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



MEDIA MONITORING

11 August 2014

The UN Secretary-General

Message for International Youth Day (12 August 2014)

12 August 2014 - A new publication from the United Nations shows that 20 per cent of the world's young people experience a mental health condition each year. The risks are especially great as they transition from childhood to adulthood. Stigma and shame often compound the problem, preventing them from seeking the support they need. For this year's observance of International Youth Day, the United Nations wants to help lift the veil that keeps young people locked in a chamber of isolation and silence.

The barriers can be overwhelming, particularly in countries where the issue of mental health is ignored and there is a lack of investment in mental health services. Too often, owing to neglect and irrational fear, persons with mental health conditions are marginalized not only from having a role in the design and implementation of development policies and programmes but even from basic care. This leaves them more vulnerable to poverty, violence and social exclusion, and has a negative impact on society as a whole.

Young people who are already considered vulnerable, such as homeless youth, those involved in the juvenile justice system, orphaned youth and those having experienced conflict situations, are often more susceptible to stigma and other barriers, leaving them even more adrift when they are most in need of support. Let us remember that with understanding and assistance, these young people can flourish, making valuable contributions to our collective future.

We have just about 500 days to reach the Millennium Development Goals. We must support all young people, especially those who are vulnerable, to succeed in this historic campaign.

Wide-ranging efforts at all levels are needed to raise awareness about the importance of investing in and supporting young people with mental health conditions. Increased education is crucial in reducing stigma and in changing how we talk about and perceive mental health.

Mental health is how we feel; it is our emotions and well-being. We all need to take care of our mental health so that we lead satisfying lives. Let us begin to talk about our mental-health in the same way we talk about our overall health.

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As we mark International Youth Day 2014, let us enable youth with mental health conditions to realize their full potential, and let us show that mental health matters to us all.

Centrafrique : un Premier ministre musulman pour sauver la transition

Source : AFP via Afrique Expansion Magazine

Par Christian Panika

Bangui, 10 août 2014 - La présidente centrafricaine Catherine Samba Panza a nommé dimanche un musulman comme nouveau Premier ministre, une première dans l'histoire du pays pour relancer la transition et mettre en oeuvre le très précaire accord de cessez-le-feu signé fin juillet.

Mahamat Kamoun, précédemment conseiller spécial à la présidence, a été nommé Premier ministre par décret présidentiel. De confession musulmane, spécialiste des finances, M. Kamoun avait été directeur général du Trésor sous le président François Bozizé (au pouvoir de 2003 à mars 2013).

C'est la première fois qu'un musulman occupe la fonction de Premier ministre depuis l'indépendance de cette ex-colonie française en 1960.

Minoritaires dans le pays, les musulmans sont aujourd'hui souvent assimilés par leurs concitoyens aux rebelles de la Séléka.

Cette coalition à dominante musulmane, venue des provinces du Nord, s'est rendue coupable d'innombrables exactions contre les populations chrétiennes lors de son passage au pouvoir de mars à décembre 2013, après avoir renversé le président Bozizé.

Affaiblis par l'intervention des forces française Sangaris et africaine Miska, les combattants rebelles s'étaient ensuite retirés vers le nord et l'est du pays, dont ils gardent le contrôle aujourd'hui.

La Centrafrique a connu depuis lors de terribles violences intercommunautaires qui ont fait des milliers de morts et jeté sur les routes des centaines de milliers de déplacés.

Ciblés par les milices anti-balaka, majoritairement chrétiennes, la plupart des musulmans du sud du pays ont fui vers le Nord et l'étranger.

L'arrivée au pouvoir de Mme Samba Panza en février dernier à la faveur du départ de la Séléka, et la mise en place de son gouvernement de transition, n'ont pas permis le retour à la paix ou de remettre sur les rails un Etat en totale décomposition.

Réunis le 23 juillet à Brazzaville pour tenter de relancer cette transition politique, les principaux acteurs de la crise ont accepté au forceps, sous la pression internationale, la signature d'un accord de cessation des hostilités.

Le gouvernement du Premier ministre André Nzapayéké, composé essentiellement de technocrates, a démissionné dans la foulée, à la demande de la présidente qui a promis un nouveau gouvernement de "large ouverture" intégrant "la nouvelle donne" après l'accord de Brazzaville.

