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



## **MEDIA MONITORING**

**12 August 2015**

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**DRC**

### **RDC: le Sénat adopte la loi sur la répartition des sièges**

#### REPORTAGE

Source: RFI

**11 août 2015** - Trente-cinq minutes en tout et pour tout : c'est la durée de la session extraordinaire du Sénat, reportée hier et qui s'est tenue ce mardi 11 août au matin. Tous les élus présents ont voté mais les membres de l'opposition s'étaient absentés. La loi controversée à propos de la répartition des sièges pour les élections locales et provinciales a donc été adoptée.

Soixante-dix-sept sénateurs seulement sur un total de 108 ont participé à cette session extraordinaire controversée. L'opposition, et particulièrement le Mouvement de libération du Congo (MLC), a boycotté la séance. Tous les autres sénateurs présents ont adopté à l'unanimité la loi sur la répartition des sièges pour les élections locales et provinciales.

Un vote nominal et très expéditif pour ce texte qui a été recalé par la même Chambre il y a environ dix jours. Léon Kengo Wa Dondo, le président du Sénat, a usé d'une subtilité politique pour expliquer ce qu'on refuse désormais d'appeler un « rejet ». Il a plutôt parlé d'un vote insuffisant qui a nécessité la convocation de cette deuxième session extraordinaire du Sénat, aussitôt que la première avait pris fin.

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Le texte voté sera transmis au président de la République pour promulgation. C'est un instrument juridique qui permet de lever une des contraintes présentées par la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (Céni) pour l'organisation des élections, explique Ramazani Shadari, député et porte-parole du Parti du peuple pour la reconstruction et la démocratie (PPRD). L'opposition, elle, continue de parler d'une session « anticonstitutionnelle » et d'une pratique « dictatoriale ».

## De la logistique disponible pour le rapatriement des éléments de l'ex-M23

### ARTICLE

Source: ACP / MCN, via mediacongo.net

**Kinshasa, 10 août 2015** - Le chef de la Mission des Nations-Unies pour la stabilisation du Congo (Monusco), Martin Kobler, a assuré samedi 8 août le gouvernement de la RDC de la disponibilité de son institution pour fournir la logistique nécessaire au rapatriement des ex-M23 de l'Ouganda.

Le ministre de la Défense nationale, Anciens combattants et Réinsertion, Aimé Ngoi Mukena, a reçu ces assurances au cours de son entretien avec le chef de la Monusco à qui il a rendu compte de sa mission effectuée la semaine dernière à Binanga, en Ouganda, où il a rencontré les « frères égarés » de ce que fut le M23 conduits par leurs leaders Bisimwa et Makengo.

Martin Kobler a indiqué qu'il y a lieu d'assurer le suivi de la fin militaire de l'ex-M23 notamment par le rapatriement de ses anciens éléments, a-t-il dit, constitue tout un processus avant l'exécution du programme Désarmement, démobilisation et réinsertion (DDR).

## Millionaire governor gears up for 2016 Congo election bid

### NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

By Aaron Ross and Bienvenu-Marie Bakumanya

**Kinshasa, 11 August 2015** - Democratic Republic of Congo's richest and most powerful provincial governor is courting disaffected parties in President Joseph Kabila's

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coalition, fuelling speculation he is preparing a 2016 electoral challenge, political sources say.

Moise Katumbi, the 50-year-old governor of copper-rich Katanga province in the southeast of the vast African nation, is also getting help from top Washington lobbyists pushing for an orderly vote in November next year, U.S. filings show.

Although Katumbi, owner of top flight Congolese soccer club TP Mazembe, was coy about his ambitions when contacted by Reuters, one source close to him said he would throw his hat into the ring as a presidential candidate in the next month.

"Moise will declare one year before the date scheduled for the start of the electoral campaign," the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said. The election campaign officially opens on Sept. 20 next year.

Kabila has ruled the former Belgian colony since his father's assassination in 2001, winning disputed elections in 2006 and 2011. The constitution says he must quit next year but Kabila has refused to say whether he will leave office, angering opponents who accuse him of behaving like many African 'Big Men' who cling to power beyond their mandate.

