

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

8 July 2014

Grands Lacs: l'ambassadeur James Swan invite tous les signataires, sans exception, à respecter l'accord d'Addis-Abeba

(Okapi / MCN, via mediacongo.net)

Kinshasa, 7 juillet 2014 - « Il faut que tous les signataires respectent leur engagement à travers l'accord-cadre de paix et de sécurité. Et c'est le message que nous communiquons à tous les acteurs, y compris les Rwandais. » C'est ce qu'a déclaré lundi 7 juillet à Kinshasa l'ambassadeur américain en RDC, James Swan, à l'issue de sa rencontre avec François Muamba, coordinateur national du mécanisme de suivi de l'Accord-cadre de paix d'Addis-Abeba.

Cet accord signé en février 2013 par onze pays africains sous l'égide des Nations unies est censé restaurer la paix dans l'Est de la RDC, en proie à de multiples conflits armés depuis deux décennies. Ses signataires se sont notamment engagés à respecter la souveraineté de leurs voisins et de ne pas soutenir les groupes armés qui pillulent dans la région des Grands Lacs.

Pour James Swan, cet accord est « le document phare qui nous oriente et oriente les différents acteurs dans la région des Grands Lacs vers la paix et la sécurité ».

L'ambassadeur américain invite donc tous les signataires à respecter leurs engagements.

Alors que le M23 occupait plusieurs territoires du Nord-Kivu l'année passée, la RDC accusait le Rwanda de soutenir cette rébellion. Ce que Kigali a toujours nié. Le mouvement armé a finalement été défait en octobre 2013 par l'armée congolaise appuyée par la Monusco.

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.

Who is keeping FDLR on life support?

The New Times (Rwanda).

7 July 2014 - Last week, African nations meeting in Angola decided to give another chance to the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) militia.

The militia operating in eastern DR Congo, were given a six-month ultimatum to lay down arms voluntarily or face a forceful disarmament.

The very fact that FDLR is still in existence is still an enigma. Many UN resolutions calling for their forceful disarmament have never been enforced as the militia continues to freely roam in the jungles of DRC causing mayhem and destruction.

This is the group that is responsible for the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, which left over one million people dead.

If the 20,000 strong UN force in DRC could go after and defeat the M23 rebels in less than a month, what is so difficult to apply the same robust mandate and forcefully go after FDLR?

Instead, the UN force has become a sympathiser for the rebel outfit and its leaders.

For example just last week, the UN head of peace keeping operations attempted to sneak out FDLR leader, Victor Byiringiro, to travel to Europe.

Despite Byiringiro being the subject of UN sanctions, Herve Ladsous saw it fit to try to lift a travel ban imposed against Byiringiro. He even airlifted the FDLR leader from eastern DRC to Kinshasa.

If the UN and the DRC governments can have direct access to the head of a terrorist organisation, why can't they neutralise him instead of playing host?

As long as FDLR continues to enjoy support in the corridors of the UN and some Capitals, peace in DRC will remain a pipe dream.

If after six months, the FDLR don't disarm, African nations should find the answer to this enigma? The UN has failed.

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.

Des experts de l'ONU contredisent Kinshasa

Le Potentiel (DRC)

Neutralisation des groupes armés dans l'Est

7 juillet 2014 - La sécurité n'a jamais été absolue sur l'ensemble du territoire de la République démocratique du Congo. Contrairement aux assurances de Kinshasa, un groupe d'experts des Nations unies qui travaillent sur la RDC pensent que des poches de résistance demeurent intactes, particulièrement dans l'Est du territoire national où des groupes armés tels que les FDLR et les ADF-Nalu ont gardé toute leur capacité de nuisance.

[Learn more>>](#)

ICC witnesses return to Kinshasa after failed asylum attempt

Kinshasa, July 07, 2014 (AFP) - Three Congolese witnesses who testified before the International Criminal Court have been returned to Kinshasa after failed asylum bids in the Netherlands, their lawyer said on Monday. "They were sent back yesterday (Sunday)," Goran Sluiter told AFP after the men were transferred from a Dutch detention centre.

They arrived in the country early on Monday landing on a chartered flight, airport sources said. Floribert Ndjabu, Pierre Celestin Mbodina and Sharif Manda Ndadza applied for asylum after testifying in 2011 in the cases of former Congolese militia bosses Mathieu Ngudjolo and Germain Katanga.

The three -- who were themselves behind bars in the Congo prior to being sent to testify at The Hague -- said they feared for their lives if sent back after implicating current Congolese President Joseph Kabila in crimes.

The ICC's Appeals Chamber in January ordered the three be returned after receiving guarantees from Kinshasa about their safety, including a commitment that they would not face the death penalty when their cases come to court.

A separate asylum process launched by the men was turned down by the Dutch government. Rights groups including Amnesty International, who last month called on the Netherlands not to send them back, voiced grave concerns about their safety.

The Dutch decision to deny asylum "may put these individuals at risk of serious human rights violations if returned," Amnesty said. "It is very much the Dutch government's responsibility to ensure that the assurances they were given are followed up," Amnesty spokeswoman Nicole Sprokel told AFP.

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.

"It is disappointing that the Dutch government took the risk of being complicit in possible human rights violations faced by the three witnesses in their country," added Geraldine Mattioli-Zeltner, international justice advocacy director at Human Rights Watch.

