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



# MEDIA MONITORING

**25 August 2014**

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### En tournée dans la région, Saïd Djinnit se lance à la découverte des Grands Lacs

Source : Le Potentiel (RDC)

**22 août 2014** - Le nouveau représentant de l'ONU pour la région des Grands Lacs, Saïd Djinnit, a entamé mercredi 20 août dernier sa première tournée dans cette vaste zone instable d'Afrique centrale, où il entend favoriser l'établissement d'une paix durable, a annoncé l'Organisation des Nations unies dans un communiqué.

M. Djinnit est « en visite dans la région du 20 août au 15 septembre prochain » et commence sa tournée par « Nairobi, capitale du Kenya, où se trouve son bureau », a déclaré à la presse Charles Bambara, chargé de l'information publique à la Monusco, cité par l'AFP.

« L'objectif de cette tournée (...) est de se mettre en contact avec les différentes autorités » des pays des Grands Lacs et de « rencontrer aussi les partenaires dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de l'accord cadre d'Addis-Abeba pour la paix, la sécurité et la coopération dans la région », selon M. Bambara.

Son programme n'est pas encore clairement arrêté, mais M. Djinnit devrait se rendre du 25 au 26 août à Addis-Abeba (Ethiopie), siège de l'Union africaine (UA) et du 28 au 29 août à Kinshasa, a déclaré à l'AFP son porte-parole Penangnini Touré, basé à Nairobi. « Kigali, Kampala et les autres destinations suivront plus tard, en septembre », a-t-il précisé. Les autres pays qu'il doit visiter sont l'Angola, l'Afrique du Sud et la Tanzanie.

Fin février 2013, onze pays africains ont signé à Addis-Abeba un accord selon lequel ils s'engagent à ne soutenir aucune rébellion dans l'Est congolais, en proie à une instabilité chronique depuis vingt ans et où sévissait alors le Mouvement du 23 mars (M23), une rébellion soutenue par le Rwanda et l'Ouganda, selon l'ONU.

[De] son côté, la RDC devait s'engager à mener diverses réformes (politique, sécurité, social...). Mais le M23, dont la branche militaire a été vaincue début novembre 2013 après un an et demi

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d'existence, a plusieurs fois accusé Kinshasa de ne pas respecter sa part du contrat. Elle accuse aussi le gouvernement de ne pas respecter les déclarations de Nairobi qui, en décembre dernier, avaient formellement mis fin au conflit entre Kinshasa et le M23.

M. Djinnit devrait organiser une « rencontre de planification et du lancement de la mise œuvre des déclarations » de Nairobi, a déclaré à l'AFP Bertrand Bisimwa, président politique du M23, en exil à Kampala. Selon lui, il faudrait « rassembler les différents intervenants: médiateur, facilitateur, envoyés spéciaux et les deux signataires (Kinshasa et le M23) pour planifier et conduire la mise en œuvre effective » des accords.

La nomination de l'Algérien Saïd Djinnit, comme représentant spécial pour la région des Grand Lacs, a été annoncée le 17 juillet. Nommé par le secrétaire général de l'ONU Ban Ki-moon, il succède à l'Irlandaise Mary Robinson, devenue envoyée spéciale de l'ONU pour le changement climatique.

## RDC: l'opposition propose à Kabila de partir avec les honneurs

Source : RFI

**21 août 2014** - Alors que la majorité présidentielle se divise sur la question d'un troisième mandat du président Joseph Kabila - contesté par le Mouvement social pour le renouveau (MSR), deuxième force de la majorité - le dirigeant du Mouvement du renouveau (opposition), Clément Kanku, a annoncé qu'il allait déposer au Parlement, dès la prochaine rentrée en octobre, un projet de loi destiné à renforcer le statut des anciens chefs d'Etat. Il part du principe que cela encouragera l'actuel dirigeant à céder la place.

Non à la révision constitutionnelle, mais il est important de rassurer le président Kabila sur son avenir : c'est en substance le message du patron du Mouvement du renouveau. Clément Kanku l'a déclaré au cours de sa conférence de presse : outre le statut de sénateur à vie prévu dans la Constitution, les anciens présidents de la République devraient bénéficier des garanties d'immunité et de sécurité après la fin de leur mandat.

*« C'est une chose dont nous devons discuter au niveau du Parlement et nous allons donc faire cette proposition de loi pour que le chef de l'Etat actuel, Joseph Kabila, - qui nous espérons sera le premier chef de l'Etat à faire cette passation de pouvoirs pacifique - puisse rester au Congo [après son départ du pouvoir]. Clément Kanku ne veut pas que le président actuel se sente « obligé de se maintenir à tout prix », une démarche qui entraînerait le pays « dans une autre spirale s'instabilité ».*

Côté majorité, le Mouvement social pour le renouveau (MSR) n'est pas d'accord avec le Parti du peuple pour la reconstruction et la démocratie (PPRD) et d'autres partis de la famille politique qui

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militent pour un troisième mandat de Joseph Kabila. Le MSR a obtenu la convocation dans les tous prochains jours d'un débat sous la direction du président Kabila.

**Le ministre des Télécommunications présente son association Kabila désir**

C'est dans ce contexte de désaccord que le ministre des Télécommunications et des Nouvelles technologies de l'information en République démocratique du Congo, Tryphon Kin-Kiey Mulumba a présenté hier son association Kabila désir, lancée fin juillet, à la communauté congolaise de Bruxelles. Une « *avant-campagne* » pour soutenir le président actuel Joseph Kabila qui constitutionnellement ne pourra plus se représenter après ses deux mandats consécutifs.