At least 40 people died in January in protests against revisions to the election code that demonstrators said were a pretext to delay the presidential vote.

However, analysts say a formal Katumbi bid with declared support from some of Kabila's partners could be sufficiently serious to force Kabila into the open.

"The most immediate effect would be a total remaking of Kabila's base," said Pascal Kambale, former Congo country director for the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa.

"If he reacts mildly it will be an indication that he is himself not interested to stay in power any longer than constitutionally needed."

A government spokesman has said that Kabila intends to respect the constitution.

With a large support base in Katanga and vast sums at his disposal, Katumbi is viewed by many analysts as the most credible successor to Kabila. As a governor, Katumbi was credited with restoring infrastructure and supporting the booming mining sector, although critics accuse of him of lacking a long-term vision and using the office to advance his own business interests.

**U.S. LOBBYING**

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Katumbi's camp has also deployed a top law firm in Washington, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, to lobby for U.S. support for timely elections.

According to a July filing with the U.S. Department of Justice under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), Akin Gump contacted dozens of congressional staffers, non-governmental organizations and academics in the first six months of 2015 on behalf of the Mining Company of Katanga (MCK).

Katumbi co-founded MCK, which is now owned and controlled by his wife, Karyn, according to FARA records. Since 2011, the company has operated as a sub-contractor for mining companies, according to a filing with the provincial government.

It first retained Akin Gump in 2013, when the firm lobbied for the opening of a U.S. consulate in the Katanga capital, Lubumbashi, and a grain storage project.

But Akin Gump's 240 emails, phone calls and meetings in the first six months of this year on MCK's behalf all focused on "U.S. policy on 2016 DRC elections", according to the filing.

Anthony Gambino, a Georgetown University lecturer and former U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) director in Kinshasa, said he met an Akin Gump representative last week to discuss ways outsiders could press for Kabila's exit in 2016.

Gambino said Katumbi himself was not mentioned during discussions about Kabila's alleged efforts to stay in power.

Others contacted on behalf of MCK include the staff director of the House of Representatives Africa Sub-committee, the head of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Kinshasa and the senior DRC desk officer at the State Department.

Akin Gump policy adviser Roger Murry said the firm did not represent Katumbi's political interests but was "working in support of a more proactive U.S. role in promoting free, fair, transparent and timely presidential elections".

**DOMESTIC SUPPORT**

Katumbi, who has made millions through his mining and other business interests, was elected governor of Katanga in 2006 with Kabila's support.

But the relationship soured after Katumbi used a public rally in December to urge his supporters to challenge Kabila's right to score a "third penalty" against Congo, a thinly veiled reference to a third term by the president.

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Katumbi is also losing his post as governor after Katanga, home to the continent's top copper production, was divided into four - part of a decentralization drive widely interpreted as an attempt to weaken Katumbi. In response, he is building nationwide support, sources say.

"I'm telling you that the man is working," the source close to Katumbi said. "He's even planning to launch a satellite television channel very soon to reach the entire republic." He has also won backing from the so-called 'G7' - seven parties in the ruling coalition critical of Kabila's refusal to declare his intentions, one G7 leader told Reuters.

"We will support Katumbi publicly once he announces," the party leader said. "We didn't sign on to support Kabila after 2016."

## **Dialogue politique: une plateforme de l'opposition souhaite la médiation internationale**

### ARTICLE

Source: Okapi.net

**11 août 2015** - Le Front populaire contre la révision constitutionnelle tient à un dialogue politique en République démocratique du Congo (RDC) avec une médiation internationale. Le modérateur de cette plate-forme politique de l'opposition, Lisanga Bonganga, l'a déclaré lundi 10 août à Kinshasa.

« Au niveau du Front populaire contre la révision constitutionnelle, nous soutenons la position du président Etienne Tshisekedi. Il faut qu'il y ait le dialogue sous la médiation internationale », a affirmé Lisanga Bonganga.

Cette plate-forme estime que le pays traverse une crise politique liée aux problèmes de financement, de calendrier électoral et à la sécurisation des élections.

