

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

---

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



# **MEDIA MONITORING**

**7 August 2014**

---

**Remarks [of Secretary of State John Kerry] with Democratic Republic of the Congo President Joseph Kabila before their Meeting**

Source: MENAFN Press/African Press Organization (APO)

John Kerry

Secretary of State

Treaty Room

Washington DC

**August 4 2014**

SECRETARY KERRY: I don't think we need these big formal podiums but let me it's my great pleasure to welcome President Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo to Washington. I'm very very happy he's here. He received me in May on my trip to the D.R.C. We then talked about the efforts that he is making with respect to strengthening democracy in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

And we're very grateful to him for the efforts that he has made the leadership that they've offered to help deal with the problems of the FDLR and the problems with the M23 group which with his military effort and MONUSCO they were able to help disarm. That process is continuing and it is a process that will help bring peace and stability ultimately to the region.

We also talked about economic development and the future. We have a lot to work on and we look forward to a good conversation today. Thank you Mr. President for being with us. Thank you.

PRESIDENT KABILA: Thanks a lot Secretary of State. Of course first of all I am myself and my delegation glad and happy that we finally meet again in Washington as I promised I would come for this particular summit. And I'm glad that on the sidelines of this particular summit that we're

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

going to raise once again the three or four issues in as far as the situation is concerned not only in the Congo but the region.

But it's worth noting that since we met I believe one two months ago the situation has continued to evolve and move forward in the right direction and that now the Congo is living the era of peace and that we are moving towards stability and long-term stability in all sectors not only security but also economic development and the development of the region as a whole.

So once again I'm glad that we're here as per the invitation and I hope that in our discussions we definitely are going to raise those issues and chart the way forward in our relations. Thanks a lot.

SECRETARY KERRY: Thank you my friend. Thank you sir.

## **U.S. Urges Congo Leader Not to Run for Third Term**

Source: New York Times

By Michael R. Gordon

**Kinshasa, 4 May 2014** - Secretary of State John Kerry on Sunday publicly urged the president of the Democratic Republic of Congo to respect his nation's Constitution and not run for another term in 2016.

There has been speculation among the political opposition that President Joseph Kabila, who has been in office since 2001, might seek to have the Constitution amended so that he could run for a third term in office.

"Clearly, the United States believes that a country is strengthened, that people have respect for their nation and their government, when a constitutional process is properly implemented and upheld by that government," Mr. Kerry said in a news conference here.

"He has an opportunity, which he understands, to be able to put the country on a continued path to democracy," he added.

It was not clear how hard Mr. Kerry pressed his case in his closed-door meeting Sunday morning with Mr. Kabila at his white marble presidential palace. But Russell D. Feingold, the American special envoy for the region, was more explicit in a briefing for reporters Sunday morning.

"The people of this country have a right to have their Constitution respected," Mr. Feingold said. "The Constitution here provides for two terms."

Mr. Kabila had no comment on the American statements and has not said whether he might seek to have the Constitution changed.

Mr. Kerry, who has promoted the importance of democratic values during a swing through Africa, also took up security issues during his meeting with Mr. Kabila.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

One of the chief rebel groups that Mr. Kabila has faced, the M23 militia, ordered its fighters to lay down their arms last year after suffering a series of military setbacks and after Rwanda, under pressure from the United States, curtailed its support for the group. A peace agreement was signed in December in Nairobi, Kenya.

But some 2,000 members of the group fled to Rwanda and Uganda. Congo wants them to return so that it can either reintegrate them into the government under an amnesty or put some on trial for war crimes. A senior State Department official traveling with Mr. Kerry asserted that Rwanda and Uganda still supported their return but that Mr. Kabila's government had been slow to carry out the agreement.

The United States also wants Mr. Kabila to pursue the Allied Democratic Force, a militia that originated in Uganda, and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, whose members have been linked to the genocide in Rwanda. The latter group is known as the F.D.L.R., for the initials of its French name.

"The top priority is going after the F.D.L.R.," Mr. Feingold said. "The planning has been done. But President Kabila needs to give the green light to say it is time to take them on militarily."

Mr. Kerry said after his meeting with Mr. Kabila that the president had a schedule for launching the offensive, but Mr. Kerry declined to discuss it.

Mr. Kabila became president after his father was assassinated. He was elected in 2006 in a vote that Mr. Feingold said was fair. But the Constitution was changed so that Mr. Kabila could run for a second term five years later.

"Unfortunately, in 2011, it was a different story," Mr. Feingold added. "The international community witnessed an election that lacked the indices of free, fair and transparent elections, and was largely regarded as flawed, as some people in the country claim it was rigged."

Mr. Kerry said the United States would contribute \$30 million to help Congo hold elections. Much of the money will be provided to nongovernmental organizations, but some \$2 million will probably be provided to the nation's electoral commission.

Mr. Kerry arrived here after visiting Ethiopia and South Sudan. He plans to finish his trip with talks in Angola with President José Eduardo dos Santos.

In a generally upbeat speech on Africa policy on Saturday in Addis Ababa, Mr. Kerry said the conflicts in South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Mali and the Democratic Republic of Congo were plunging much of the continent into turmoil and casting a cloud over its economic potential.

Mr. Kerry described the recent kidnapping of schoolgirls by Boko Haram, a Nigerian terrorist group, as an "unconscionable crime" and said the United States would help the Nigerian government "return these young women to their homes."

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

A senior State Department official, however, said later that Mr. Kerry had been referring to continuing programs to help Nigeria improve its security organizations and had not suggested that the United States would play a role in operations to find and free the schoolgirls.

Underscoring the political theme he would take up again here, Mr. Kerry said in the speech on Saturday that there would be 15 presidential elections in Africa over the next three years.

"The nations in Africa," he said, "are strongest when citizens have a say."

## **DRC's Joseph Kabila: Will he stay or will he go?**

Source: The Africa Report

By: Gregory Mthembu-Salter

**6 August 2014** - Electoral and constitutional changes proposed in June suggest that President Joseph Kabila will attempt to stay beyond the end of his last term in 2016. Political uncertainty has slowed peace negotiations, the national dialogue and improving the economy outside the mining sector.

