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



MEDIA MONITORING

11 July 2014

Rideaux sur la Conférence des jeunes de la CIRGL à Goma : que des recommandations pertinentes !

Digitalcongo.net

Kinshasa, 10 juillet 2014 - Les participants ont mis l'accent sur l'allégement des conditions d'études au niveau de la sous-région, la création des écoles d'apprentissage des métiers, la conception des projets d'exploitation des ressources communes.

La conférence des jeunes ressortissant des pays membres de la Conférence internationale des régions des Grands Lacs s'est clôturée ce mercredi 09 juillet, à Goma, par une série de recommandations formulées à l'endroit des Chefs des Etats dans les perspectives d'asseoir la paix, la stabilité et le développement dans cet ensemble sous-régional.

[En savoir plus>>](#)

U.S. Will Broaden Sanctions to Deter Violence in Congo

By Andrew Siddons (The New York Times)

Washington, 10 July 2014 - The United States will expand sanctions on groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo, making it easier to target those who are trying to instigate violence and disrupt peacekeeping efforts in that country, the White House announced on Tuesday.

"The United States continues to be deeply concerned about the situation in the D.R.C., which has been marked by activities that threaten the peace, security and stability of the country," the White House said in a statement.

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The announcement is a quiet signal that the United States is trying to stay engaged in a troubled region that the administration is often accused of forgetting. It comes a week after the administration placed sanctions on the Allied Democratic Forces, a Ugandan militant group that operates in eastern Congo, and brings the United States in line with United Nations sanctions that are already in place. Those targeted by the sanctions could be subject to travel bans or have their assets frozen.

Both the United States and United Nations measures are broad, and the United States announcement noted that they would be applied to those who are "directly or indirectly" involved in the recruitment of child soldiers, sexual violence, obstruction of humanitarian assistance or other provocative actions in Congo.

"It's hard to be optimistic when you look at events in the Congo, but there has been progress in the last few months," said Richard Downie, deputy director of the Africa Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies here.

The sanctions are a signal that the United States is trying to keep up momentum to reduce the violence in Congo, despite efforts among the commanders of some groups to bring their scattered fighters back into the fold. "It sends a strong message to the spoilers out there -- we're not going to stand for efforts to derail this process," Mr. Downie said.

At the end of last year, the M23 rebel group, made up of former members of the Congolese Army, signed an agreement to stop fighting. In June, members of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, another militia operating in eastern Congo, also began to disarm. Still, many of the fighters from these groups and others continue to be active.

Last week, the United Nations Security Council and the United States Treasury Department singled out the Allied Democratic Forces for attacks carried out against civilians in Congo in 2013, displacing many people from their homes. "The A.D.F. was also responsible for brutal attacks on women and children in several villages, including acts of beheading, mutilation and rape," the Treasury's statement said in announcing those sanctions.

The sanctions announcement also comes after several high-profile visits by United States officials in recent months. On Saturday, in the middle of a trip through several African countries, Jill Biden, the wife of Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., traveled to Kinshasa, the Congolese capital, and Bukavu, in eastern Congo. Dr. Biden met with victims of sexual violence at a hospital in Bukavu.

In May, Secretary of State John Kerry visited Congo and urged President Joseph Kabila to take action against the Allied Democratic Forces, but noted that military force would not be enough.

"Lasting peace will not grow out of the barrel of a gun," Mr. Kerry said at the time. "It will come from restoring state authority and state services."

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"It will also come from demobilizing the combatants and returning them to civilian life," he added.

Next month President Obama and his administration will have another chance to reinforce concerns about violence in Congo when Mr. Kabila visits Washington as part of the United States-Africa Leaders Summit.

Obama fait de la RDC une urgence

Le Potentiel (DRC)

10 juillet 2014 - Dans un message daté du 8 juillet 2014 et adressé au Congrès américain, Barack Obama fait mention des sanctions financières contre certains dirigeants congolais et étrangers impliqués d'une manière ou d'une autre dans le drame de l'Est. En clair, les Etats-Unis ont décidé de mettre un terme aux conflits meurtriers qui minent l'Est de la RDC et en font une urgence.