Face à cette situation, un dialogue sérieux est nécessaire entre les acteurs politiques de l'opposition et ceux de la majorité présidentielle sous les bons offices des Nations-Unies, et non avec la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (Ceni), soutient cette plate-forme.

« Nous voulons la médiation, c'est parce que lors de ce dialogue, nous allons débattre des éléments importants: la certification des recommandations à la présence de la communauté internationale, ça va nous pousser à honorer nos engagements », a indiqué Lisanga Bonganga.

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Pour lui, la communauté Internationale servirait de témoin qui « saura dire qui a fait quoi et qui va respecter quoi ».

Lisanga Bonganga estime que la communauté Internationale sera aussi une garantie pour que le dialogue ne soit pas sous contrôle [d'une tendance].

« La Ceni ne peut pas résoudre les vrais problèmes politiques. Nous avons eu les concertations nationales. Mais ça a donné quoi? », s'est interrogé le modérateur de cette plate-forme de l'opposition.

Depuis l'annonce éventuelle d'un dialogue politique en RDC après les concertations nationales, deux tendances se dégagent. L'une souhaite que ce dialogue soit organisé sous l'égide de la communauté internationale, alors que l'autre pense qu'il doit être présidé par des congolais.

## **Le dialogue, passage obligé pour des élections apaisées en RDC**

### OPINION

Source: Le Potentiel

**Kinshasa, 11 août 2015** - Pour bon nombre d'observateurs, il est temps de tenter d'obtenir par la voie du dialogue ce qui convient le mieux et qui éviterait au pays de connaître des élections entachées de graves irrégularités.

Le processus électoral suit désormais un cheminement qui passe par l'enrôlement de nouveaux majeurs, avec comme conséquence directe le réaménagement du calendrier électoral. Pour y arriver, le dialogue devient ainsi un passage obligé. Eventuellement, le glissement pourrait s'obtenir sans beaucoup de casse. Un schéma qui se décline étape par étape, au point qu'il serait quasi impossible d'éliminer une partie de la chaîne.

L'enrôlement de nouveaux majeurs, c'est une exigence constitutionnelle que l'Opposition a toujours embouchée. Dans un discours à la nation, le président de la République a adhéré à l'idée. Joseph Kabila estimait qu'il n'était pas constitutionnel de priver à autant de Congolais le droit civique de vote, alors qu'ils n'auraient enfreint aucune loi de la République. Dans la classe politique ainsi qu'au sein de la Société civile, personne ne veut porter cette lourde responsabilité. Le Parlement qui avait prévu d'ignorer « de nouveaux majeurs » lors des locales et législatives provinciales risque d'être rattrapé. Il est inadmissible que des Congolais ayant un casier judiciaire vierge soient exclus du processus électoral pour des raisons non apparentes.

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La Commission électorale nationale indépendante (Ceni) ne l'entend pas de cette oreille. Poussée sans ménagement par l'Opposition à publier un calendrier global, la Ceni défend depuis bec et ongles le calendrier rendu public le 12 février. Pour la centrale électorale, cette opération ne pourrait se tenir qu'en janvier 2016. En d'autres termes, les nouveaux majeurs ne voteront pas lors des locales et les provinciales qui sont prévus pour le mois d'octobre prochain. En juillet dernier, le rapporteur de la Ceni a estimé que la question était prise en charge par le Calendrier du 12 février 2015. Toutefois, il a relevé à l'occasion quelques préalables à remplir avant de boucler l'opération de manière satisfaisante. Des préalables essentiellement techniques, « savoir » le lancement de l'appel d'offres pour le recrutement d'une entreprise techniquement apte à fabriquer et à livrer le matériel d'enrôlement (kits) ; la mise à disposition des fonds nécessaires... ».

Mises ensemble, toutes les exigences liées au seul processus d'enrôlement de nouveaux majeurs conduisent inévitablement au réaménagement du calendrier de 2015. C'est le deuxième chaînon. Dans l'éventualité de la tenue de cette opération avant les locales et les provinciales de manière à éviter une grave violation de la Constitution, des retouches du calendrier seront nécessaires. Dans le cas contraire, ces millions de Congolais, désignés sous le vocable de « nouveaux majeurs », seront privés du droit de vote.

