severe food insecurity as a result of the ongoing conflict, and the international community, NGOs and local organizations are sounding the alarm over an impending famine.

Since December when the country's feuding leaders, President Salva Kiir Mayardit and former Vice-President Reik Machar, began a protracted and deadly civil war, millions have been uprooted and their homes and livelihoods destroyed.

The UN Security Council on 25 July described the food security situation in South Sudan as "the worst in the world".

IRIN unpicks some of the issues surrounding possible famine.

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Tutu: do not forget South Sudan

Source: AFP via AoL News

Johannesburg, 31 July 2014 - South African Nobel peace laureate Desmond Tutu on Thursday urged world leaders focused on conflict in the Middle East and Ukraine not to forget the “ghastly suffering” in South Sudan.

The plea by the former archbishop comes days after UN aid chiefs begged donors to increase efforts to stave off looming famine in the African country where nearly one million children face acute malnutrition after months of civil war.

The conflict erupted in mid-December after sacked his vice-president Riek Machar was accused by President Salva Kiir of a failed coup attempt.

[Learn more>>](#)

South Sudan peace talks may resume on Monday

Source: Sudan Tribune

Addis Ababa/Juba, 30 July, 2014 - A new round of peace talks between South Sudan’s warring parties has been delayed, but officials from the rebel movement and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) say they expect negotiations to resume Monday next week.

The fourth round of negotiations between the South Sudanese government and the rebel faction led by former vice-president Riek Machar were scheduled to resume on Wednesday 30 July in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

“The talks are postponed to Monday, 4 August,” reliable sources told Sudan Tribune on condition of anonymity as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

IGAD, which is mediating the two conflicting parties, hasn’t yet officially given an explanation for the postponement.

In Juba, South Sudan’s Information minister, Michael Makuei Lueth, attributed the postponement of talks to logistical issues and the Eid-el-Fitr Muslim holiday.

The minister, in a short statement broadcast by SSTV Wednesday, reiterated Juba’s commitment to the peace process and expressed hopes to be in Addis Ababa between Thursday and Friday.

He however said circumstances under which the talks would resume remained unclear.

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“We still don’t know whether it will be multi stakeholder dialogue or it will be limited to only the two parties, I mean rebels and the government. This is something we will know when we are in Addis [Ababa],” said Lueth.

The rebel delegation in Addis Ababa said they were ready to resume talks with the government delegation when the government side arrives at the venue of the negotiation venue.

Miyong Kuon, an aide to Machar said logistical arrangement presumably was a reason for the postponement of the talks. He further reaffirmed their readiness to rejoin the negotiating table at any time.

“Any delay of the talks has nothing to do with our side. However, Monday is more or less ideal time. It is not even a week away,” Kuon told Sudan Tribune.

An IGAD official who spoke on condition of anonymity not authorised to offer explanation to the media asking anonymity however told Sudan Tribune that the East African bloc has begun consulting with the special envoys to release a statement of explanation.

Mediators haven’t yet officially announced a new date for the resumption of talks. However, the IGAD official and rebel officials say the talks will resume on Monday, although there is yet to be any official confirmation.

The IGAD-led peace negotiations were initially supposed to resume last month, but were delayed after rebels pulled out of the talks in protest to what they alleged was IGAD’s failure to include exiled civil society organisations in the multi-stakeholders meeting last month in Addis Ababa.

The civil society groups based in Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan on Tuesday concluded the selection process by electing seven representatives to participate in the peace process.

Khartoum on high alert, closes schools amid heavy rains

Source: Sudan Tribune

Khartoum, July 30, 2014 - Sudan’s Khartoum state has declared a state of high alert following heavy rains which hit the capital on Wednesday.

Dozens of families in the west of Khartoum’s twin city of Omdurman were seen carrying their belongings after their homes were destroyed by rain which amounted to 43 mm. Floods have also destroyed homes in villages and areas south of Omdurman.

Eastern parts of Omdurman also suffered from heavy rains and power outages and distress calls were heard in Al-Thawra neighbourhood. Fallen trees and shattered signboard impeded normal flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic on public streets.

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hartoum state governor, Abdel-Rahman Al-Khidir, toured areas affected by floods in Um badda and Karrari neighbourhoods, announcing closing of schools for one week.

Al-Khidir declared a state of high alert and formed a 24-hour central emergency committee in the state's 105 administrative unit besides giving localities the right to use heavy machinery to draw waters and clean up roads.

He also decided to put the civil defence and river rescue forces in a high of alert besides putting police in a %50 state of readiness of 50% in anticipation of emergency matters following weather forecast that heavy rains will continue until 11 August.

The governor also directed state's authorities to supply affected families with sheeting and tents.

Khartoum state stressed in a press report that old and new water drains were able to discharge most of the waters, saying some lowlands and squares need additional work.

It underscored there were no casualties or serious damage to property, saying that primary outcome showed that 60 homes were completely or partially destroyed in Um Bada besides 10 others in Karrari.

The governor further called upon Khartoum residents to allow the concerned engineering bodies carry out their work and not to throw wastes on water drains.

The commissioner of Jebel Al-Awliya, al-Bashir Abu Kasawi, told the state-run radio of Omdurman that localities of Karrari, east Nile, and Jebel al-Awliya and other areas have been affected by rains and floods.

Sudan's General Authority for Meteorology (GAM) said Khartoum state saw an increase of rainfall ranging from 60 to 110 mm which led to raising levels of the Nile waters, pointing the increase represent a real threat to residents of the White and Blue Nile banks.

Competent bodies have advised Khartoum state to carry out strategic plan to build permanent water drains, spray insecticides, and drying waters of public squares.

Heavy rains also isolated 15 villages in the locality of south Gazira in Gazira state.

Sudan's president, Omer Hassan Al-Bashir, was seen on Monday in a surprise inspection tour for construction works of a bridge in east Nile locality following heavy rains which hit Khartoum state on Saturday.

Heavy floods have been common in the past few years in Sudan's east along the Blue Nile but happen more rarely in the capital and the north where much of Sudan's population live.

Floods and rains that hit different areas in Sudan last year lead to the death of at least 38 people and injured dozens.

Rains which fell during the past few days have turned Khartoum into a pond of water amid widespread anger over what is perceived as an inadequate government response.

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Meanwhile, the commissioner of south Gazira locality, Kambal Hassan al-Mahi, attributed isolation of these villages to poor drainage, saying walls and bathrooms of several homes and schools were destroyed by the rain.

He announced mobilization of all resources of the locality, state, and Gazira scheme board to rescue the isolated villages.

The commissioner of Al-Ghorashi locality in Gazira state, Abdel-Basit al-Dikhairi, for his part, announced collapse of 114 homes and several government buildings in 15 villages due to heavy rains in the past two days.