"Nothing is moving", says a Kinshasa-based businessman as he shakes his head. "To move this project forward, I need the go-ahead from the minister. But no one is signing anything. For months now, they have been sitting on their hands," he explains.

Ever since President Joseph Kabila announced in October 2013 that he would bring in a new government, the current administration – headed by Prime Minister Augustin Matata Ponyo – began grinding to a halt. The political class was awaiting a decision on the new governing team.

### **In DRC's post-independence history a head of state has never voluntarily left power**

Months later, the wait continues, and the list of unfinished business grows ever longer. The government and the mainly Tutsi rebels in the Mouvement du 23 Mars signed a peace deal in December 2013, but that has not resolved the question of instability in the east. The Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda, made up of Hutus that conducted the Rwandan genocide in 1994, said that the group's fighters would surrender in May.

Diplomats have been dissatisfied with the follow-up on that promise, and the United Nations peace-keepers and national armed forces have threatened new offensives. Problems related to demobilisation, reintegration and amnesties have derailed previous peace efforts in the east.

A revision of the 2002 mining code, which has been hotly debated by the government and mining companies for months, is still unfinished. There is no clear timetable about when it might be completed. A law about investment in the oil sector has also not been finalised.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

The government has not delivered on its promise to draft new legislation on insurance either. A bill intended to encourage private investment in the energy sector sits unsigned on the president's desk.

**Vexed question**

In the absence of official information, a plethora of rumours and theories have been circulating in the capital. Prime Minister Matata Ponyo will keep his job or he will be dropped. National Assembly president Aubin Minaku will replace Matata or Senate president Léon Kengo Wa Dondo will. Or maybe it will be someone else entirely.

There is a rough consensus, though, that whoever heads the new government will somehow have to manage the vexed question of 2016. Kabila's second and final term in office expires in two years, after which the constitution requires elections and a new president.

The United States government made a strong call for Kabila to respect the constitution. Secretary of State John Kerry visited Kinshasa in May and called on Kabila to abide by and not alter the constitution. Adding to the pressure, the European Union has backed Kerry's call.

Congolese public opinion appears firmly in favour of maintaining the constitution's two-term limit. Information minister Lambert Mende has insisted that President Kabila will not stay in power beyond 2016 and will not do anything to violate the constitution. His statements have done little to resolve the debate about the succession.

In the country's post-independence history, a head of state has never voluntarily left power. There is a lot of uncertainty about what would happen if Kabila decides to step down in 2016. The country's civil war officially ended in July 2003, but the central government has not followed through on the holding of regular elections or sharing funds with provincial authorities, as mandated by the constitution.

**Mining and telecoms drive the country's growth, while other sectors face apathy**

Kabila's party, the Parti du Peuple pour la Reconstruction et la Démocratie (PPRD), has not openly debated the succession and the National Assembly is fragmented and includes many independent candidates and small personality-based political parties.

Since the end of the national political consultations that Kabila organised in September and October 2013, opposition alliances have been shifting. There are now three main opposition groupings. Longtime oppositionist Étienne Tshisekedi, who scored 32% at the contested 2011 presidential elections, leads one constellation. Senate president Kengo Wa Dondo and former National Assembly president Vital Kamerhe represent the other two.

Members of the opposition have formed umbrella groups, such as the Forces Acquisées au Changement and the Front pour des Elections Crédibles, but so far none of them have been able to unite Kabila's principal critics. Tshisekedi and Kamerhe both lambasted the national dialogue held last year and said the government was not interested in real dialogue.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

Amidst the political uncertainty related to 2016, will the army stay loyal? Will the civil service keep functioning? What will happen in the provinces, and particularly in Katanga, where new rebel groups have become active over the past few years, and what about the east? Would a new president leave Kabila and his riches alone or arrest him? Would the country's interfering neighbours stay out of the issue or get involved?

To add to all the unanswered questions about Kabila's departure, there are many others about how he could justify staying on, particularly since changing the constitution has become problematic. Kabila had sought to use the national dialogue to gather support for another term in office, but in this he was unsuccessful.

On 9 June government spokesman Lambert Mende announced the government's decision to propose new electoral laws and revisions to the constitution.

The new laws would target elections from the local to the presidential level. There may be a way to amend the laws without changing the constitution. Insiders suggest the plan hatched by Kabila and his allies is to amend the electoral law, changing the way the president is elected from universal suffrage to an election by delegates to the National Assembly. In this way, they argue, the president could serve another term without removing constitutional term limits. In addition, they would amend the rules so that local councillors rather than voters elect provincial deputies.

**Buying time for Kabila**

Opposition parties are likely to claim that the proposed amendments are substantial enough to require changes to the constitution, but the newly created Cour Constitutionnelle has come to Kabila's rescue in the past and can probably be relied on to do so again. A possible compromise, particularly if donors voice their opposition to such plans, would be to put the proposed changes to the electoral law to a referendum. Donors will no doubt refuse to pay, and months could slip by. Since the main motivation behind the plan is to buy Kabila time, all delays would be welcome.

Holding a national census could be another reason for delay. There has not been a census in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in decades. The resulting dearth of up-to-date information hampers development work, so donors might be tempted to pay for one. Conducting a census is bound to be a lengthy, difficult and expensive process. The government is likely to insist that it must be completed before another general election can be organised.

The next part of the plan is to hold local elections, which have not happened since the end of the civil war. After announcing in January that the polls would be held this year, the electoral authorities announced in late May that they would take place between 14 June and 15 October 2015.

Like the census, local elections are set to be slow, pricey and fraught with difficulty. The opposition group Sauvons la République Démocratique du Congo called the election timeline "a provocation" and said that a census covering more than 2.3m square kilometres and an estimated 76 million people will take an unknown period of time to complete.

A census and a potential referendum on changes to electoral law could easily take the DRC past the 2016 constitutional deadline.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

**Economy surges ahead**

The final part of the plan could be the trickiest – namely the claim that with a new electoral law in place, Kabila would be entitled to two further terms as president. Opposition parties and Western donors are sure to oppose such an argument. Whether donors would be prepared to attempt to prevent it from happening is another question entirely, particularly with Central African Republic and South Sudan in such turmoil already.