**« Le but c'est de dire aux Congolais et dire au monde qu'il y a une envie de Kabila. Le Congolais veut voir Kabila réaliser son œuvre. Le Congo offre aujourd'hui le meilleur taux de croissance qui puisse être. On est à 8,8%, bientôt on va être à 9%. Donc on est dans le top des tops. »**

Tryphon Kin-Kiey Mulumba Ministre congolais des Télécommunications et des Nouvelles technologies de l'information.

**RDC : Dans deux ans, la MONUSCO s'en va ! Source : Kongo Times**

**25 August 2014** - Le Représentant spécial du secrétaire général de l'Onu en République démocratique du Congo (RDC) a annoncé lundi 18 août 2014 à Kinshasa le retrait de la Mission de stabilisation en RDC (Monusco) du territoire congolais « à la fin du cycle électoral » constitutionnellement prévu fin 2016.

« La Monusco se retire de la RDC dans deux ans, à la fin du cycle électoral », a déclaré Martin Kobler au sortir d'un entretien avec le ministre de l'Intérieur, Sécurité, Décentralisation et Affaires coutumières, Richard Muyej.

Sa réponse devrait rassurer tous ceux qui, au sein tant de la classe politique que de la société civile et de la population, se sont toujours interrogés sur la « longue présence de la Monusco en RDC ».

**« Stratégie de sortie clairement décidée »**

Par sa résolution 2147 du 28 mars 2014, le Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies a « prorogé le mandat de la MONUSCO jusqu'au 31 mars 2015 en République démocratique du Congo et de sa brigade d'intervention à titre exceptionnel et sans créer de précédent ni sans préjudice des principes convenus du maintien de la paix ».

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Ce mandat, a-t-il expliqué, doit s'exercer « dans les limites de l'effectif maximum autorisé de 19 815 militaires, 760 observateurs militaires et officiers d'état-major, 391 policiers et 1 050 membres d'unités de police constituées.

Dans la même résolution, le Conseil de sécurité a « noté la nécessité d'une stratégie de sortie clairement définie et a décidé que les reconfigurations futures de la MONUSCO et de son mandat seront fonction de l'évolution de la situation sur le terrain et des progrès vers la réalisation des objectifs fixés conformément aux trois priorités énoncées dans le concept stratégique ».

Il s'agit, a-t-il précisé, de « la protection des civils, la stabilisation et de l'appui à la mise en œuvre de l'Accord-cadre pour la République démocratique du Congo et la région ».

Une année auparavant, le Conseil de sécurité avait adopté la résolution créant une brigade spéciale chargée de combattre les groupes armés opérant dans l'Est de la République démocratique du Congo, au cours de sa séance du 28 mars 2013.

« La brigade spéciale d'intervention sera formée de trois bataillons d'infanterie, assistés d'une compagnie d'artillerie et d'une compagnie de reconnaissance et de forces spéciales. Elle comptera 3 069 hommes, venus d'Afrique du Sud, de Tanzanie et du Malawi, et sera opérationnelle d'ici juillet », avait indiqué le secrétaire général adjoint de l'Onu chargé des opérations de maintien de la paix, Hervé Ladsous.

« Créée pour une période initiale d'un an », elle est basée à Goma (Nord-Kivu) et reste sous l'autorité du commandant en chef de la Monusco.

Ainsi, grâce à des opérations offensives et ciblées, seule ou aux côtés de l'armée congolaise « dans le but de stopper le développement de tous les groupes armés, les neutraliser et les désarmer », elle avait contribué à la défaite militaire de la rébellion du M23 le 5 novembre 2013.

La MONUSCO avait remplacé la précédente opération de maintien de la paix (MONUC) le 1er juillet 2010, selon le mandat établi par la résolution 1925 (2010) du Conseil de sécurité du 28 mai.

Ce changement reflétant la nouvelle phase dans laquelle le pays était entré, la MONUSCO avait été « autorisée à recourir à tous les moyens nécessaires pour mener à bien son mandat concernant, entre autres, la protection des civils, du personnel humanitaire et des défenseurs des droits de l'homme immédiatement menacés de violence physique, ainsi que le soutien du gouvernement de la République démocratique du Congo dans ses efforts de stabilisation et de consolidation de la paix ».

Le Conseil de sécurité avait alors « autorisé à la MONUSCO un effectif maximal de 19 815 soldats, 760 observateurs militaires, 391 fonctionnaires de police et 1 050 membres d'unités de police constituées, en sus des composantes civile, judiciaire et pénitentiaire appropriées ».

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« Les reconfigurations futures de la MONUSCO seront fonction de l'évolution de la situation sur le terrain et de la réalisation de ces objectifs : achever les opérations militaires dans les Kivus et la Province Orientale; améliorer les moyens dont dispose le Gouvernement pour protéger efficacement la population; et renforcer l'autorité de l'État sur l'ensemble du territoire », avait-il décidé.

**La MONUC**

La MONUSCO avait remplacé le 1er juillet 2010 la Mission de l'Organisation des Nations unies en République démocratique du Congo (MONUC) créée en 1999 pour s'interposer entre les parties au conflit militaire enclenché en août 1998 entre le gouvernement de Kinshasa du président Laurent-Désiré Kabila, le RCD, le MLC et les autres entités belligérantes (RCD-K/ML, RCD /N) signataires de l'Accord de paix de Lusaka (Zambie).