Cette option étant inconstitutionnelle, personne ne pourrait porter sur lui pareille responsabilité historique. C'est à croire que les jeunes qui ont atteint l'âge de voter après 2006 jusqu'à ce jour, voteraient en faveur d'un camp au détriment de l'autre. Or une frange d'électeurs estimée au tiers du corps électoral est capable de faire basculer le vote vers un camp ou vers un autre. Ce serait un crime contre la démocratie que de ne pas enrôler ces nouveaux majeurs. Cependant pour ne pas impacter négativement le calendrier, l'opération doit débiter « maintenant » ainsi que l'a conseillé un vieux routier de la politique en RD Congo, le doyen Mwando Nsimba. L'opération qui peut prendre une dizaine de mois laisserait une marge suffisante à la passation des commandes au dispatching sur le vaste territoire de la République démocratique du Congo.

**Le dialogue passage obligé de glissement**

Il ne suffit pas d'opérer un forcing et de gérer des contestations après les scrutins. Il est plutôt temps de tenter d'obtenir par la voie du dialogue ce qui convient le mieux et qui éviterait au pays de connaître des élections entachées de graves irrégularités comme celles organisées en son temps par le pasteur Ngoy Mulunda. Des scrutins décriés par les perdants, mais aussi par les gagnants voire des observateurs indépendants. Toutes

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justifications allant dans le sens de balayer d'un revers de la main les anomalies constatées lors des votes de 2011 n'ont été que la consécration de l'indéfendable.

Et pourtant, ce qui se prépare actuellement, c'est du déjà-vu par l'ensemble des Congolais. Dans la précipitation, on tente de démontrer qu'on serait disposé à organiser des élections alors que durant les deux mandats rien n'a été fait pour atteindre cet objectif. Pour ce faire, le dialogue prôné par le chef de l'Etat est cette voie de sortie qui pourrait permettre de traverser 2016 sans casse. Mettre tous les Congolais autour d'une table avec comme objectif obtenir des concessions majeures sur le processus et sur le comportement à tenir avant, pendant et après les élections. Le dialogue devient donc un passage obligé pour réussir des élections apaisées en RDC.

Le processus tel que détaillé pourrait conduire au glissement. Or il est encore possible de l'éviter, car le peuple tient à des élections dans les délais prévus par la Constitution. Même avis du côté des partenaires extérieurs qui rappellent de temps en temps le respect de la Constitution. Ce serait le gage de stabilité du pays.

## **RD Congo: nouveau vote d'une loi électorale controversée au Sénat en RDC: Kabila sur les traces mortifères de Nkurunziza**

### OPINION

Source: Le Pays

**11 août 2015** - Convoqué hier lundi 10 août 2015 en session extraordinaire, le Sénat congolais est appelé, une seconde fois, à voter la loi controversée sur la répartition des sièges pour les élections locales et provinciales. Mais la session extraordinaire a été reportée à aujourd'hui, 11 août 2015. Et cela, pour « des questions administratives ». Le moins que l'on puisse dire est que ce projet de loi qui divise la classe politique congolaise connaît bien des péripéties. Rejeté en 1re lecture par l'Assemblée nationale aux motifs qu'il a été bâclé en raison de son élaboration précipitée et de sa non-conformité à la Constitution, il avait été finalement adopté en procédure d'urgence et transmis au Sénat le même jour, qui, à son tour, l'avait rejeté pour incohérence. Pour les sénateurs, en effet, le projet n'avait pas de fondement constitutionnel en ce sens qu'il violait la Constitution qui donne à tout Congolais ayant l'âge requis pour voter, le droit de se faire enregistrer. C'est donc un retour à la charge que fait le pouvoir congolais, en convoquant à nouveau le Sénat autour du même projet.