For all the political torpor, the DRC's economy continues to surge ahead. Real gross domestic growth was measured at 8.2% in 2013 and could rise to 9.4%, one of the highest rates in the world, in 2014. Most of this growth is due to rising mining production. According to official statistics, copper output rose from 620,000tn in 2012 to 957,000tn in 2013, a year-on-year increase of 54% and a near-record level of production.

The rise is the result of several years of investment in Katangan copper mines by international operators. It would have been higher still if the companies had access to sufficient electrical power. There is a growing energy deficit, particularly in the mining sector, with companies often resorting to expensive diesel-fuelled generators to keep their machines running.

Outside the mining sector, there is continued growth in telecoms. In mid-May, South Africa's Vodacom Group announced that the International Chamber of Commerce had ruled in its favour in a long-running dispute with its minority partner in the DRC. Company officials said the ruling means that it would now "significantly increase" its \$100m annual capital expenditure in the country, where it has 10 million subscribers.

In other sectors, though, many companies report that economic growth is anaemic and complain that consumer purchasing power remains weak. Reliable statistics are hard to come by, particularly in the agricultural sector, where activity remains almost entirely absent from official data. The government is launching a series of agricultural projects to raise production, fight food insecurity and provide jobs.

**Investor caution**

Investors, too, have been wary. In late 2012, for example, no suitable companies bid for a contract to manage bus transport in Kinshasa. The government says that the recent peace deals in eastern DRC will allow foreign investors to return, but most prefer to wait and see. A law about local ownership could deter them from investing in the agricultural drive.

Industry analysts say the construction sector has weakened, with a number of private sector projects on hold. The end to a series of disputes with Chinese investors and financial institutions means that the infrastructure and mining sectors will receive a boost.

The country's small oil sector, meanwhile, continues to produce more controversy than barrels per day (bpd). Daily oil production remains at just 22,000bpd from a small number of Atlantic offshore wells. Talks between the DRC and Angola, which occupies a number of lucrative offshore blocks that are claimed by the Congolese government, have not led to any progress.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

There is little activity on the Lake Albert oil blocks held by Foxwhelp and Caprikat, two British Virgin Islands-registered companies linked to Israeli mining mogul Dan Gertler, who has a close relationship with President Kabila.

In April, London-listed Soco International launched a seismic survey of Lake Edward in the UNESCO World-Heritage listed Parc National des Virunga. Following the release of a documentary that appeared to show bribery and payments to rebels, Soco said it would not continue work in the park. Comments by its deputy CEO in The Times, however, suggested the company is trying to redraw the boundaries of the protected site.

## La situation sécuritaire en RDC examinée au Conseil de sécurité le 7 août 2014 à New York

Source : Le Potentiel

**6 août 2014** - Le Conseil de sécurité se réunit le jeudi 7 août 2014 à New York (Etats-Unis) pour un débat de haut niveau sur la Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en République démocratique du Congo (Monusco) sous la direction de son président pour le mois d'août, le ministre britannique pour l'Afrique, Mark Simmonds.

Le représentant spécial du secrétaire général de l'Onu en RDC, Martin Kobler qui doit présenter son rapport au Conseil de sécurité et évoquer vraisemblablement la question du calendrier électoral congolais, a déclaré dimanche dernier à Goma (Nord-Kivu), qu'« il reste du travail dans la réforme du secteur de la sécurité ».

«Je me déplace à New York maintenant. C'est une très très bonne occasion d'échanger de vues avec les membres du Conseil de sécurité. Et cette fois-ci, c'est une réunion très très importante parce que c'est au niveau ministériel sous la présidence du Royaume Uni », a-t-il expliqué.

### Beaucoup de progrès réalisés

Le chef de la Monusco a révélé que, « depuis la dernière session du Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies, beaucoup de progrès ont été réalisés en RDC ».

« Je crois qu'on a eu beaucoup de progrès depuis la dernière session du Conseil de sécurité. Et maintenant, je ne peux pas que remercier mes collègues mais avant tout les Congolaises et les Congolais parce que c'est leur pays, ce sont leurs efforts (qui ont produit) le progrès ici. Mais, il reste beaucoup à faire », a affirmé Martin Kobler.

Il a précisé que « c'est aussi un message pour le Conseil de sécurité : réforme du secteur de sécurité ».

Jugeant « important de développer une stratégie de départ de la Monusco », il a prévenu que les Casques onusiens ne sont « pas (en RDC) pour toujours ».



**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

« Nous ne sommes pas ici pour toujours. Il faut partir du pays. On ne peut partir seulement que si on ne laisse pas une situation fragile. C'est pourquoi, la réforme du secteur de sécurité est un message qui est très important. L'autre message important est en rapport avec les élections et le calendrier électoral », a conclu Martin Kobler.

## Une délégation du Conseil de sécurité en Afrique

Lors d'une conférence de presse lundi au siège de l'Onu, il a présenté le programme de travail pour le mois d'août, l'ambassadeur du Royaume-Uni, Mark Lyall Grant, dont le pays assure la présidence mensuelle du Conseil de sécurité, a également présenté le programme de travail du Conseil de sécurité comprenant une séance d'information (19 août) consacrée à la protection des civils et un débat public sur la prévention des conflits (21 août).

L'ambassadeur Mark Lyall Grant, qui a annoncé qu'une délégation du Conseil de sécurité se rendra très prochainement en Europe et en Afrique, n'en a « pas divulgué les détails pour des raisons de sécurité », selon le service de communication de l'Onu.

Il signale que « la présidence britannique du Conseil de sécurité a l'intention de convoquer, le 28 août, une séance publique pour faire le bilan du travail accompli par le Conseil pendant ce mois ».

## Congo imprisons opposition leader following public rally

Source: Reuters World Service

Reporting By Peter Jones; Editing by Emma Farge and David Gregorio

**Kinshasa, 5 August 2014** - An opposition leader in Democratic Republic of Congo was imprisoned on Tuesday after he spoke at a rally calling on President Joseph Kabila to respect constitutional term limits and step aside in presidential elections due in 2016.

Jean Bertrand Ewanga, general secretary of the Union for the Congolese Nation (UNC), was arrested around 6 a.m. on Tuesday and taken to court the same day, accused of insulting the president and inciting tribal tensions by demanding that Kabila return to Rwanda after 2016.