La MONUC était, par nature, un organe subsidiaire du Conseil de sécurité, conformément à l'article 29 de la Charte et, par fonction, une opération de maintien de la paix.

Comme telle, elle n'avait pas pour vocation, au regard de son mandat à caractère dynamique, de mener des opérations militaires contre l'une des parties au conflit, mais d'aider celles - ci à mettre en œuvre les accords de paix qu'elles ont signés. D'où, c'est une opération non coercitive.

A ce titre, la MONUC, dont la mise en place répondait justement à une demande expresse des signataires de l'Accord de Lusaka, différait d'une opération entreprise au titre du chapitre VII de la Charte, laquelle est coercitive, décidée et mise en oeuvre unilatéralement par les Nations unies.

La création de la MONUC faisait suite au déploiement, autorisé par le Conseil de sécurité dans ses résolutions 1258 du 6 août 1999 et 1273 du 5 novembre 1999, du personnel militaire de liaison des Nations unies ainsi que du personnel civil, politique, humanitaire et administratif avec pour mandat, essentiellement, de travailler en collaboration avec la CMM.

« En bref, les grands axes de l'action de la MONUC ont été centrés entre autres, depuis sa création, sur l'observation du cessez-le-feu, la vérification du retrait des troupes étrangères, le programme de désarmement, démobilisation, rapatriement, réinstallation et réinsertion (DDRRR) des membres des groupes armés étrangers, l'appui à la réforme du secteur de la sécurité notamment l'unification de l'armée, la formation de la police, la normalisation des relations entre la RDC et les Etats voisins et, bien sûr, la préparation des élections », rappelle un chercheur.

Il fait observer que « la Mission avait également joué un rôle dans la mise en œuvre de l'Accord global et inclusif sur la transition en RDC conclu à Suc City (Afrique du Sud) entre les parties congolaises, notamment, en apportant son soutien logistique à la transition et en assurant la sécurité des acteurs politiques à travers le déploiement de sa force neutre à Kinshasa ».

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## Troops Pledged for East African Standby Force

**Kigali, August 22, 2014** - Defense chiefs from 10 East African countries have pledged a total of 5,000 troops to a new regional standby force for deployment by December.

Rwanda's army spokesman said the officials made the pledges at a meeting in Kigali.

The African Union has been working on a plan for 10 years for each of the continent's regions to have its own peacekeeping force on standby in case of emergencies.

### Target date set

The A.U. is aiming for all the forces to be in place by December 2015, but some regions are more advanced than others. The East African region's heads of state, 10 of whom are signed up to the plan, decided in June they want their regional standby force to be operational by December of this year.

"The East African standby force heads of state decided that due to the insecurity that is prevailing in the East African region the member countries need to take urgent steps," said Rwanda's military spokesman, General Joseph Nzabamwita.

In the past year war has broken out in South Sudan and conflict has spread to Kenya's coastal region, while more recently security has deteriorated in Somalia.

Nzabamwita said the heads of state sent military and security officials to Kigali this week, where the target number of troops and police was agreed to.

"We also pledged four police units of between 140 and 170 men each, so we got all the troops that we wanted and the police officers that we wanted to put at the disposal of the organization to be able to deploy at any one time," Nzabamwita said.

He said Burundi has pledged a battalion of light infantry. Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda have each pledged a motorized battalion and Kenya a mechanized battalion, while Comoros, Djibouti and Somalia are each contributing a squadron or company.

### Urgent timing

The Rwandan defense minister, General James Kabarebe, told defense chiefs at the meeting on Friday they have a short time frame within which to get the force ready.

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The East African plan is for each member state to contribute to a fund, which would enable the regional force to put boots on the ground in a crisis zone, within 14 days if necessary. Thereafter other donors' help would be needed to maintain operations, but the region should put up its own funding initially.

It is intended to hold an EASF funding conference with donors in the first half of next year.

"Once we have the funding, then you are sure of sustainability, and the most important thing is that the leaders are planning to ensure that member states contribute, and donors. So we can only hope that we get all the support and all the finances as soon as possible," Nzambamwita said.

U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power said last month that regional organizations in Africa are playing a more central role in peacekeeping than ever before, and that, as they step forward, they deserve full support.

## East African rapid reaction force ready by December – officials

Source: Reuters

**Kigali, 22 August 2014** - A long-delayed east African rapid reaction force - meant to help stamp out unrest from the Seychelles to Rwanda - will be up and running in December, senior regional officials said on Friday.

The idea of a joint force for the region - home to some of the continent's most promising economies, but also some of its least stable countries, including Somalia - was first mooted in 2004, but has been beset by delays and funding shortfalls.

The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF), with 5,000 soldiers from 10 nations, will help the region deal with its own rebellions, civil wars and coups, and reduce its reliance on foreign troops, officials at a meeting of defence minister said.

"This is aimed at making sure that we keep our own security. The U.N. can come and complement, but we want to make sure that we take charge," said Rwanda's Defence Forces spokesman, Brig Gen. Joseph Nzabamwita.

The force's first joint military exercise training will be in Ethiopia in November, he added.

The force will be set up, funded and staffed by the 10 states - Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Seychelles, Comoros, Djibouti and Sudan, said officials at the event.

Its actual deployment would have to be authorised by the African Union said Nzabamwita.



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"Of course there always challenges. There are challenges of coordination. There are challenges of funding. But we'll surmount all these. We've come a long way," said Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Defence, Raychelle Omamo.