[En savoir plus>>](#)

Has the White House Bungled a Historic Africa Summit?

By Gordon Lubold

9 July 2014 - More than 50 African leaders will descend on Washington in less than a month for the White House's first-ever Africa Summit, which the administration has billed as a historic opportunity to promote its own Africa initiatives, identify trade partners, and foster much-needed counterterrorism cooperation across the continent.

But as the administration scrambles to put the finishing touches on the event, individuals in and out of government worry that the summit, held when little of official Washington is even in town, may end up doing more harm than good. African leaders won't be getting any one-on-one meetings with President Barack Obama, which could leave them feeling snubbed by a leader they've long seen as unusually invested in the continent's future. More importantly, critics say the three-day summit, which begins Aug. 4, may represent a missed opportunity to narrow the growing gap between America's economic ties with African countries and those of China, which has spent years building new commercial relationships across the continent.

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Pression sur Kigali

Le Potentiel (DRC)

10 juillet 2014 - Dans la sous-région des Grands Lacs, les USA ne lèvent pas le pied sur la pédale de la pression. Washington tient à ne plus lâcher la pression sur Kigali principalement, considéré comme l'enfant gâté de la sous-région depuis les événements malheureux de 1994 avec le génocide au Rwanda.

Au fil des années, Washington s'est rendu compte que le choix délibéré de porter un soutien aveugle à Kigali dans ses errements récurrents dans l'Est de la RDC, était à la base de l'instabilité permanente dans l'ensemble des Grands Lacs africains. Des preuves accumulées par des experts onusiens et le département d'Etat ont convaincu Washington d'adopter une attitude de fermeté envers Kigali. Depuis, le ton a radicalement changé dans les rapports entre les deux capitales.

Cernant à sa juste mesure les égarements de Kigali, Washington ne rate plus la moindre occasion pour épingler le régime rwandais, chaque fois qu'il s'agit des attitudes ayant un impact négatif sur la quiétude dans les Grands Lacs africains. Les communiqués alternent avec les mises en garde, les coups de fil et autres pressions.

Sans ambages, les autorités américaines ont réagi à la menace rwandaise de renoncer à l'accord d'Addis-Abeba visant le retour durable de la paix et la stabilité dans les Grands Lacs.

Par son ambassadeur accrédité à Kinshasa, les USA ont fermement invité les autorités rwandaises à ne point se dérober des obligations librement souscrits dans le cadre de la recherche de la paix dans la région des Grands Lacs sous l'égide du secrétaire général des Nations unies.

Prenant prétexte sur la participation des représentants des rebelles rwandais FDLR à une rencontre auprès de la très respectée congrégation Sant Egidio, Kigali a menacé de retourner à s'adonner à la déstabilisation de la sous-région afin de traquer justement les FDLR que la communauté internationale est déterminée à neutraliser par tous les moyens possibles. Notamment la voie pacifique du désarmement volontaire !

Voyant venir Kigali dans ses vellétés déstabilisatrices, les USA ont donné de la voix. Pas question pour Kigali de quitter le train de l'accord-cadre conclu à Addis-Abeba. Ce document signé par onze Etats de la sous-région assigne quelques obligations au Rwanda, notamment la non-ingérence dans les affaires de ses voisins principalement la RD Congo.

D'ailleurs, la voie pacifique de recherche de la paix et la stabilité vaut plus que l'anéantissement militaire embouché par Kigali. L'économie de sang concerne les Congolais et les casques bleus de la Brigade d'intervention. S'il y a une possibilité de ne plus laisser une goutte de sang supplémentaire coulé, tout dirigeant responsable applaudirait de deux mains.

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La pression américaine qui s'exerce sur Kigali à ce sujet rentre justement dans la démarche visant la neutralisation définitive des FDLR de manière pacifique.

