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



MEDIA MONITORING

9 July 2014

Rwandan President in Accra for ECOWAS Summit

Accra, July 9 (BERNAMA-NNN- GNA) - President Paul Kagame of Rwanda has arrived in Accra to attend the two-day Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Summit of Heads of State and Government to be held in the Ghanaian capital on Thursday and Friday.

[Learn more>>](#)

Leading Burundian activist in the dock

AFP

Bujumbura, 5 July 2014 - The trial of one of Burundi's most respected human rights activists opened on Friday on charges of "endangering" national security that could see him jailed for five years.

Around 2 000 supporters gathered at the court singing songs and shouting in support of Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa, president of the rights group Aprobeh, who was arrested in May.

Mbonimpa, awarded the International Red Cross' highest decoration, The Henry Dunant Medal, for his commitment to human rights, has campaigned for years against a series of killings of opposition members in the volatile nation.

"Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa endangered the domestic and external security of the country," prosecutor Arcade Nimbona told the court, reading the charge sheet, which also included charges of libel.

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Mbonimpa, who turned up at the court under heavy guard, is accused of speaking on an independent radio in May criticising what he said was the paramilitary training of members of the youth wing of the ruling party in neighbouring eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the distribution of weapons to them.

Prosecutors described them as "very serious offences".

At times, the shouts from supporters surrounding the court drowned out those speaking inside, according to an AFP journalist.

Burundi is growing increasingly tense in the run-up to a presidential election in 2015.

Mbonimpa was arrested after a leaked UN report that claimed the government was arming young supporters ahead of elections.

The government fiercely denied the allegations and ordered a top UN official out of the country.

Burundi is still healing from decades of civil war but is growing increasingly tense in the run-up to the polls, when President Pierre Nkurunziza is set to campaign for a third term in office despite a two-term constitutional limit.

Lawyers for 65-year-old Mbonimpa filed a plea for his release on bail due to ill health and age.

Over a dozen diplomats including from the United States, France, Belgium, the United Nations and the European Union crammed into the courtroom.

"This is unacceptable," one of his angry supporters said. "It is as if the authorities do not want to hear his arguments."

Central African Republic: CAR Rebel Peace Talks Suspended

By Kimeng Hilton Ndukong

The move is to enable the former ruling militia, Séléka, iron internal differences.

7 July 2014 - After recently carrying out extensive military restructuring, the former Moslem ruling militia in the Central African Republic, CAR, Séléka, are trying to present a more cohesive image

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by choosing new political leaders, Radio France International, RFI, reported yesterday, July 6, 2014.

[Learn more>>](#)

Uganda: Several killed in tribal clashes

By Godfrey Olukya

8 July 2014 - At least 72 people including three police officers and two soldiers have been killed in tribal clashes in western Uganda.

The clashes took place on Saturday afternoon, but the death toll continues to rise, as more dead bodies are being discovered in the affected villages.

[Learn more>>](#)

Doctors without Borders slams 'risk-averse' aid system

Doctors without Borders (MSF) says risk-aversion and bureaucracy are increasingly preventing international aid agencies from helping the world's most desperate people in emergency situations. The statement was made by the Swiss-based medical charity in a report published on Monday.

[Learn more>>](#)

Un député français appelle les partis à participer aux élections de 2015

Burundi, 9 juillet 2014 - Le député français Jean René Marsac, membre de la Commission des Affaires étrangères de l'Assemblée nationale française, en visite au Burundi, a invité mardi tous les partis politiques à participer au processus électoral de 2015, surtout pour que l'Assemblée Nationale soit pluraliste.

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Tanzanie: huit blessés dans un attentat à la bombe à Arusha

AFP

Arusha (Tanzanie), 8 juillet 2014 - Huit personnes ont été blessées, dont une grièvement, lors d'un attentat à la bombe dans un restaurant de la ville touristique d'Arusha, dans le nord de la Tanzanie, a annoncé mardi la police.

Il n'y a pas eu de mort mais huit personnes ont été blessées, dont l'une est dans un état grave, a déclaré à l'AFP Issaya Mngulu, un haut responsable de la police nationale. Tous les blessés sont des Tanzaniens, a-t-il dit.

C'était un engin explosif improvisé lancé à travers une fenêtre, a-t-il affirmé. Jusque-là, la police n'avait pas précisé l'origine de l'explosion, survenue lundi soir.

L'attentat a visé un restaurant indien situé dans un quartier chic d'Arusha, fréquenté par des étrangers et des membres de l'élite locale.

Le plancher du restaurant était couvert de sang et jonché de chaises renversées et de bris de verres, a constaté un journaliste de l'AFP. Arusha est l'un des pôles du tourisme en Tanzanie, un secteur économique important pour ce pays d'Afrique de l'Est.