Uganda sent its troops into South Sudan to back the government there after fighting erupted in December, pitting President Salva Kiir's forces against supporters of Riek Machar, his former deputy.

African Union peacekeepers have been trying to stabilise Somalia which has not had an effective central government for the past two decades. The Somalia peacekeeping mission is under the authorisation of the United Nations, which helps fund the troops.

More than 90 percent of the AU's peace and security efforts, including its mission in Somalia, are funded by external actors such as the European Union and the United States.

## Eastern Africa standby force set for December

Source: IPP Media

By Guardian on Sunday Correspondent

**24 August 2014** – While East African Community (EAC) member states are in advanced talks to establish a security council within the EAC Secretariat, ten states in the eastern part of Africa have agreed to form an Eastern African Standby Force (EASF) to be ready before end of this year.

International media reports say that the ten countries lined up to contribute units to the new standby force include EAC members with exception of Tanzania, with the ten countries listed as Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Seychelles, Comoros, Djibouti and Sudan. South Sudan was left out of mention, apparently as it doesn't have a stable government at present.

Reached for comment, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of East African Cooperation, Joyce Mapunjo said that the countries have decided to form such a force depending on the regional groups they belong to.

"You know we in Tanzania are members of SADC and EAC the other countries you have just mentioned are members of COMESA and some are in IGAD.

So I am not actually sure why they are forming that standby force," she said, elaborating that Tanzania has participated in many peace keeping missions and has contributed a lot, without having to belong to a collective defence mechanism.



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On Friday, the Deputy Minister for the Ministry of East African Cooperation, Dr. Abdullah Saadalla was quoted saying the five EAC partner states have not been engaged in such talks, affirming that anyone who suggests the need for the move “must have another motive for forming such a force.”

When reached for comment, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, John Haule said he was not aware of the matter because he was on leave.

He advised the reporter to seek the help of his deputy, Rajabu Gamaha who was also reached but could also provide a response as he was attending a funeral ceremony in Singida.

But international media agencies quoted senior regional officials Friday that the rapid reaction force is meant to help stamp out unrest from the Seychelles to Rwanda.

The idea of a joint force for the region - home to some of the continent's most promising economies, but also some of its least stable countries, including Somalia - was first mooted in 2004, but has been beset by delays and funding shortfalls.

The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF), with 5,000 soldiers from 10 nations, will help the region deal with its own rebellions, civil wars and coups, and reduce its reliance on French or US intervention or creating ad hoc regional contingents which take time to put together after initial contingency accords, often when the situation is disastrous.

Defence ministers from participating countries said that the move is aimed at making sure that African countries keep their own security. “The U.N. can come and complement, but we want to make sure that we take charge,” said Rwanda Defense Forces spokesman, Brig Gen. Joseph Nzabamwita.

The countries pledged three motorised battalions, a mechanised battalion and a light infantry battalion shared out between the contributing states.

Burundi contributed a light infantry battalion of 850 officers and men, 15 military observers starting from the rank of Major upwards, 140 Individual Police Officers (IPOs), and 36 civilians, while Ethiopia committed one motorized battalion (comprised of military trucks, armored personnel carriers, among other logistics, for mobility purposes), a signal or communication troop, a combat engineer company, 15 military observers, once Formed-up Police Unit (FPU), 120 IPOs and 40 civilians.

On its part, Kenya committed to providing a communications squadron, one mechanized battalion (including tank and armored personnel carriers), one level two hospital, 15 military observers, one FPU, 100 IPOs, and 40 civilians.

Rwanda, the current chair of the regional grouping, offered to provide one motorized battalion, one squadron of special forces, one level 2 hospital, 15 military observers, one FPU, 100 IPs, and 47 civilians, while Uganda committed one signal/communications platoon, one motorized

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battalion, one tank squadron (company), an artillery platoon, a platoon of command engineers, 15 military observers, one FPU, 60 IPOs and 40 civilians.

Comoros, Djibouti, Seychelles and Somalia all contributed personnel and equipment while Sudan pledged to make their commitments known later in the year.

These commitments were sealed through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the respective defence ministers in a meeting that ended in Kigali on Friday.

"This amounts to a very important step. It is an unprecedented achievement in the African continent," Rwanda's Defence and Military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Nzabamwita was quoted telling the Saturday Times of Rwanda.

The EASF Coordination Mechanism (EASFCOM), located in Nairobi, serves as the Secretariat for policy organs, structures and activities.

The Planning Element (PLANELM), also located in Nairobi, serves as a multi-national and multidimensional full time planning headquarters for EASF within the framework of the African Standby Force.

Command headquarters are based in Ethiopia. The force's first joint military exercise training will be in Ethiopia in November, he specified.

The force will be set up, funded and staffed by the 10 states - Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Seychelles, Comoros, Djibouti and Sudan, said officials at the event.

Its actual deployment would have to be authorized by the African Union, said Nzabamwita.

"Of course there are always challenges. There are challenges of coordination, challenges of funding. But we'll surmount all these. We've come a long way," said Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Defense, Raychelle Omamo.

African Union peacekeepers have been trying to stabilize Somalia which has not had an effective central government for the past two decades. The Somalia peacekeeping mission is under the authorization of the United Nations, which largely funds the troops.

More than 90 percent of the AU's peace and security efforts, including its mission in Somalia, are funded by external actors such as the European Union and the United States.