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Rassurer les musulmans

La présence des groupes armés au sein du futur cabinet est l'un des principaux enjeux des discussions en cours, mais elle fait polémique.

Séléka et anti-balaka ont mis en effet le pays à feu et à sang: ils sont accusés de graves exactions et sont considérés, avec la classe politique, comme les principaux responsables de la catastrophe actuelle. Plusieurs de leurs leaders sont sous le coup de sanctions onusiennes et américaines (gel des avoirs et interdiction de voyager).

L'ex-rébellion est à présent affaiblie et fragmentée, divisée notamment entre partisans du dialogue et une frange "dure" qui refuse toute concession et prône la partition du Nord.

Le nouveau Premier ministre Mahamat Kamoun, au profil de technicien, n'est pas membre de la Séléka mais est réputé avoir de l'influence sur certains de ses chefs.

Sa nomination vise sans doute à rassurer la communauté musulmane, calmer les tensions avec l'ex-Séléka et à couper l'herbe sous le pied des tenants de la partition, analyse un bon connaisseur de la scène politique locale.

Du côté de la nébuleuse anti-balaka, réputée proche de l'ancien président Bozizé, l'arrivée au gouvernement de responsables musulmans ou de l'ancienne rébellion était considérée comme inéluctable après Brazzaville. Le véritable enjeu pour ces milices est plutôt leur représentation au sein de la prochaine équipe gouvernementale.

En attendant la distribution des postes, Séléka et anti-balaka restent les principaux fauteurs de troubles sur le terrain.

A Bangui, après des semaines de relative normalisation, des incidents ont éclaté vendredi et samedi entre deux factions rivales des anti-balaka, replongeant la capitale dans les affrontements armés et nécessitant l'intervention des forces internationales.

En province, l'armée française s'est violemment opposée pendant plusieurs jours à des ex-rebelles de la Séléka à Batangafo (nord).

Central African Republic Gets First Muslim PM

Source: VOA

The Central African Republic has its first Muslim prime minister.

10 August 2014 - Mahamat Kamoun, a former special adviser to interim President Catherine Samba-Panza, will lead a transitional government that is seeking to implement a cease-fire signed last month after a year of sectarian violence.

The 53-year-old Kamoun was appointed by presidential decree. He is the first Muslim to serve as prime minister in the CAR since it gained independence from France in 1960. He was director general of the treasury under former president Francois Bozize.

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Together with Samba-Panza, who is a Christian, Kamoun faces the difficult task of implementing a delicate political transition aimed at ending the deadly sectarian violence.

The latest unrest began in March 2013, when the mainly Muslim Seleka rebel coalition toppled the government and put Michel Djotodia - the country's first Muslim president - in power. He stepped down in January under strong international pressure for his failure to rein in rogue ex-rebels involved in murder, rape and looting.

In response to the violence, largely Christian communities formed "anti-balaka" vigilante forces who hunted down Muslims in revenge attacks.

Thousands died and around a quarter of the country's 4.5 million population were displaced in the conflict.

Representatives of the Seleka coalition and anti-balaka forces signed a tentative cease-fire at talks in neighboring Congo in July. Following the talks, the government of Prime Minister Andre Nzapayeke resigned in a government reshuffle.

Muslim named as new Central African PM

Source: Agence France Presse

Bangui, 10 August 2014 - The president of the Central African Republic has named a Muslim as the country's new prime minister, an official said Sunday, as part of an effort to create a more inclusive government after more than a year of sectarian violence.

Mahamat Kamoun, previously a special adviser to President Catherine Samba-Panza, a Christian, will lead a transitional government after being nominated by presidential decree.

The appointment was announced on state-owned radio by a spokesman for the presidency.

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Katanga: la MONUSCO s'inquiète de «l'extermination» des Pygmées

Source : RFI

8 août 2014 - Un rapport de la MONUSCO sur les violences intercommunautaires au Katanga, en RDC, pointe un regain inédit des exactions visant essentiellement les Pygmées. Les auteurs de ce rapport confidentiel évoquent des faits qui s'apparentent au « *crime de génocide* ».