Rwanda has repeatedly led military operations and sponsored rebellions in eastern Congo during Kabila's 13 year rule, and the president's critics accuse him of collaborating with Rwandan President Paul Kagame.

"The language he used is not appropriate for a politician," Public Prosecutor Floribert Kabange Numbi told Reuters. "We were happy for the other speakers (at the rally) to criticise the president, but to insult him personally is not acceptable."

A special chamber was convened to review his case and Ewanga was ordered to be detained under house arrest; however, he was subsequently imprisoned in Makala prison in the capital Kinshasa, witnesses to the proceedings said. There was no timeframe for his release.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

The witnesses told Reuters that supreme court judges had concerns over a lack proof and the speed with which Ewanga was brought to court.

Speculation is rife in the Congolese capital Kinshasa that Kabila, who wants to stand for election again in 2016, will seek to revise the constitution, which limits presidents to two five-year mandates. Opposition parties came together at Monday's rally to demand the constitution be respected.

"This arrest is a well-calculated act that aims to muzzle the opposition because, for once, the government has the impression that we are united. Until now they have relied on divisions among the opposition," said spokesman Makalele.

Kabila is this week attending a summit of African leaders in Washington, where U.S. officials said they had received no assurances from the president that he will stand aside in 2016.

Kabila came to power in 2001 after his father, Laurent-Desire Kabila, was assassinated by one of his presidential guard. Joseph Kabila then won Congo's first democratic elections in 2006 and retained power in 2011 in a poll that was criticised by the U.N. peacekeeping mission there for irregularities.

## **Congo's Kabila gave no assurances on two-term presidency-U.S. official**

Source: Reuters World Service

Reporting by Stella Dawson, additional reporting by Peter Jones

**Washington, 5 August 2014** - The Democratic Republic of Congo's President Joseph Kabila gave the United States no sign that he would stick to the country's constitution and stand down from elections scheduled for 2016, a U.S. diplomat said on Tuesday.

Former U.S. Senator Russell Feingold, now the U.S. Special Advisor for the Great Lakes Region and the DRC, said the issue of providing space for political opponents and the 2016 elections were discussed when President Kabila met on Monday with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on the sidelines of the U.S.-Africa Summit in Washington.

But Kabila provided no guarantees, he said.

"I did not hear any assurances from them yesterday," said Feingold when asked about Kabila's position over a possible constitutional change to the presidential term. He added that the U.S. is "hopeful" that Kabila will respect the two-term limit.

Speculation that Kabila could seek to alter the limit of two five-year terms as president has raised fears that political turmoil could return to the vast mineral-rich country and the Great Lakes region which has been engulfed in Africa's longest running war.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

Hundreds of opposition supporters took to the streets of Kinshasa on Monday to demand no change to the DR Congo's constitution after Evariste Boshab, general secretary of the pro-Kabila People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy, last week endorsed a change, if approved by referendum.

An opposition leader who spoke at that rally, Jean Bertrand Ewanga, was arrested earlier on Tuesday.

The United States regards the provision on presidential term limits as an irrevocable part of the constitution, Feingold said, and the 2016 elections as crucial to the peaceful evolution of the region.

"Without a credible political system, it is unlikely that the Democratic Republic of Congo will achieve the stability and sovereignty in the region that is needed," Feingold said at the briefing.

Lambert Mende, a government spokesman, bristled over Feingold raising political questions, saying that Congo's president is in Washington to build commercial ties with the United States, not to answer questions about how Congolese institutions are organized.

"We have not felt the need to give any assurances because this (constitutional revision) is a Congolese problem and this is not a Congolese meeting," Mende told Reuters.

Kabila first assumed power after his father's assassination in 2001 and he went on to win Congo's first democratic election in 2006. His second election, won by a narrow margin in 2011, was criticized by observers for voter intimidation and ballot stuffing.

Feingold also repeated warnings that there would be no negotiations with the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, a rebel group in the region formed by the remnants of Hutu rebels from Rwanda. Commonly known as FDLR, the group was given six months from May 31 to surrender, but in the first week, only 185 soldiers had turned themselves in, he said.

"There have to be significant surrenders in the near period or the military option will be exercised," Feingold said.

## **Le ministre Lambert Mende et son parti CCU mobilisent pour la révision de la Constitution**

Source : Forum des As via Digital Congo

Par : Rachidi Mabandu

**Kinshasa, 4 août 2014** - C'est par un événement haut en couleurs d'une matinée politique organisée expressément à Kinshasa pour le besoin de la cause, que le ministre Lambert Mende et sa formation politique Convention des Congolais unis (CCU) viennent de se mettre en ordre de bataille de la révision Constitutionnelle à l'ordre du jour en RDC.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

« *Nous n'avons pas la prétention que tout le monde doit penser comme nous, mais nous exigeons le respect du peuple souverain du Congo* », déclare Lambert Mende.

« Nous, membres de la Majorité présidentielle issue des élections de 2011, nous militants de la Convention des Congolais Unis (CCU) devons-nous mobiliser pour empêcher les usurpateurs déchainés et leurs affidés de priver les Congolais de droits constitutionnels qui leur sont reconnus ».

***En savoir plus>>***

## **Congolese in Kabila coup plot plead not guilty in S.Africa**

Source: AFP World News

**Pretoria, 5 August 2014** - Twenty Congolese nationals who went on trial in South Africa on Tuesday pleaded not guilty to charges of plotting to assassinate Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) President Joseph Kabila and topple his government.

A Pretoria court formally indicted the men with mercenary activities and conspiracy to murder, 18 months after their arrest in South Africa.

State prosecutor Shaun Abrahams listed the firearms and ammunition which he said the accused collected for a training camp in the north of South Africa. He said they had planned to target high-profile Congolese officials including President Kabila and his interior minister.

After hearing the charges against them, the men stood up one by one and entered pleas of not guilty.

"My client said that he has never recruited or trained anybody to commit a crime. He didn't even know all the accused," said Portia Phahlani, defence lawyer for the group's alleged leader Etienne Kabila, who claims to be Kabila's brother.

The trial got underway a day late after the accused applied Monday to have their charges overturned. The judge dismissed the application.

The court will hear new objections to the charges in the next few days, after which prosecutors will start calling witnesses, including undercover policemen whose work led to their arrest.