## **Coopération régionale: la «force africaine en attente» se dessine**

Source : RFI via PressAfrik

**25 août 2014** - A Kigali, à l'issue d'une réunion de cinq jours, les dix Etats devant composer la future « force est-africaine en attente » se sont engagés à rendre opérationnelle cette brigade

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régionale de maintien de la paix d'ici décembre 2014. Cette force est-africaine est l'une des cinq forces régionales de maintien de la paix qui doivent composer la future force africaine en attente (FAA) qui peine à voir le jour.

Cet engagement avait déjà été évoqué lors du sommet de Malabo en Guinée équatoriale en juin dernier. Réunis à Kigali cette semaine, les représentants du Burundi, des Comores, de Djibouti, de l'Éthiopie, du Kenya, du Rwanda, des Seychelles, de la Somalie, du Soudan et de l'Ouganda ont signé un protocole d'entente (MOU) afin que la force de maintien de la paix est-africaine soit opérationnelle d'ici décembre 2014, soit un an avant l'échéance normalement fixée à fin 2015, pour la mise en place des cinq brigades régionales. Lors de cette réunion, les États se sont également engagés à fournir des troupes, du personnel policier et civil, soit environ 5000 hommes selon le porte-parole de l'armée rwandaise, Joseph Nzabamwita.

Parmi les contributeurs les plus importants, le Burundi qui devrait notamment fournir un bataillon d'infanterie légère (850 hommes). L'Ouganda, l'Éthiopie, le Rwanda et le Kenya devraient notamment fournir d'un bataillon mécanisé chacun.

Les forces seront basées dans leur pays respectifs et pourront être déployées en cas de crise dans la région « sous 14 jours ». La structure de commandement et surtout le financement de cette force doivent cependant être encore discutés.

Les représentants de la région se sont donnés rendez-vous en octobre au Seychelles pour une prochaine réunion.

## Rwandans mysteriously disappear

Source: The Australian News

**24 August 2014** - Rwandan opposition politician Damascene Munyeshyaka, who went missing on June 27, is just one in a growing list of people who have not been heard of over the past few months and who rights activists believe have been forcibly disappeared.

MUNYESHYAKA, the organisational secretary of the Democratic Green Party, was at a meeting in the eastern district of Bugesera, when he received a phone call.

The caller said he had an urgent message to deliver, according to the party. Munyeshyaka didn't know the caller but left to meet him. He has not been seen since.

Munyeshyaka's daughter, Nice Mahoro, says her father had been persecuted but declined to give details while a police investigation is ongoing.

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His family wonders if his disappearance is connected to his membership in the party, which is described by some observers as the only one in Rwanda that is not under government control.

Dozens of Rwandans have disappeared since March, says Rwanda investigator Carina Tertsakian from Human Rights Watch, which suspects the army and police of sequestering people critical of the regime.

The government denies such allegations and accuses the New York-based rights group of a "politically motivated propaganda campaign" against an administration that its supporters credit with stabilising the country following the 1994 genocide of about 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus by Hutu extremists.

Many fear Munyeshyaka may have suffered a fate similar to that of Andre Kagwa Rwisereka, then vice president of the Democratic Green Party, whose body was found beheaded in July 2010. That came just weeks after journalist Jean-Leonard Rugambage, who worked for a newspaper critical of the government, was shot dead.

More recent disappearances include that of Gustave Makonene, a Transparency International researcher reportedly looking into alleged police corruption, who was found strangled in July 2013.

In August, the chairwoman of Transparency International's Rwanda branch, Marie Immaculee Ingabire, left her office just before a gunman tried to force his way in.

"He obviously wanted to harm me," Ingabire says.

Arrests have been made in some cases, but none has been entirely clarified.

Not all of those who disappear are politicians or activists, Tertsakian said from London. Many are ordinary people who may have aroused suspicions by travelling to neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, where the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) - a Hutu rebel group including genocide perpetrators - plots attacks to be carried out in Rwanda.

Most of those who disappear are not found dead but resurface in court to be tried for security-related offences, Tertsakian said.

Many are found guilty, the activist says, expressing concern that confessions may have been obtained under torture and that some of the accused were not assisted by lawyers.

The Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) came to power after the genocide, which was preceded by a four-year civil war based partly on centuries-old hostilities between the Hutus - who now make up about 85 per cent of the 11.5-million population - and the Tutsis, who make up 15 per cent.

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President Paul Kagame is credited with strengthening the genocide-ravaged economy, with a growth rate of up to 7.5 per cent expected by the African Development Bank in 2014-15.

The government has provided free primary education, extended health care and improved road infrastructure.

Donors feeling guilty over not having prevented the genocide pour more than a billion dollars annually into Rwanda, which gets more than 40 per cent of its budget from aid, according to figures given by Reyntjens.

The Tutsi-controlled administration has maintained tight control over public opinion since it took power in 1994, the professor says, because it is aware of the difficulties of an ethnic minority ruling over the majority.

Reyntjens and human rights activists say the regime uses anti-genocide legislation banning incitation to ethnic hatred to silence critics.

## **Uganda Never Expected To Stay This Long In S. Sudan, Says Defence Minister**

Source: New Vision (Uganda)

**Kampala, 22 August 2014** - Defence Minister Dr Crispus Kiyonga says Uganda never expected its mission in South Sudan to be protracted the way it has turned out to be, while promising the withdrawal of members of the Uganda People's defence Force (UPDF) from the northern neighbour "the moment a regional force effectively takes over from us".