En savoir plus>>

La Zambie enverra des troupes en Centrafrique

Source: Agence de presse Xinhua

9 août 2014 - La Zambie va envoyer du personnel militaire en République centrafricaine (RCA) le mois prochain pour soutenir la mission de maintien de la paix de l'Organisation des Nations Unies (ONU), a rapporté vendredi le Times of Zambia.

Le ministre zambien de la Défense, Edgar Lungu, a laissé entendre que les travaux préparatoires sont actuellement en cours.

"Le gouvernement est fier des acquis des officiers de la force de défense et nous savons tous que leurs services seraient appréciés et nous espérons que les soldats vont afficher le même engagement au cours de cette mission", a-t-il déclaré devant un groupe de soldats sécurisant les zones frontalières dans la partie occidentale de la Zambie.

Central Africa: Kigali Conference Seeks Peace for Central African Republic, S. Sudan

Source: The New Times (Rwanda)

By Collins Mwai

Having selfless leaders willing to put the country's interest ahead of their own is critical in maintaining peace.

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This was the message delivered yesterday to delegates including religious and youth leaders and delegates from Central African Republic and South Sudan, who are meeting at a peace conference in Kigali.

The two-day conference, organised by Faith-based organisations, Rwanda Youth Action Network, Rwanda Civil Society Platform and Aegis Trust, brings together religious leaders from CAR and youth leaders from South Sudan, as well as their Rwandan counterparts.

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

Cameroun : un chef rebelle centrafricain négocie une exfiltration vers l ' Afrique du Sud

Source : APA

8 août 2014 - Alioum Garba alias "Alioum Douk Saga », ancien mécanicien-chauffeur du général centrafricain Moussa Dhaffane, qui accompagna Michel Djotodia au pouvoir à Bangui à la suite du coup d'Etat de mars 2013, négocie actuellement son exfiltration vers l'Afrique du Sud avec les autorités camerounaises contre la fin des exactions contre les civils à l'Est de ce pays, a appris APA de sources introduites. L'homme, la trentaine, est installé avec femme et enfant dans un hôtel de Yaoundé depuis juillet dernier.

[**En savoir plus>>**](#)

Un nouveau nonce pour la paix et l'espérance au Burundi

Source: Radio Vatican

9 août 2014 - Le nouveau nonce apostolique au Burundi va contribuer, au nom du Pape, à apporter la paix et l'espérance dans ce pays. C'est la mission que lui a confiée le Secrétaire d'Etat du Saint-Siège. Une mission que les nonces sont appelés à accomplir y compris dans les conflits les plus délicats et complexes.

Le nonce, a affirmé le cardinal Pietro Parolin, est un homme de communion et de paix, un bâtisseur de ponts surtout dans les moments les plus dramatiques, car c'est un homme de Dieu. Le nouveau nonce au Burundi, Mgr Zaluski, a reçu l'ordination épiscopale samedi en Pologne des mains du Secrétaire d'Etat.

Au cœur de l'Afrique, terre de tradition et d'histoire, le Burundi, a relevé le cardinal Parolin au cours de la célébration, a connu dans son histoire récente les lourdes conséquences des violents conflits. C'est un pays qui a besoin d'attention et de soins, mais où l'on constate des ferments de croissance ainsi que des témoignages de fidélité à l'Evangile.

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Selon le Saint-Siège, Mgr Zaluski devra favoriser les parcours de réconciliation et de purification de la mémoire et des cœurs. Nommé à la mi-juillet à ce poste par le Pape François, Mgr Wojciech Zaluski connaît déjà le Burundi ; c'est le premier pays où il a travaillé au service de la diplomatie du Saint-Siège. Polonais, âgé de 54 ans, il a également été en poste à Malte, en Albanie, en Zambie, au Sri Lanka, en Géorgie, en Ukraine, aux Philippines et au Guatemala.

UN Security Council threatens sanctions on S.Sudan leaders

Source: Agence France Presse

8 August 2014 - Voicing alarm over the crisis in South Sudan, the UN Security Council threatened Friday to slap sanctions on warring factions for failing to live up to a peace deal signed three months ago.

The warning came in a unanimous statement agreed to ahead of a South Sudan visit by Security Council ambassadors next week during which the envoys are to deliver the message directly to the country's leaders.

"The actions of President Salva Kiir and former vice president Riek Machar in continuing to pursue a military solution to this conflict are unacceptable," said the 15-member council.