Officers arrested the suspects on February 5 last year, six months after an agent infiltrated their group.

He filmed several meetings and exchanged emails in the alleged preparation of the coup.

If convicted, the suspects face several years in prison.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

The DRC, which is almost as big as western Europe, has been shattered by decades of strife, particularly in its mineral-rich east.

Kabila took power in 2001 at the height of a devastating conflict that became known as "Africa's Great War".

International envoys have expressed concern he could run for a third term in office, flouting constitutional term-limits.

## US warns DR Congo rebels of military action

Source: AFP World News

**Washington, 5 August 2014** - The United States warned Tuesday that the last major illegal armed group in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo must surrender in "significant" numbers soon or face military action to eliminate it.

Russ Feingold, the special US envoy to Africa's Great Lakes Region, said officials from the region will meet at the United Nations Thursday to discuss how to proceed against the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), a rebel group formed by Hutus who fled Rwanda in 1994.

"There have to be significant surrenders in the near future or the military option must be exercised," Feingold said on the sidelines of a US-Africa summit in Washington.

He said the United States believes there is "no justification" for the FDLR's demand for a political negotiation, and that the group should demobilize "no later than the end of the year."

It had promised to surrender May 30 but fewer than 200 fighters have since laid down their arms and the process has stalled.

"The United States strongly believes the military option with regard to the FDLR has to be not only on the table, but ready to be used," Feingold said.

"If there is in fact a legitimate desire on the part of the FDLR to surrender, we are trying to see if that is true and to make sure those surrenders occur quickly."

Two other armed groups -- the M23 and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) -- have been active in mineral-rich eastern DRC since the 1994 genocide of Tutsis by Hutus in neighboring Rwanda.

The M23, a Rwandan Tutsi rebel group, laid down its arms last year after a crushing defeat by the UN-backed Congolese army.

Feingold said M23's reintegration was "well underway" and that the ADF had been "diminished" in strength.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

## No negotiations with FDLR, says US envoy

Source: The New Times (Rwanda)

By: Edwin Musoni

6 August 2014 - The United States Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region, Russ Feingold, has said there was “no justification” for the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) militia’s demand for political negotiations, and that they should demobilise no later than the end of the year.

Feingold made the remarks yesterday at the sidelines of the on-going US-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington.

The Congo-based militia group is composed of elements responsible for the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

“There is no justification for FDLR’s continued presence in Eastern Congo; the origins of the FDLR have to do with the genocidaires – those who were involved in the horrific crimes in the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda, and they cannot simply be allowed to be comfortable in Congo,” Feingold said.

“The US strongly believes that the military option with regard to the FDLR has to be not only on the table, but ready to be used, but at the same time, we are trying to facilitate, if there is in fact a legitimate desire on the part of the FDLR to surrender. We are trying to see if that is true and to make sure that those who have opted to surrender do so quickly,” the former US senator said.

He acknowledged that nothing had been done with regards to eliminating the FDLR apart from requesting it to surrender.

“They are an illegal armed group that should be eliminated and we are simply interested if they are willing to surrender in the near future and if they don’t, we strongly believe that an appropriate military action must be taken”.

The envoy expressed concerns over the six-month timeframe given to the FDLR by SADC countries to surrender, saying the group was supposed to have surrendered on May 30, 2014, but only a handful turned up.

Feingold’s comments come at time when several scholars are criticising the international community for its sluggish will to address the FDLR threat, yet they believe that the US has the ability to provide more facilitation to flash out the militia group but has given it little attention.

International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) has, on its part, been rallying for the elimination of the FDLR and calling for support towards the cause.

Macdonald Mwakasendile, the ICGLR Communication Officer, told this paper that though the US has been offering support, any further cooperation in addressing the concern was welcome.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

Some of the proposals that think-tanks and activists are putting forward is for the US to fly in military support to the Eastern DRC and help eliminate FDLR.

Dr Charles Kabwete Mulinda, the Head of the Department of Political Science at the University of Rwanda's College of Arts and Social Sciences, suggested that the US should impose serious sanctions to nations supporting the militia groups operating in the DRC jungles.

"US can also initiate the revamping of joint military operations like Umoja Wetu involving nations affected by these groups but also give financial support toward the cause. The Americans have the means, African countries have the will, what remains is working out a best mechanism and the rebel groups like FDLR can be eliminated," he said.

Another political scientist, Prof Jean de la Croix Nkurayija said without addressing serious issues of insecurity, the outcomes of the US-Africa Leaders Summit will only benefit Americans and not Africans.

"Before you achieve economic progress and democracy, you must have peace, meaning the issue of insecurity must be addressed with utmost urgency," Nkurayija said.

"As long as superpowers like the US do not help stop these rebel groups, we will keep in the vicious circle of insecurity and in the end the affected African countries will remain the losers while the West will remain the winners in terms of economic prosperity".

He, however, added that the best approach would be devising local means and relying less on western interventions.

Enough Project, a US-based think-tank yesterday released a list of proposals on how best the US government could intervene in dealing with the issue of FDLR and insecurity as a whole.

"The US should press Congo (DRC government) to suspend and prosecute its army officers involved in collaborating with the FDLR. The Congo-FDLR links are documented year after year in UN reports, and yet not a single suspension or trial has ever occurred," they wrote.

In addition, they said Congo and the region must agree on three-month benchmarks for FDLR disarmament that include the demobilisation of at least half of the FDLR's senior leadership, not simply rank-and-file militia.

"The US should offer Special Forces military assistance to the UN's special unit, the Intervention Brigade, in fighting the FDLR," said the organisation.

"US Special Forces advisors and aid have been a major factor in reducing the strength of a similar nearby militia, Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Washington should build on successful tactics against the LRA and work with the UN to apply those to the FDLR".

However, Aloys Mahwa, the Executive Director of the Interdisciplinary Genocide Studies Centre (IGSC) in Kigali, believes the proposal of the US sending in troops may not necessarily work, and instead blames the continued presence of the militia to lack of political will from the DRC government and the United Nations.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

“We have seen US troops intervene in several countries, but we are yet to see tangible results of their interventions, so we cannot count on that. There are over 20,000 UN peacekeepers in DRC who have not only been reluctant to push out the FDLR, but have decided to let the group operate, which is a sign of lack of will. The US can only support through imposing influence on both the DRC and the UN peacekeepers,” he said.