Accord-cadre : Le régime de Kigali irrite Washington

Kongo Times

10 juillet 2014 - Les Etats-Unis ne sont pas contents de l'attitude du Rwanda qui ne se montre pas disposé à collaborer pleinement à la mise en œuvre de l'Accord-cadre d'Addis-Abeba. Irrité, Washington l'a fait savoir à Kigali par le biais de son ambassadeur en RDC, James Swan. Il l'a appelé à revenir aux bons sentiments. Cette mise en garde des Etats-Unis vaut également pour tous les pays signataires de cet accord, lesquels sont invités à accélérer la mise en œuvre du processus de paix dans la région des Grands Lacs.

[En savoir plus>>](#)

Global Forum on Women in Parliaments in Rwanda

10 July 2014 - The Global Forum convened by Women in Parliaments (WIP) in Kigali, and co-organized by UN Women, was held from 1 to 3 July 2014. The meeting brought together 200 women leaders from 51 different countries who addressed issues of peace, reconciliation and security, goals for the post-2015 agenda and the impact of gender-sensitive constitutions and legislation.

The programme included a keynote speech by Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairwoman of the African Union Commission, and a joint session with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Advocacy Group, where Co-Chairs President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and Prime Minister Erna Solberg of Norway spoke about the importance of gender equality in the MDGs, and the need to renew our efforts to see change before the 2015 deadline.

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ISS: The uncertain future of peacebuilding in Burundi

Written by **Gustavo de Carvalho**, Senior Researcher and **Liezelle Kumalo**, Intern, Conflict Management and Peacebuilding Division, ISS Pretoria

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10 July 2014 - Burundi has enjoyed a short period of peace since 2010, but this could turn out to be the lull before the storm. Recent events paint a picture of growing tension between the government of Burundi and the UN Office in Burundi (BNUB).

Burundi also faces an increasingly complicated situation with tension mounting ahead of the country's 2015 elections, which could potentially obstruct peacebuilding processes in the country and undermine the progress that has already been made.

[Learn more>>](#)

Peace determinants in the Great Lakes: wealth or democracy?

The New Times (Rwanda)

The author is a researcher in Diplomacy and International Law based in the United Kingdom

10 July 2014 - The Great Lakes Region has been blighted by civil wars and conflict over many decades; and also has been the theatre of many activities by the United Nations whose stated goal is to engage in efforts to bring peace and stability.

Some of the continuous and deliberate associations with the region include genocide, political instability, armed conflicts, porous borders and humanitarian crisis; and of course along with tensions over natural resources and other potentially destabilising factors.

The region is also renowned for its beauty, rolling green volcanic hills surrounding vast lakes, large mineral resource deposits and recently discovered oil reserves all of which, if used effectively, could turn the economic and political tides of the region for good.

The nagging question, however, is whether the people of this region can ever attain peace. Some would say, the conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo has ended since the M23 was militarily defeated. But does the silence of guns mean peace?

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Uganda should carry out electoral reforms to achieve credible polls

By Kristian Schmidt, Daily Monitor (Uganda)

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H.E. Kristian Schmidt is the Head of the EU Delegation to Uganda. This opinion was co-authored by H.E. Alain Hanssen, Ambassador of Belgium, H.E. Dan E. Frederiksen, Ambassador of Denmark, H.E. Sophie Makame, Ambassador of France, H.E. Stefano Antonio Dejak, Ambassador of Italy, H.E. Alphons Hennekens, Ambassador of the Netherlands, H.E. Urban Andersson, Ambassador of Sweden, H.E. Alison Blackburne, High Commissioner of United Kingdom, Ms Simone Knapp, Head of the Austrian cooperation office, Mr Donal Cronin, Acting Ambassador of Ireland, and Mr Joachim Düster, Acting Ambassador of Germany.

10 July 2014 - Democracy is a system in which citizens participate equally in political decision making, where all sovereignty is vested in the people and where government is “of the people, by the people and for the people”.