In December last year, Uganda hurriedly sent its army into war-torn South Sudan at the request of its government as Africa's youngest nation teetered on the brink of a civil war and ethnic cleansing.

However, with former vice president-turned rebel chief Dr Riek Machar far from agreeing a peace deal with South Sudan President Salva Kiir, Uganda has become bogged down in the country as regional efforts under the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) pick up steam to deploy Kenyan and Ethiopian forces in South Sudan.

In his response earlier Thursday to queries by members of parliament's Defence and Internal Affairs Committee why financing of the South Sudan mission had not been explicitly provided for under the current fiscal year's budget, Kiyonga said the government expected the mission to be brief.

"During preparations of the current budget it was anticipated that the troops would have returned home by the start of this financial year. However, withdrawal of troops has to be synchronized with IGAD deployment plans which are still ongoing," Kiyonga noted.

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The minister said South Sudan had agreed to foot the bill for fuel, thus relieving Uganda of some financial pressure.

The warring parties in the South Sudan conflict have failed to meet a deadline to form a unity government, despite threats by the international community to charge key actors in the conflict with war crimes and crimes against humanity.

According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the South Sudan conflict has spawned one of the worst humanitarian crises in recent years, uprooting close to a million people in the oil-rich country.

## UN AoC Focuses on Youth & Peace Building

Source: IPS Terra Viva (NY).

By Joel Jaeger

**United Nations, Aug 21 2014 (IPS)** - Speaking to 75 youths representing 75 countries, U.N. Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson offered a sweeping assessment of the United Nations' place in the world and outlined his hopes for the future.

"We are right now in a time when we are testing multilateralism [and] testing international cooperation," Eliasson said. "The whole new global landscape is changing so quickly."

According to Eliasson, the proliferation of information in today's day and age has spurred expectations for immediate results.

"We have to deliver, both nation states and international organizations."

Wednesday's event, Youth and Peacebuilding at the United Nations, was organized as a part of the U.N. Alliance of Civilizations – Education First (UNAOC-EF) Summer School.

Participants in the summer school were selected based on their involvement in intercultural and interfaith dialogue and youth issues. One third of the attendees came from countries in conflict, in a reconciliation process or at high risk of conflict.

In the face of the challenges confronting the United Nations, the Deputy Secretary General identified four sources of hope.

The first was sitting right in front of him. "You are the hope," he said to the young people who had gathered to hear him speak.

He expressed his encouragement at the eagerness and capacity of new generations for positive change.

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Women's empowerment was the second reason why Eliasson expected the future to be brighter than today.

"This century... women will finally for the first time in history play the role that they deserve," he said.

The advancement of science and technology and the promise of international institutions were his last two sources of hope.

The U.N.'s job, according to Eliasson, is to "make a little difference between the world as it is and the world as it should be. I won't say that we can or should even try to close that gap, we won't do that, but we should at least diminish that gap."

Cecile Mazzacurati, Youth and Gender Policy Advisor at the U.N.'s Peacebuilding Support Office, also spoke at the event, directly addressing the topic of youth and peace.

Peace workers often think of young people as perpetrators or victims of violence instead of potential peacebuilders, she said.

"We tend to see... a large youth population as a potential threat and not as a resource and not a demographic dividend that we should build on."

The Security Council has never addressed the nexus of youth, peace and security. However, Mazzacurati said that the Peacebuilding Support Office, along with civil society and NGOs, has created a set of guiding principles for youth participation in peacebuilding. She hoped that the topic would gain more prominence in the future.

UNAOC-EF Summer School participants asked the panellists a number of questions on topics such as violence against journalists, religious extremism, and how to get involved with the U.N., their curiosity and engagement further bolstering the panellists' confidence in the new generation.

## **S. Sudan raises concerns over "unusual" movement of Sudanese army**

Source: Sudan Tribune

**Juba, August 21, 2014** – The South Sudanese army expressed concerns today over what it described as the "unusual" movement of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) within its territory amid signs of brewing tension between the two countries.

"There have been repeated security reports from our forces and the command on ground since May of increased unusual movement of the Sudan Armed Forces. The reports we have been receiving and which we have also verified shows an expansive movement of tanks as well as armoured vehicles towards the areas which are truly, deep inside the territory of the republic of South Sudan," a high-level intelligence officer told Sudan Tribune Thursday.



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The officer, who is not authorised to speak to the media, said the presidency was furnished with a “detailed report”, documenting activities considered to be in breach of the 2012 security deal.

“The office of the president has been furnished with the detailed report documenting all the activities I think constitutes a clear breach of the cooperation agreement, specifically the security arrangement which was part of the general accord”, he observed.

Bol Makueng, a senior South Sudan ruling party (SPLM) official recently claimed the country’s former vice president-turned rebel leader, Riek Machar was in Khartoum to seek support from the Sudanese government.

His comments follow calls from South Sudan urging the government of neighbouring Sudan, from which the South seceded in 2011, to sever all ties with pro-Machar rebels.

However, Sudan denied it was providing military support to South Sudanese rebels who have been engaged in an armed struggle with the government since mid-December of last year when the conflict erupted following a political dispute in the ruling party of the SPLM.

The spokesperson for the Sudanese army, Colonel al-Sawarmi Khaled Sa’ad, maintained last week that a recent two-day visit by the rebel leader to Khartoum came within the framework of Sudan’s mediation efforts aimed at ending the crisis.

The South Sudanese government, however, fell short of directly accusing Sudan of supporting rebel forces, describing it as one of the key players in the ongoing peace process.