The Dutch government confirmed that the three had been sent back but declined to give further information. Sluiter however told AFP he was "deeply disappointed by the decision." The three men had previously been held in a Kinshasa prison suspected of committing a number of crimes. Two were alleged to have been involved in the killing of UN peacekeepers in the east of the country.

They were transferred to the ICC's Hague-based detention unit in 2011 in order to give evidence. A source at the airport said they were met by police on their arrival back in the country, and were expected to be taken to the military prison in Ndolo, in the Congolese capital. Ngudjolo and Katanga were accused of being involved in a massacre at a village in the country's restive northeastern Ituri region in early 2003.

In December 2012, Ngudjolo was acquitted of war crimes after judges in The Hague said prosecutors failed to prove his commanding role in the attack on Bogoro village.

Katanga, whose case had been separated from Ngudjolo's, was sentenced to 12 years in May for arming the ethnic militia that carried out the attack.

Burundi opposition fears "genocide" as political violence escalates

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

7 July 2014 - Fears of large-scale political violence are growing in Burundi, with the opposition and the United Nations concerned about the alleged militarization of the ruling party's youth wing as the eastern African country is still recovering from decades of inter-ethnic violence and a 12-year civil war. In an attempt to secure its power base in the 2015 elections, President Pierre Nkurunziza's Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) has been distributing weapons and uniforms to its youth wing Imbonerakure, which is exercising violence on opposition supporters, the UN said in a recent report.

[Learn more>>](#)

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.

Nearly 60 killed as Ugandan army and tribal militias clash

Sudan Tribune (Paris).

Kampala, July 6, 2014 - Heavy clashes between the Ugandan army (UPDF) and tribal militias in the western Ugandan district of Bundibugyo left nearly 60 people dead, the army said.

Lt. Ninsiima Rwemijuma, the UPDF spokesperson for Rwenzori region told Daily Monitor that 55 of those killed in Bundibugyo were part of the group that attacked a police station, military barracks, a bank and the resident district commissioner's home on Saturday.

[Learn more>>](#)

What next for DR Congo's displaced?

7 July 2014 - Tens of thousands of people from the Democratic Republic of Congo have been forced to leave the neighboring country of Congo-Brazzaville after a crackdown on illegal immigration.

Officials estimate as many as 170,000 people have left since April. Some of them say they fled violence and attacks from locals as well as the police and army.

But the government in Congo-Brazzaville says it has only expelled 2,500 people, who were either criminals or illegal migrants, and says that others left of their own free will.

South Sudan: President Appeals for African Solution to End Conflict

Juba, 6 July 2014 - South Sudan's president, Salva Kiir, has called on African leaders to take a leading role in the resolution of the crisis which has gripped the young nation since mid-December last year, saying the leadership looks forward to the application of African solutions for African problems.

[Learn more>>](#)

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.

USD 107 millions, don de la Banque mondiale pour aider les femmes victimes de violences sexuelles

Ce don s'inscrit dans le cadre d'un projet destiné à soutenir les femmes ayant subi des violences sexuelles en RDC, au Rwanda et au Burundi.

Kinshasa, 7 juillet 2014 - La RD-Congo, le Burundi et le Rwanda. Ce sont là les trois pays bénéficiaires des dons d'un montant total d'USD 107 millions, approuvés par le Conseil des administrateurs du Groupe de la Banque mondiale - BM. Ils permettront précisément de venir en aide à 641 000 femmes et filles, dont environ 500 000 en RD.Congo.

[Learn more>>](#)

Sangaris: point de situation du 3 juillet

Source: EMA

7 juillet, 2014 - Point sur les opérations de la force Sangaris, engagée en République centrafricaine, du 26 juin au 3 juillet 2014.

Les effectifs de la force Sangaris sont de l'ordre de 2 000 soldats. Les forces françaises sont présentes principalement dans trois zones :

- à Bangui et Boda avec le GTIA Acier,
- à l'ouest, de Beloko à Bossembele avec le GTIA de Boissieu,
- et à l'est, dans un triangle Sibut-Dekoa-Bria, avec le GTIA Scorpion.

Les effectifs d'EUFOR-RCA sont de 700 hommes, dont 250 militaires français. Pleinement opérationnelle depuis le 15 juin, EUFOR-RCA a aussitôt pris le relais de Sangaris pour appuyer la MISCA dans les 3e et 5e arrondissements de Bangui. Les effectifs de la MISCA sont de 5 800 hommes.

[Learn more>>](#)

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.

[NDLR : although this information is somewhat outdated, you might find some of the points interesting as far as Kenyan politics are concerned]

Kenya opposition moves expose national fragility

7 July 2014 - The Coalition for Reform and Democracy (CORD), Kenya's official opposition coalition, is today staging a rally in Nairobi. The rally is intended to revive CORD's fortunes and capture rising discontent with the Jubilee government. July 7 has historical resonance for Kenyans, who protested on this date against the authoritarian one-party state of Daniel arap Moi in 1990, eventually paving the way to a multi-party system. Political tensions are high ahead of today's event, having recently taken on a more pronounced ethnic character amid accusations that the opposition is fomenting violence along the coast.

[Learn more>>](#)