Elections are at the heart of this self-determination. While elections alone are not a sufficient condition for democracy, they are a necessary one. Through elections the people choose their leaders and hold them accountable for their policies and their conduct in office – it is an orderly process of leadership succession.

[Learn more>>](#)

Vindicated at last, but is it the end of the story?

The New Times (Rwanda)

10 July 2014 - During commemorations to mark the 20th anniversary of the Genocide last April, President Paul Kagame tickled many when he belted out in French, “Les faits sont têtus” (truth is stubborn); the significance of the statement escaped many.

Truth can never be stifled forever, no matter which sophistication is used to dissimulate it. Now it has come to haunt some sections of the French judiciary, especially Judge Jean-Louis Bruguière.

His shameless attempt to fabricate evidence - albeit in the most primitive manner - to implicate current Rwandan government officials for the shooting down of President Juvenal Habyarimana’s plane has now been embarrassingly torn apart.

His successors in the investigations, Marc Trevidic and Nathalie Poux, shifted blame where it has always been suspected - Habyarimana’s extremist inner circle.

The political manipulations that accompanied the case and the mass media campaign to drive home the judicial fallacy that Bruguière cooked up, was an indication that people high up in the French political and military establishment had something to hide.

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Now that the bubble has burst, will the real culprits be brought to book? Will the wrongly accused individuals receive justice for being accused, judged and condemned in the court of public opinion?

Whatever the outcome, truth has won the day. Rwanda's tireless efforts to clear its name have paid off, but will the real conspirators have the courage to look themselves in the mirror or are they cooking up something else? As the saying goes, it's a waiting game.

RCA: un long processus vers le dialogue et la réconciliation

AFP/Marco Longari

Par RFI

10 juillet 2014 - C'est un rendez-vous important qui se dessine pour la Centrafrique avec le Forum de réconciliation nationale et de dialogue politique qui doit se tenir du 21 au 23 juillet à Brazzaville au Congo. Un évènement qui réunira toutes les parties prenantes au conflit, mais avant d'en arriver là, un certain nombre d'étapes sont attendues.

[En savoir plus>>](#)

Will clashes in Central African Republic thwart UN peace mission?

By Paul Ronan in the *Christian Science Monitor*

10 July 2014 - New fighting in CAR between Ugandan troops and Seleka rebels could also jeopardize what has been a bright spot in the fight against Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army.

Reuters reports that Ugandan and Seleka troops are clashing in eastern Central African Republic, leaving scores of Seleka soldiers and several Ugandan troops dead.

The clashes have taken place near Nzako, a small mining town located in the CAR's Mbomou prefecture that has been a hotbed of Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) activity in the past year.

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Somalia sacks security chiefs

Independent on Line (South Africa)

Mogadishu, 10 July 2014 - Somalia's president sacked his police and intelligence chiefs on Wednesday after Islamist Shebab fighters launched a major assault against his palace for the second time this year.

“Both the police and intelligence chiefs were replaced, and the minister for the national security was named,” Information Minister Mustafa Duhulow said.

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South Sudanese president sets conditions for Ugandan military withdrawal

Sudan Tribune (Paris)

July 9, 2014 (Juba) – South Sudanese president Salva Kiir has set the conditions for the withdrawal of Ugandan troops from the country, saying the latter will only leave if a permanent peace agreement is attained.

President Kiir made the remarks on Wednesday at an occasion marking the third anniversary of the country's independence from neighbouring Sudan, from which it seceded on 9 July 2011.

[Learn more>>](#)

EU sanctions two South Sudanese military generals from rival factions

Sudan Tribune (Paris)

July 10, 2014 (Brussels) - The Council of the European Union announced on Thursday it would impose sanctions against two military generals responsible for obstructing the South Sudan peace process, which is being mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

“Two persons responsible for violating the ceasefire agreement will be targeted with a travel ban and a freeze of their assets in the European Union. At the same time, an existing arms embargo against South Sudan will remain in place,” said a statement released by the EU.

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