Military officers from the fourth division headquarters in Unity state disclosed recently that youth groups in the area spotted two Sudanese soldiers attempting to cut wires and extension cables used by companies within the oil fields. Unity state officials, including the deputy governor, Stephen Mabek Lang, also confirmed the incident.

The soldiers were later flown to the capital, Juba, but their fate remains unknown with observers saying Juba preferred diplomacy on the matter to ensure Khartoum remained neutral in its ongoing conflict.

But whereas the 2012 cooperation agreement allows Juba to use Sudan’s pipelines to export its oil to international markets, Khartoum is impatiently growing irritable of Juba’s behavior, especially with Uganda’s army involvement in the conflict against Machar.

Sudan has long accused the Ugandan government of supporting anti-Khartoum rebel groups while Kampala, on the other hand, believes Khartoum is providing support to the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA).

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## US senator calls for arms embargo on South Sudan

Source: Sudan Tribune

**Washington, August 21, 2014** – The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) should impose a comprehensive arms embargo on South Sudan to prevent further atrocities against civilians, a key US senator said.

“Each day that passes without strong actions from the international community is another day innocents southern Sudanese are a greater risk of a cruel death and possible starvation,” said Edward Royce, the chair of the senate committee on foreign relations in a petition to the US permanent representative to UN Samantha Power.

An estimated 10,000 South Sudanese have been killed and more than one million displaced since violence broke out in the country eight months ago.

Royce, in his August 14th petition, slammed political and military leaders from both the government and the opposition sides for showing “complete” disregard for the South Sudanese people.

“Tragically, each party has placed its personal interests and gains over the life-saving needs of those in South Sudan,” he said, and stressed that a severe man-made humanitarian crisis, including a grave risk of famine, looms over the people of South Sudan,” Royce said in his letter.

He further urged the 15-member council to expeditiously impose stringent sanctions against senior members from South Sudan government and the opposition for violating the agreed ceasefire.

“A UN sanctions regime would complement the administration’s efforts and place additional pressure on both sides of the conflict to change course,” “[South] Sudanese leaders must know that they will be held accountable for gross human rights violations,” said Royce.

The US suspended military assistance to South Sudan soon after the outbreak of violence in December 2013. The European Union has maintained an arms embargo that was first imposed on Sudan in 1994, and was extended to cover South Sudan in 2011.

Both the EU and US government have already slapped sanctions on military generals from both sides of the conflict over their alleged involvement in the country’s conflict.

### MORE CALLS FOR SANCTIONS

Early this month, the US-based advocacy group Human Rights Watch (HRW) called on the Security Council to immediately impose individual sanctions and an arms embargo in the wake of some of the worst crimes against civilians the country has ever witnessed.

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A new report released by HRW entitled South Sudan's New War: Abuses by Government and Opposition Forces found both sides and their allies are responsible for committing "extraordinary acts of cruelty" that amount to war crimes since conflict erupted in the young nation in mid-December last year.

The 92-page report documents how widespread killings of civilians, often based on their ethnicity, and the mass destruction and looting of civilian property, have come to define the conflict.

According to HRW, South Sudan purchased large quantities of weapons since the conflict began, including from China, presumably for use in the fighting.

Amnesty International also called for a comprehensive arms embargo on all parties to the conflict, saying it would prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer of arms to all parties to the conflict in South Sudan, including to all foreign armed forces and groups present in the country.

The UNSC warned in a presidential statement earlier this month that it is prepared, in consultation with IGAD and the African Union (AU) to impose 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".

## **South Sudan rebels say Uganda visit "encouraging"**

Source: Sudan Tribune

**Kampala, August 21, 2014** – Officials of a high level delegation of the South Sudanese rebels led by the former vice-president, Riek Machar, have announced the end of their four-day visit to the Ugandan capital, Kampala, describing it as encouraging.

The delegation led by the deputy chairman of the SPLM-IO, General Alfred Ladu Gore, deputized by the chairman for external relations, Dhieu Mathok, said the dialogue with the top leadership of the Ugandan government would continue with their group in finding a lasting solution to the crisis in South Sudan.

In a press release seen by Sudan Tribune issued on Thursday in Kampala by the rebels chairperson for information and public relations, Mabior Garang de Mabior, the South Sudanese armed opposition group said the objective of the visit was to discuss the prospects for peace in South Sudan.

Mabior, who took part in the delegation, said the mission was facilitated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) which mediates the peace process in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, between the two warring parties.

He said the meeting they conducted while in Kampala were encouraging and would continue.

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“The SPLM/SPLA is encouraged by this meeting, and looks forward to continued dialogue with the Government of Uganda (GoU) to find a lasting peace for the people of the Republic of South Sudan,” partly reads the press release.

The rebels spokesperson did not however clarify the kind of meeting they had held with the Ugandan authorities.

Sources with the knowledge of the meetings however told Sudan Tribune that the rebel delegation met President Yoweri Museveni and other senior officials of government including the minister of foreign affairs and minister of defence, among others.

Mabior pointed out that Uganda had influence on Salva Kiir’s government and that the visit also explored ways the southern neighbouring country could use its influence on Juba to end the war.

“The SPLM/SPLA recognizes the influence that the GoU [Government of Uganda] has on the GRoSS [Government of Republic of South Sudan]; and we believe it can play a positive role in influencing the GoRSS to commit to the ongoing peace process in Addis Ababa,” the statement further reads.