## Washington exige la démobilisation des FDLR ‘d’ici la fin de l’année’

Source : ARI

**Kigali, 6 août 2014** - Les Etats-Unis exigent que les rebelles rwandais des FDLR soient désarmés «au plus tard à la fin de l’année 2014».

L’envoyé spécial des Etats-Unis pour la région des Grands lacs, Russ Feingold, l’a affirmé lors du sommet USA-Afrique qui se tient à Washington. Le chef de l’Etat rwandais Paul Kagame prend part à ces assises.

Il n’y aurait aucune justification que les FDLR sollicitent des négociations politiques, et le groupe doit être démobilisé « au plus tard à la fin de l’année », a déclaré Russ Feingold.

Les Etats-Unis estiment que « pour les FDLR, l’option militaire doit non seulement être envisagée, mais qu’elle doit être prête à être lancée », a déclaré Russ Feingold.

« S’il y a un désir légitime des FDLR de se rendre, on essaiera de voir si c’est vrai et ces redditions doivent se produire rapidement », indique l’émissaire américain.

Le 7 août, le Conseil de sécurité de l’ONU tiendra une réunion axée sur le désarmement des FDLR et leur rapatriement volontaire.

Les dirigeants de la SADC (Communauté économique de développement de l’Afrique Australe) et de la CIRGL (Conférence Internationale sur la Région des Grands Lacs) prendront part à cette réunion de haut niveau.

## RDC et Rwanda veulent mieux délimiter leur frontière commune

Source : Le Vif (Belga)

**5 août 2014** - Des experts civils et militaires congolais et rwandais ont entamé lundi une réunion de quatre jours afin de mieux délimiter leur frontière commune, après de multiples incidents, dont certains ont été meurtriers, a rapporté mardi la radio onusienne Okapi.

Cette réunion de délégués des ministères congolais et rwandais de l’Intérieur ainsi que les membres de la commission permanente des frontières Rwanda-République démocratique du Congo (RDC) se tient à Goma, le chef-lieu de la province du Nord-Kivu, frontalière du Rwanda.



**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

Elle vise à identifier les bornes matérielles de la frontière commune réelle entre les deux pays. Ces travaux font suite à une réunion préliminaire de 2009, au cours de laquelle cinq bornes seulement sur les 22 initialement posées avaient été identifiées. Les discussions ont pour base les rapports de spécialistes, ceux des colonies de 1911 - quand le Rwanda était une colonie allemande et le Congo venait d'être cédé à la Belgique -, des cartes géographiques et des appareils GPRS. L'enjeu pour les deux pays est d'éclaircir plusieurs zones d'ombre qui subsistent à propos du tracé de la frontière. Après cette rencontre, une équipe technique se rendra sur le terrain pour matérialiser les conclusions, a précisé Radio Okapi, parrainée par l'ONU. La question de délimitation des frontières terrestre et lacustre est à la base de plusieurs incidents entre la RDC et le Rwanda. Le dernier cas date de début juin lorsque les armées des deux pays se sont brièvement affrontées à Kamyeshaja, dans le territoire de Nyiragongo, à cause d'un différend territorial. Ces combats avaient coûté la vie à cinq militaires congolais.

## Billions of dollars in aid pledged for Africa

Source: The Washington Post

By: Juliet Eilperin, Katie Zezima

**6 August 2014** - President Obama announced Tuesday that private companies are providing an additional \$12 billion in aid to the administration's electrification program for Africa, while U.S. firms will invest more than \$14 billion on the continent in sectors including banking, construction and information technology.

The new pledges - which came during a day-long program at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit focused on business opportunities, trade and development - reflect some of the most concrete outcomes of this week's gathering of nearly 50 African heads of state and government in the District. Speaking to delegates at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Obama said that this willingness to help Africa grow - rather than simply extract resources - is "what America offers" the continent.

"The United States is determined to be a partner in Africa's success, a good partner, an equal partner and a partner for the long term," he said.

Now boasting more than \$26 billion in commitments, Power Africa aims to add 30,000 megawatts of additional capacity and expand electricity access to at least 60 million households and businesses. World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said Tuesday that his institution will commit \$5 billion in direct financing, investment guarantees and advisory services to Power Africa, while the Swedish government is also contributing to the initiative. The U.S. government is adding \$300 million a year to the initiative, which began as a \$7 billion, five-year federal program in June 2013.

Tuesday's announcements highlighted a dichotomy Africa now faces: Even as the administration touted the business opportunities beckoning there, experts and government officials say an adequate power supply remains the biggest obstacle to economic development.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

More than 70 percent of Africans lack a reliable electricity supply. Power outages cost more than 5 percent of the gross domestic product in Malawi, Uganda and South Africa, according to Standard Bank, and between 1 and 5 percent of GDP in Senegal, Kenya and Tanzania.

Vera Songwe, a nonresident senior fellow in the Brookings Institution's Africa Growth Initiative, noted that even rapidly expanding sectors, from Internet to mining and the service industry, are energy-intensive.

"So, for every place you turn on the continent, for production, we need power," Songwe said.

Sen. Christopher A. Coons (D-Del.), who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on African affairs, said American chief executives have identified three primary obstacles to investment when it comes to Africa: "The physical infrastructure, the lack of transparency and the lack of electricity."

"It's really hard to refrigerate your products, to manufacture at any significant level, when you don't have reliable electricity, and the vast majority of Africa does not have affordable, reliable electricity," he added.

In a little more than a year since Obama launched the program during a visit to Africa, the initiative has spurred signed agreements that will generate 2,800 megawatts of electricity, while deals for an additional 5,000 megawatts are being negotiated.

The president called the response to the initiative overwhelming. "Today we're raising the bar," he said.

The administration has earmarked \$1 billion of the program's funds for off-grid and small-scale energy solutions over the next five years, which are overwhelmingly renewable. And Tuesday, Secretary of State John F. Kerry and Ghana President John Dramani Mahama oversaw the signing of a Millennium Challenge Corp. compact in which the independent U.S. foreign aid agency pledged to invest as much as \$498 million over the next five years to help overhaul Ghana's power sector.