Under a peace deal signed in May, Kiir and Machar are to establish a unity government by August 10, Sunday, but there are no signs they will meet that deadline.

The council "expresses its readiness to consider, in consultations with relevant partners, (...) all appropriate measures, including targeted sanctions against those who take action that undermines the peace, stability and security of South Sudan, including those who prevent the implementation of these agreements," the statement said.

A new round of peace talks opened in Ethiopia on Monday even as fighting raged on the ground, but there has been little reported progress.

International alarm is growing over a looming famine in South Sudan, which the United Nations has described as the world's worst food crisis affecting at least 3.9 million people, or one in three.

Thousands have been killed and over 1.5 million have fled more than seven months of fighting between government troops, mutinous soldiers and ragtag militia forces divided by tribe.

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L'opposition soudanaise décidée à renverser le gouvernement

Source : APA

10 août 2014 - Les principaux partis d'opposition soudanaises se sont engagés à travailler ensemble afin de renverser le gouvernement du président Omar El-Bashir, rapporte dimanche la presse locale.

Le Parti national Umma (NUP) dirigé par l'ancien Premier ministre, Alsadig Mahdi et l'alliance des rebelles soudanais ont signé un accord dans ce sens, à Paris, la capitale française.

Les deux parties ont annoncé dans un communiqué conjoint, dont APA a obtenu copie samedi, que la « Déclaration de Paris » avait pour but d'unir les forces de l'opposition du Soudan afin de trouver une solution pour une « transformation démocratique au Soudan ».

Cet accord est « une réponse à la volonté des citoyens soudanais à rassembler tous les partis politiques et les organisations de la société civile soudanaise de mettre fin au régime du président Omar El Bashir », ajoute le communiqué.

Par ailleurs, le Parti du congrès national (NCP, au pouvoir) n'a apporté aucun commentaire à cette annonce.

S. Sudan army places military officers under arrest

Source: Sudan Tribune

Juba, 8 August 2014 - A number of South Sudanese army officers have reportedly been placed under house arrest at various locations for reasons yet to be established, military sources have told Sudan Tribune.

Lt. Col. Lual Bol Kuan and Major Ngong Mou Deng are reportedly among several military officers in detention since May, with the former said to have been arrested on 10 May after being recalled from the frontline in the Paloich area of South Sudan's Upper Nile state.

Sources further claimed the army chief of staff, Gen. Paul Malong Awan, ordered Kuan's arrest allegedly on recommendations from the deputy of the sixth infantry division commander, Maj. Gen. Gregory Basilli, an in-law to South Sudan's president, Salva Kiir.

"His wife delivered and was not allowed to see the new born child since he was arrested on 10 May. The children are suffering from many things and we actually do not know what he has done because he himself has not been informed of the cause. We only hear that Maj. Gen Gregory Basilli reported him to the chief of staff Gen. Paul Malong Awan, who later ordered his recall from

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the frontline and was arrested on arrival,” a member of Kuan’s family told Sudan Tribune on Thursday.

“He was in Guel Guk in Poloich area when he was recalled in May. From the airport he was taken straight into the detention where he remained until today. No hearing has ever been made,” added the relative.

Various conflicting accounts, on the other hand, surround reasons for Deng’s arrest. For instance, while some sources attributed it to the release of civilians arrested in the military barrack by the head of the military police force in the capital, Juba, others claimed it was on suspicion that he planned to join rebellion under Gen. Dau Aturjong.

Some military sources claim Deng’s arrest was “politically” motivated, an account the latter believes in.

“What they tell people is not what they tell me and the family members. They have never told us the truth. To the relatives and members of the public, they say I am arrested for administrative issues which they do not explain. To other colleagues, they say I was planning to rebel. And to some other people who want to know why I have been arrested for such a long time; they say I released civilians arrested in military barrack,” the detained officer told Sudan Tribune last week.

“So you find that there is no case for my arrest. I just see that it is politically motivated arrest,” he added.

But when contacted by relatives, the army chief of staff, said the two officers “were involved in cases of indiscipline”, prompting their confinement. He did not, however, elaborate further on the matter.

In separate meetings with relatives of the two officers, Awan reportedly said it was normal in any country to hold people accountable within a system.