Cette loi prépare les conditions de la modification constitutionnelle que Kabila a en ligne de mire



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Pourquoi cette fébrilité et cette persistance suspectes? Pourrait-on se demander. Officiellement, pour le parti présidentiel, le Parti du peuple pour la Reconstruction et la Démocratie (PPRD), «il faut que cette loi soit promulguée pour que les élections soient effectivement couplées..... Voilà pourquoi nous voulons que la loi passe», comme le dit Ramazani Shadari, secrétaire général adjoint et porte-parole du parti. Mais on s'en doute, cette loi fait bien l'affaire du régime Kabila, car elle comporte volontairement des zones d'ombres que le pouvoir pourrait exploiter à son seul profit. Nonobstant le flou qu'elle entretient pour la répartition des sièges dans certaines circonscriptions électorales du pays, cette loi prépare les conditions de la modification constitutionnelle que Kabila a en ligne de mire. On comprend alors les cris d'orfraie de l'opposition qui dénonce un acte anticonstitutionnel. Pour cette session extraordinaire, il y a fort à parier que cette fois sera la bonne. La loi sera votée, conformément à la volonté du prince régnant. Sans douter de la pertinence des réajustements techniques apportés au projet, il est certain, comme il est coutumier sous nos cieux, que le régime a préparé autrement cette session. Comme on le dit couramment, « beaucoup d'eau a coulé sous les ponts ». Les sénateurs ont certainement été « enfeuillés » et ils vont, comme c'est devenu récurrent dans nos républiques bananières, se livrer à un jeu de prestidigitation pour retourner leur veste ; toute chose qui vient prouver une fois de plus qu'en Afrique, les convictions politiques et idéologiques n'ont que la durée de vie des éphémères. Ce passage en force vient surtout confirmer la nature dictatoriale du régime Kabila. En Afrique, quand le roi veut, Dieu veut. Aucun obstacle n'est rédhibitoire pour le prince régnant, très souvent encouragé dans les dérives par sa cour de partisans mus seulement par leur ventre et leur bas-ventre. Si le Sénat venait à se rallier à la volonté du dictateur comme on en a la forte présomption, il apporterait une preuve supplémentaire que bien des institutions démocratiques en Afrique sont des coquilles vides et pèsent inutilement sur le dos du contribuable. A la bourse des valeurs de ces institutions créées pour paraître sur le continent, le Sénat congolais, à coup sûr acheté, par ce vote, confirmerait bien sa forte cotation.

**C'est au peuple congolais de tracer les lignes de son avenir**

Quant à Kabila, on s'en doute, ce passage en force est un ballon d'essai pour son projet de tripatouillage constitutionnel. Il met ainsi ses pieds dans les pas mortifères de Nkurunziza et, tout comme lui, il court à sa perte, entraînant son pays avec lui dans de sombres destins. En effet, l'issue de ce funeste dessein est fatalement l'instabilité pour un Congo qui porte depuis son indépendance, le gène de la guerre. Mais pour ces dictateurs qui se repaissent de la charogne de leur peuple, la guerre est une industrie et leur sert surtout à maquiller les violations des droits de l'homme et les crimes politiques de toute nature. Ce ne seront pas les récriminations de l'opposition ni de la société civile embastillée, qui arrêteront cet ogre de Kabila, débarrassé du seul ennemi qui

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pouvait troubler son sommeil, en l'occurrence ce Jean-Pierre Bemba aujourd'hui à la CPI. Manifestement, le cas burkinabè n'a pas fait école en Afrique centrale. Peut-être que tous ces dictateurs qui nagent dans les eaux saumâtres des tripatouillages constitutionnels se gaussent-ils de Blaise Compaoré, qui, à leurs yeux, n'aurait pas eu assez de cran pour résister à la bourrasque de la contestation populaire burkinabè. Il est à craindre même que naisse dans cette partie du continent, une Internationale des dictateurs pour soutenir et financer un contre-printemps démocratique en Afrique et ce, sous le regard désabusé de la communauté internationale. Le salut viendra-t-il de l'Eglise catholique qui, jusque-là, avait fait preuve de fermeté vis-à-vis du despote ? Une chose est certaine, c'est le peuple congolais qui tient entre ses mains son destin et c'est à lui de tracer les lignes de son avenir.