The rebels have been accusing Uganda of interference in the internal conflict which started as a political rivalry within the South Sudan’s ruling party, the SPLM. They have been calling for withdrawal of thousands of Ugandan troops who have been deployed to South Sudan since mid-December and have been fighting alongside president Salva Kiir’s government.

It was not clear from the rebels’ statement whether they discussed with the Ugandan authorities the fate of the Ugandan People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) in South Sudan and the response they received.

Uganda also reportedly demanded payment of millions of dollars by South Sudan of three month arrears in order to continue to support and fight for Kiir’s government.

Analysts say Kampala may want to engage the rebels led by Machar in trying to find a solution for exit strategy.

Rebels said Ugandan troops continued presence in South Sudan constitutes a violation of the cessation of hostilities agreement which the rebels signed with the government on 23 January.

## ARMY ACCUSED OF FRESH ATTACKS

Meanwhile the rebels have also accused the government forces of attacking their positions in Upper Nile state.

Rebels military spokesperson, Brig Lul Ruai Koang, said their forces came under separate attacks on Thursday.

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“This morning 8:00AM-9:00AM, government troops shelled and launched ground attacks on our positions at Dolieb Hills and Papew, Panyikang County in Upper Nile and Khorflus-Pigi County in Jonglei States,” he said in a press release on Thursday.

He alleged that the shelling and attacks occurred while the rebel forces were on morning parade, listening to messages on the opposition group’s proposals on transitional governance, security, economic and finance resource management which the rebels submitted to IGAD mediation team and other stakeholders.

“The latest attacks on our positions is a clear indication that the government and its army has chosen the path to war instead of road to peace,” he added.

Koang however stressed that while the SPLA in opposition reiterated commitment to all agreements signed with the government, it also reserved the right to fight in self-defence and to “implement resistance movement’s containment policy.”

The rebels spokesman further called on IGAD, regional and international partners to persuade president Kiir and army to observe the ceasefire deal between the two warring parties.

## **Les changements climatiques constituent un problème fondamental pour le Burundi (INTERVIEW)**

Source: Agence de presse Xinhua

**25 août 2014** - Les changements climatiques constituent un problème fondamental pour le Burundi dans la mesure où certains de ses aspects compromettent gravement ses efforts de développement humain, indique Jean-Marie Sabushimike, expert en environnement et professeur de Géographie à l'Université du Burundi (UB).

Ce problème est observé principalement dans les domaines de l'agriculture, des infrastructures, de la santé humaine et de l' énergie, affirme M. Sabushimike à Xinhua cette semaine en marge de la première Journée de réflexion scientifique sur le changement climatique au Burundi, organisée sur initiative de l'Institut Géographique du Burundi (IGEBU).

***En savoir plus>>***

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## Centrafrique : un nouveau gouvernement en attendant le dialogue national

Source : Agence d'Information d'Afrique centrale

**23 août 2014** - La présidente de la transition en République centrafricaine, Catherine Samba Panza, a réaffirmé le choix de Mahamat Kamoun comme Premier ministre avec à la clé la formation du nouveau « gouvernement de large ouverture ». L'équipe, composée de 31 membres, a été rendue publique vendredi à Bangui. Face aux protestations exprimées sur le nom du Premier ministre, la présidente de la transition a estimé que les revendications seront prises en compte par le dialogue national annoncé.

*« Tous ceux-là qui ont des revendications à faire valoir ou qui pensent à un recadrage de la transition en cours pourront le faire dans le cadre du dialogue politique national qui se tiendra dans les mois à venir », a insisté la présidente de la transition dans un discours quelques heures avant la publication de la nouvelle équipe gouvernementale. Catherine Samba Panza a dénoncé les « agitations » qui ont suivi le choix de son Premier ministre qu'elle a d'ailleurs confirmé dans ses fonctions. Elle a mis en garde contre « toutes les manipulations qui s'organisent chaque jour pour déstabiliser les autorités de transition. »*

**En savoir plus>>**

## French troops wounded in Central African Republic clash

Source: Reuters

By John Irish; Editing by Andrew Heavens

**Paris, 21 August 2014** - Three French soldiers were wounded when fighters attacked them with grenades and an anti-tank missile in Central African Republic's capital, the army said, more than a year after a coup plunged the impoverished country into sectarian violence.

Paris said its troops came under fire on Wednesday as they patrolled Bangui's PK-5 neighbourhood, home to about 2,000 Muslims who have braved assaults by Christian militias and resisted pressure to disarm.

The French force was caught up in fighting between militias and the country's separate European Union force (EUFOR), which locals had accused of shooting a man dead.

Paris sent more troops into its former colony after Seleka, a coalition of mostly Muslim rebels and some fighters from neighbouring Chad and Sudan, seized power in March 2013.

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Seleka's rule was marked by abuses that prompted a backlash from the 'anti-balaka' Christian militia. Cycles of tit-for-tat violence continued despite Seleka leader Michel Djotodia's resignation from the presidency in January.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement said on Wednesday one of its volunteers, Bienvenu Bandios, was shot dead while evacuating casualties from PK-5.

Medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said its team in the General Hospital had received 31 people injured from gunshot wounds.

The French army said the lives of the three soldiers were not in danger "but two were evacuated back to France. The situation in Bangui is now calm but tense."

About 2,000 French and 6,000 African Union peacekeepers have been deployed but they have struggled to help a weak transitional government stamp its authority on the mineral-rich country. A 12,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force is due to start deploying next month.