At a breakfast meeting with reporters Monday, General Electric chief executive Jeffrey Immelt - whose company, along with Standard Bank, has a \$350 million financing agreement for power projects in Africa - said the administration's involvement has accelerated the pace of deals on the continent because it provides "a seal of approval" that reassures investors.

"Whenever the U.S. is even a small partner in a deal, it brings a lot of investors with it," he said.

Still, lawmakers on Capitol Hill are pressing to institutionalize the initiative through legislation, a task that has become complicated in part because of the political debate on climate change. The administration funds Power Africa by taking money away from existing programs at the U.S. Agency for International Development, including ones supporting democracy and governance efforts on the continent.

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. Edward R. Royce (R-Calif.), whose bill to make the program permanent has passed the House by a wide margin, said the administration's

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

electrification effort "doesn't have any real long-term strategy or oversight. Trying to get these projects up and running will take much longer than two years - longer than the administration's clock."

Coons, who has a companion bill in the Senate with Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), said the reason to pass legislation in both chambers is "to send signals to our African partners, to the markets and to American investors that this is a sustained, serious and long-term intervention to support the development of a modern electricity infrastructure and generating capacity across more than a few of our principal allies in Africa."

While Coons said he remained optimistic it would reach the president's desk by the end of the year, he cautioned, "Any bill that touches on energy, on power generation, has become very difficult to get passed in this Congress because of the issues around coal and climate change."

Even in the absence of a permanent program, African and American corporate executives made it clear this week they are eager to strike deals to expand Africa's power sector. During a panel with Immelt and former president Bill Clinton on Tuesday, Aliko Dangote, president and chief executive of the Dangote Group, a Lagos-based business conglomerate, announced a \$5 billion deal with Blackstone to invest in power and power infrastructure in Africa's sub-Saharan region.

"With this, we will definitely close the gap," Dangote said. "There's quite a lot of gap. We know about the gap, and it's there, and we're going to be very serious and very aggressive, and the two organizations will really make it work."

At that point Immelt piped in. "Just remember who sells power-generating equipment," he said to laughs, prompting Clinton to quip, "I should have been your agent."

## **EXCLUSIVE-US to spend up to \$550 mln on African rapid response forces**

Source: Reuters World Service

By: Phil Stewart

**Washington, 6 August** - The United States [announced] on Wednesday plans to spend \$110 million a year over the next three to five years to help African nations develop peacekeeping forces that can be rapidly deployed to head off militant threats and other crises, an Obama administration official told Reuters.

President Barack Obama is expected to unveil the program during the third day of a summit of African heads of state in Washington, the official said.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

## RCA : le Premier ministre démissionne

Source: Agence d'information d'Afrique central

Fiacre Kombo

**5 août 2014** - André Nzapayeke a annoncé le 5 août sa démission et celle de son gouvernement. Cette décision est en accord avec l'esprit des conclusions de la concertation intercentrafricaine tenue du 21 au 23 juillet dernier à Brazzaville.

En poste depuis le 25 janvier, le Premier ministre de la transition centrafricaine a remis sa démission à la présidente, Catherine Samba-Panza. Cette décision vient deux semaines après la tenue à Brazzaville, du forum de réconciliation inter centrafricain.

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

## Kenya Westgate attackers stole identities – witnesses

Source: Agence France Presse

**Nairobi, 5 August 2014** - Witnesses in the trial of four men accused of helping the gunmen behind Kenya's Westgate mall massacre said Tuesday their identities had been falsely used to secure telephones used in planning the attack.

The slow moving trial in Nairobi – which opened in January – has heard evidence from people who were at the mall when the gunmen from Somalia's Al-Qaeda-linked Shabaab launched their attack in September 2013, killing at least 67 people.

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

## Kenya feels abandoned in terror war – Uhuru

Source: CNN via Capital FM Kenya

By Olive Burrows

**Nairobi, 6 August** - In an interview with CNN's Richard Quest on the sidelines of the US-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington DC, President Uhuru Kenyatta said Kenya felt abandoned by the international community in its fight against terrorism.

President Kenyatta explained to Quest that following the 9/11 attacks, the international community rallied around the US, but in Kenya's case, the West immediately issued travel advisories.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

“We do feel the world isn’t doing enough to support us in confronting the challenges we have.”

[Learn more>>](#)

## CAR ceasefire in tatters after fresh violence

Source: Reuters

**Bangui, 6 August 2014** - The Central African Republic's Muslim rebels and Christian militia on Tuesday accused each other of violating a ceasefire deal signed last month, following days of clashes in the country's remote north.

The signing two weeks ago in the neighbouring Congo Republic raised hopes of a political solution to sectarian violence that has killed thousands and displaced more than a million people since the Muslim Seleka fighters seized power in March 2013.

The Christian “anti-balaka” took up arms in response to a wave of abuses by Seleka fighters once in power last year, pushing the rebels back northward. Tens of thousands of Muslims fled militia violence into the Seleka-controlled enclave.

Seleka said militia leaders had launched a wave of attacks on their territory in the north following last month's signing.

“The agreement was broken right after it was signed,” said Seleka's Ahmat Nedjad, saying Muslims had been attacked in the towns of Dekoa, Bodo and Batangafo in late July.

A local radio station said two soldiers for the African Union peacekeeping force, MISCA, had been killed in the Batangafo clashes. A MISCA official declined to comment.

Brice Emotion Namsio, a spokesman for the anti-balaka, denied they were responsible for the violence, saying clear orders were given to militia commanders before the Brazzaville deal to cease their attacks.

In an apparent sign of the strain of the continuing violence on the country's interim government, a presidential spokesman said on Tuesday the cabinet had stepped down.

“The head of state asked for and obtained the resignation of the Prime Minister Andre Nzapayeke and his government,” the spokesman said, without naming a new prime minister.

France has sent about 2 000 troops to the Central African Republic as part of its Sangaris peacekeeping force, in support of the 6 000-strong MISCA force.

A French army official said its forces were attacked on Monday by about 100 fighters with anti-tank guns during a reconnaissance mission.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

“The Sangaris force counter-attacked with Rafale fighter jets... and helicopters,” the official said. He said there were no injuries or deaths among the French soldiers and declined to name the armed group responsible for the attack.