## RWANDA

### Two Rwandans Held in Burundi

#### NEWS STORY

Source: The New Times

By Collins Mwai

**11 August 2015** - Two Rwandans are being held in Bujumbura, Burundi, on allegations of espionage. Joseph Mbonyinshuti and Aimé Nkundabatware were arrested on June 22, at Nemba, Rwanda-Burundi border.

The two are employees of Enterprise Multi-Service (EMS), a Kigali-based firm. Sources privy to the matter told The New Times that the duo was conducting a study on the Rwandan side of the border, when they were tricked into crossing over to the Burundian side.

"They had been working on a research project for about a week when they were asked by a group of civilians to explain their activities to officials in the area. Before they knew it, they had already been tricked into crossing the border and arrested by Burundian authorities," the source said.

After being held at a facility in Kirundo Province for about a week, they were transferred to Bujumbura and handed over to the crime investigations department.

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"The long detention without prosecution, prison conditions, lack of proper legal representation and the political situation in Burundi have left them emotionally exhausted, unsafe and uncertain of their fate," the source added.

The duo is said to have found legal services of a Burundian pro bono lawyer, Pierre Claver Tuyisenge. The lawyer said his clients were moved to Mpimba prison on July 3 following interrogations.

Tuyisenge said, with the Burundian Judiciary currently on recess, there has been delay in presenting the two before court.

"This month, the courts here are on recess, but when it ends, we will seek an appeal hearing and do our best to have them set free. We will seek to have the case dropped as clearly there is no case against them," Tuyisenge told The New Times.

Rwanda's ambassador to Burundi, Amadin Rugira, confirmed the arrests and charges against the duo, adding that they are held at Bujumbura Central prison.

He said the espionage charges were 'fake' and was optimistic that the case would be dropped in the coming days.

Rugira explained that the embassy was making efforts to offer assistance to the two Rwandans by facilitating their lawyer and trying to prove that they are forestry experts and in no way linked to intelligence services.

"It may not be possible to sort out the matter diplomatically as the case is already under a judicial process, but we are optimistic that with the help of their lawyer the charges will be dropped, considering that they were even tricked into crossing the border," Rugira said.

In June, this year, at the height of violent protests in Burundi, a Rwandan journalist, Etienne Besabesa, working for Radio Izuba, Radio Flash and Igihe.com, was arrested in Burundi on grounds that he had entered the country illegally.

Besabesa was also accused of espionage and recruiting youth to join a rebel movement against the Burundi government.

Court, however, found all charges against him lacking in evidence and he was consequently released.

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## Only 10 Rwandans oppose Kagame third term: report

### NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

**Rwandan lawmakers found only 10 people in nationwide consultations who opposed possible constitutional changes to allow strongman Paul Kagame a third term in power, a report said Tuesday.**

**11 August 2015** - Lawmakers began a national tour last month to gather opinions after both houses of parliament voted in support of constitutional change, backing a petition signed by millions of citizens.

Over 3.7 million people - over 60 percent of voters - signed the petition calling for a change to Article 101 of the constitution, which limits the president to two terms, according to Rwandan media.

On Monday, lawmakers submitted their report from the consultations to parliament.

"Of millions of Rwandans consulted by lawmakers on the need to amend Article 101 of the constitution in the past few weeks, only 10 were against the idea," the New Times newspaper reported Tuesday.

Any change to the constitution would require a vote in support by at least three-quarters of both parliamentary houses, followed by a national referendum.

Kagame, 57, has been at the helm of Rwandan politics since 1994, when an offensive by his Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) rebels put an end to a genocide by Hutu extremists that left an estimated 800,000 people dead, most of whom were Tutsis.

As minister of defence and then vice president, Kagame was widely seen as the power behind the throne even before he took the presidency in 2003, winning 95 percent of the vote. He was re-elected in 2010 with a similarly resounding mandate. The next elections are due in 2017.

From the trauma of genocide, he has been painted as a guarantor of stability and economic development, earning praise from donors -- and his supporters say many in Rwanda view the prospect of his departure as a step into the unknown.