Deux suspects de nationalité tanzanienne ont été arrêtés, a indiqué le responsable de la police, sans plus de détails. Les islamistes somaliens shebab, affiliés à Al-Qaïda, ont perpétré une série d'attaques dans des pays de la région, mais la police tanzanienne a indiqué ne pas les soupçonner pour l'attentat de lundi soir.

Nous ne savons pas qui sont les assaillants, mais nous ne soupçonnons aucune implication des shebab, a affirmé M. Mngulu.

Contrairement au Kenya, régulièrement attaqué par ces islamistes, la Tanzanie n'a pas envoyé de troupes combattre les shebab en Somalie au sein de la force de l'Union africaine, l'Amisom. La ville d'Arusha a été récemment le théâtre de plusieurs attentats.

Le 3 juillet, deux personnes ont été blessées dans un attentat à la bombe contre la maison d'un chef musulman local, a indiqué le haut responsable de la police, ajoutant que six suspects ont été arrêtés, tous des Tanzaniens. En juin 2013, trois personnes avaient été tuées par l'explosion d'une grenade lancée dans la foule d'un meeting du principal parti de l'opposition tanzanienne.

Le mois précédent, Arusha avait été le théâtre d'un autre attentat à la grenade, lancée au milieu de fidèles chrétiens réunis sur le parvis d'une église, tuant trois personnes et en blessant 64. Aucun lien n'a jusque-là été établi entre ces attaques, dont les auteurs n'ont pas identifiés.

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Soudan : la non-fête d'Omar el-Béchetir pour ses 25 ans au pouvoir

Par Christophe Boisbouvier

9 juillet 2014 - Poursuivi par la CPI, impopulaire chez lui, fragilisé par la partition du pays... Omar el-Béchetir s'est bien gardé de célébrer les 25 ans de son accession au pouvoir. On le comprend.

Pas de meeting, pas de discours... Le 30 juin, jour anniversaire de son coup d'État, le président Omar el-Béchetir est resté chez lui. Signe sans doute que le Parti du congrès national ne veut pas afficher ses divisions au grand jour. Parmi tous les compagnons qui ont aidé l'officier parachutiste à prendre le pouvoir il y a vingt-cinq ans, il ne reste guère que le général Bakri Hassan Saleh, son vieux frère d'armes, devenu vice-président en décembre 2013.

En savoir plus>>

Sudan predicted to be Africa's largest gold producer by 2018

Khartoum, July 7, 2014 - Sudan's minister of mining, Ahmed Mohamed Sadiq al-Karuri, has predicted the country will become Africa's largest gold producer by 2018.

He said in press statements on Monday that Sudan currently ranks third after Ghana and South Africa in gold production in Africa.

Karuri, who met with the US charge d'Affaires in Khartoum, Jerry Lanier, said the number of companies operating in the mining sector has risen to 120, noting that the figure includes both national companies and multinationals.

However, the minister said that most of the companies were still in the exploration stage, with only 10 at full production stage, adding that gold reserves stood at about 944 tonnes.

He pointed to the existence of large quantities of crude iron, chromium, and copper but said they lack the added value needed for export as crude materials, expressing a desire to cooperate with the US in the mining field.

The US official stressed that the level of ties between the two countries is below ambitions, underscoring a keenness to develop relations in the field of mining.

He promised to continue communicating with the mining ministry to look into possibilities for cooperation, particularly as Sudan is replete with huge resources that should be invested for the benefit of the Sudanese people.

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Meanwhile, the ministry of mining has signed an agreement with the joint Sudanese-Qatari Rumanna company, giving the latter a concession to explore in the Red Sea state.

Rummana's chairman of the board of directors, Gaafar Ahmed Taha, said in statements following the signing of the agreement that they have the real desire to invest in Sudan, predicting the deal would represent a real push to the mining industry in Sudan.

Last March, the government announced that gold production in 2014 would reach 70 tonnes compared to 34 tonnes in 2013 following development of the traditional mechanisms of exploration.

According to the ministry of mining, traditional mining represents 90% of gold production in Sudan.

The ministry said it plans to legalise and regulate the informal mining sector through the 2014 mineral wealth code which will be approved by the concerned bodies.

The East African country is looking for gold to make up for the budget deficit it incurred as a result of losing three quarters of its oil production due to the secession of South Sudan in July 2011.

In recent years a growing number of foreign gold companies have expressed interest in obtaining licences to operate in Sudan.

(ST)

Kenya Reviewing Legislation Act to Increase Forest Cover

BERNAMA-NNN-KBC

Nairobi, July 9 - The Kenyan government is in the process of reviewing the Forest Act to enable it to conform to the Constitutional requirement of realising 10 per cent forest cover in the country, says Conservation Cabinet Secretary (Minister) Gideon Gathaara.

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