Government spokesman Gaston Mackouzangba called on international peacekeepers to forcibly disarm militias in line with their mandates.

The renewal of violence in the Central African Republic is a blow to France, which had hoped the ceasefire agreement would pave the way for the organisation of elections and allow it to begin withdrawing troops.

## More aid workers killed in South Sudan

Source: Independent on Line (South Africa)

**Juba, 6 August 2014** - At least five South Sudanese aid workers were killed on Tuesday by the same militia blamed for the murder of an aid worker in the same area the day before, the United Nations said.

The killings came as militia forces in the north-eastern Upper Nile state battled with deserting soldiers for a third day, with aid workers forced to shelter in UN compounds.

“Two of the victims were murdered in Bunj Town, a third aid worker is reported as missing but presumed dead. Another three died in an ambush as they were attempting to return to the town,” the capital of Maban County, the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) said in a statement.

It said the local militia responsible - the Mabanese Defence Forces - appears to be targeting civilians of ethnic Nuer origin, apparently in revenge for losses they suffered in clashes with defecting Nuer soldiers.

“Today’s heinous crimes come on the heels of the murder of a Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) employee in Bunj yesterday morning by members of the same self-defence militia,” UNMISS added.

The victim was reported to have also been South Sudanese.

It said that ethnically targeted attacks on unarmed aid workers were having a “very drastic” impact on operations to provide food and shelter to more than 127 000 refugees in the area who have fled south from Sudan since South Sudan broke away in 2011.

The recent violence has also displaced thousands of people in the area, prompting the United Nations to warn of the “deteriorating security situation” as refugees pour into a camp at Doro.

The UN mission said Monday it had dispatched a unit of peacekeepers from its base in the Upper Nile State town of Melut to protect its staff in the area, as well as civilians who have taken refuge in UN compounds.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

Meanwhile, fractious peace talks to end the country's civil war between supporters of President Salva Kiir and his former deputy Riek Machar resumed in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on Monday. Two previous ceasefires between the two sides quickly broke down.

Fighting erupted on December 15 between troops loyal to the two rivals, who have jostled for control of the new state since its independence from Khartoum in July 2011 after decades of war.

The clashes quickly descended into atrocities along ethnic lines between the country's two principal tribal groups, Dinka and Nuer, to which the two leaders belong.

## **SECURITY COUNCIL PRESS STATEMENT ON SOUTH SUDAN**

**The following Security Council press statement was issued today by Council President Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom):**

**On 6 August**, the United Nations Security Council was briefed by Assistant-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Edmond Mulet on the situation South Sudan and the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

The members of the Security Council expressed their outrage at the recent attacks by armed groups in South Sudan that have purposefully targeted civilians and humanitarian personnel, in particular following clashes between a community-based self-defense militia calling itself the Mabanese Defense Forces and deserting Sudan's Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers, which commenced on 3 August in Maban County in Upper Nile State, and resulted in the death of at least six humanitarian aid workers and reported systematic targeting of civilians based on their ethnicity.

The members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms these acts and underscored that attacks on civilians, and humanitarian personnel, may constitute war crimes. The members of the Security Council extended their condolences to the families and humanitarian organizations of those injured and killed in these attacks.

The members of the Security Council strongly reiterated their demand for an immediate end to all human rights violations and abuses and violations of International Humanitarian Law. They also renewed their call upon the Government of South Sudan to immediately take steps to ensure the safety of all civilians, to swiftly investigate these incidents, and to effectively bring the perpetrators of these heinous acts to justice, and to fully respect international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

The members of the Security Council underscored their full support for UNMISS peacekeepers and welcomed UNMISS' deployment to Maban County to serve as protection for UN and humanitarian personnel and the civilians now seeking safety and refuge at the compounds of UN agencies.

**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

## **UNMISS condemns killing of aid workers in S. Sudan**

Source: Sudan Tribune

**Juba, 6 August 2014** - The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) has condemned Tuesday's killing of at least five South Sudanese aid workers within Bunj in Upper Nile state.

The incident has been blamed on Mabanese Defence Forces, an armed group in Maban county.

UNMISS, in a statement issued Tuesday, said it dispatched a unit of peacekeepers in four armored personnel carriers from its base in the Upper Nile town of Melut to protect UN and humanitarian personnel, as well as civilians taking refuge within its facilities.

The mission called upon local, state and national authorities to bring to justice the individuals responsible for these murders as soon as possible to halt the ongoing descent into lawlessness in Maban.

Toby Lanzer, the UN humanitarian coordinator for South Sudan, said that Maban, where some 127,000 refugees from Sudan are living, has seen an increase in violence and harassment of civilians and aid workers, jeopardising the lives of tens of thousands of men, women and children who count on aid organizations for their survival.

On Monday, a local staffer working for the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) was also shot and killed after he was reportedly pulled out of a NPA vehicle.

"It's with a heavy heart Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) today has received the sad news that our good colleague Gabriel Yien Gach was shot and killed in Maban County in South Sudan this morning", NPA said in a statement on its website.

"Our thoughts are first and foremost with Gabriel Yien Gach's family and our colleagues in South Sudan," it adds.

Gach reportedly worked in NPA's food security and livelihood program, supporting the local community, as well as the internally displaced, with agriculture support and emergency food.

Kathrine Raadim, the head of international department at NPA "strongly" condemned any attacks on civilians in the ongoing crisis.

"Any attacks on civilians are unacceptable, but attacks based on ethnicity are even direr as they will only feed into the circle of violence and revenge", said Raadim in a statement.

"It is also completely unacceptable to attack NGO [Non-Governmental Organisation] personnel who's only mission in the field is to help the people of South Sudan in the face of this enormous, man-made, crisis", she added.

NPA has also demanded investigations in to the killing of their staff and that the perpetrators fully be held accountable.



**Disclaimer:**

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided by this principle.

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said it was extremely concerned by the outbreak of fighting in the northern South Sudanese town of Bunj in Maban, where increasing violence compromised the security and well-being of over 100,000 Sudanese refugees and those of humanitarian agencies' staff assisting them.

“UNHCR appeals to all parties to the conflict to refrain from harassing humanitarian agents who are dedicated to saving lives of people in need”, said Cosmas Chanda, UNHCR's chief in South Sudan.