The South Sudanese army spokesperson, Col. Phillip Aguer, declined to comment on the matter.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed military reports indicate several officers have also been arrested in Wunyiik, the third division infantry headquarters in Northern Bahr el Ghazal state.

Sudanese court upholds death sentences against rebel leaders

Source: Sudan Tribune

Khartoum, 8 August 2014 - A Sudanese court of appeal on Thursday upheld death sentences issued previously in absentia against leaders of the rebel Sudan People Liberation Movement North (SPLM-N) in connection with the outbreak of the conflict with Khartoum in the Blue Nile state in September 2011.

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SPLM-N chairman Malik Agar and secretary-general Yasser Aman were handed the capital punishment last March along with 17 others. The same court sentenced 47 others to life in prison which was also upheld by the appeals court today.

The counts include terrorist crimes; crimes against the state; participation, aiding and abetting of crimes; crimes against humanity; the use of arms .

The court ordered the circulation of notices containing the sentences at all ports of entry and internationally for apprehension.

Battles between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and SPLM-N forces in Blue Nile erupted in September 2011, with each side accusing the other of starting the fighting.

Sudanese president Omer Hassan al-Bashir immediately declared a state of emergency in the state, which allowed him to sack Agar, then the state's governor, and later shut down SPLM-N's offices in the country.

The African Union (AU) has sought to broker a peace deal between Khartoum and SPLM-N in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan states but has yet to achieve any success.

Rwanda : un cas suspect d'Ebola signalé à Kigali

Source: Agence de presse Xinhua

11 août 2014 - Un étudiant européen soupçonné d'avoir attrapé le virus Ebola a été mis en quarantaine à Kigali, capitale du Rwanda, a annoncé dimanche le ministère rwandais de la Santé.

Selon une déclaration du ministère, les échantillons de sang du patient, admis à l'Hôpital King Faisal, ont été envoyés à un laboratoire international. Les résultats pourraient sortir dans 48 heures.

C'est le premier cas suspect signalé au Rwanda depuis l'apparition du virus Ebola en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Le gouvernement rwandais appelle le public à rester calme et vigilant, affirmant que les autorités suivent de près la situation.

La déclaration indique que toutes les mesures préventives nécessaires ont été prises, indiquant que "les travailleurs de la santé ont été formés à travers le pays et son vigilants", ce qui permettra de détecter et notifier rapidement les cas suspects et de faire des arrangements appropriés.

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Suspected Ebola patient isolated in Rwanda

Source: Xinhua

Kigali, 10 August - Rwanda's health officials have placed a man suspected of suffering from Ebola in isolation at King Faisal Hospital Kigali.

A statement by the Ministry of Health released on Sunday indicates that the patient had been tested with results still expected. Samples from the suspected case have been sent for testing to an international accredited laboratory, and results will be available in 48 hours, the statement said.

The suspected case is a European medical student, according to the statement. It is the first suspected Ebola case in Rwanda since the outbreak of the virus in West Africa.

The government urged the public to remain calm and vigilant, as the ministry is closely monitoring the situation.

All the preventive measures needed in line with national standards are already in place, including surveillance systems and emergency management systems, it assured, adding "Health workers have been trained across the country and are vigilant."

This will enable timely detection, notification and appropriate management of any suspected cases to safeguard Rwandans, the statement concluded.

Ebola : un patient allemand à l'isolement au Rwanda

Source : Le Nouvel Observateur avec AFP

11 août 2014 - Les pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest ont intensifié ce weekend leurs efforts contre l'épidémie d'Ebola responsable de près de 1.000 morts, et espèrent pouvoir recourir à un anticorps expérimental ou un vaccin en cours d'élaboration. De Monrovia à Hong Kong, cette épidémie sans précédent continue d'inquiéter à travers le monde. L'Organisation mondiale de la santé a décréter vendredi "une urgence de santé publique de portée mondiale".

Dimanche soir, c'est au Rwanda qu'un étudiant allemand, présentant des symptômes de la maladie, a été mis à l'isolement dans un hôpital King Faisal de Kigali. Il avait passé plusieurs jours au Liberia avant de revenir au Rwanda. Il s'agit du premier cas suspect d'Ebola au Rwanda.

En savoir plus>>