Critics say however that he has silenced the opposition and the media.

Kagame says the decision on a third term is for the "Rwandan people".

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The move comes amid a wider controversy in Africa over efforts by leaders to change constitutions in order to stay in office.

Neighbouring Burundi was plunged into turmoil in April when President Pierre Nkurunziza launched his successful bid for a third term in office, a move branded by opponents as unconstitutional and a violation of a peace deal that ended 13 years of civil war.

## BURUNDI

### Burundi gov't welcomes UN Security Council's resolution to designate new facilitator

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Xinhua

**Bujumbura, 11 August 2015** - The Burundian government has welcomed the resolution of the United Nations Security Council taken Monday on designating a new facilitator for Burundi's crisis, Burundian Government Spokesman Philippe Nzobonariba told Xinhua on Tuesday.

"We (the Burundian government) have never refused a facilitator sent by the United Nations (UN). If the UN sends a new facilitator, he will be welcome. But this has to be done in respect of domestic laws and international conventions regulating countries," said Burundian Government Spokesman Philippe Nzobonariba.

In May and June, the UN sent two facilitators to mediate the Burundian political and security crisis caused by the third term bid of Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza.

The first one was Algerian national Said Djinnit who was rejected by the opposition accusing him of siding with the government.

The second one was Senegalese national Abdoulaye Bathily whose facilitation initiatives were rejected by the ruling party, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) and its allies.

After the UN initiative failed, the East African Community (EAC) designated Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni to continue the facilitation, but talks stalled again when the Burundian government refused to postpone the presidential poll to July 30 as suggested

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by the EAC facilitation, arguing that it would be a violation of the national constitution if the presidential is held at the suggested date.

Since the beginning of protests on April 26, one day after the designation of Nkurunziza to run the presidential election, more than 80 persons were killed in protests against the third term bid of Burundian President Nkurunziza that the opposition said was a violation of the national constitution and the 2000 Arusha Agreement.

However, the country's constitutional court ruled that Nkurunziza's 2005-2010 should not be considered as a term because he was elected by the parliament and not directly by citizens.

## UGANDA

### Ugandan officials to meet South Sudanese counterparts over border disputes

#### NEWS STORY

Source: NTV Uganda

**Onek promised the locals in Ngomoromo that efforts were being initiated between the governments of Uganda and South Sudan to properly demarcate the border**

**11 August 2015** - The Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees Hilary Onek has met security forces and locals at the Uganda- South Sudan border at Ngomoromo in Lamwo where South Sudanese militias attacked recently,

Onek, who is also the Member of Parliament for Lamwo County, was there to assess the security situation, after the homes and farms of over 200 locals were raided.

Onek promised the locals in Ngomoromo that efforts were being initiated between the governments of Uganda and South Sudan to properly demarcate the border in a bid to prevent any future disputes.

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## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### La CEEAC prolonge la transition en Centrafrique pour mieux préparer les élections

#### ARTICLE

Source: Xinhua

**12 août 2015** - Le président en exercice de la Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale (CEEAC), le chef de l'Etat gabonais Ali Bongo Ondimba, a signé mardi un décret prolongeant la durée de la transition en République centrafricaine afin de disposer de plus de temps pour organiser les élections législatives et présidentielle.

Selon un communiqué officiel de l'institution, cette transition, prorogée pour la période allant du 18 août au 30 décembre 2015, vise à permettre aux autorités de la Transition d'organiser les élections législatives et présidentielles "crédibles et transparentes".

Cette décision a été prise pendant la 16ème Session ordinaire de la Conférence des chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement de la CEEAC tenue à N'djamena le 25 mai 2015.

Un émissaire du Secrétaire général de la CEEAC se rendra à Bangui, capitale de la Centrafrique d'ici la fin de la semaine pour transmettre cette décision aux autorités de la Transition en République centrafricaine, a indiqué cette institution sous-régionale.

20 personnes, y compris l'ancien président François Bozizé, ont déjà annoncé leur candidature à l'élection présidentielle dans ce pays, qui a connu une guerre civile doublée d'un conflit confessionnel opposant les chrétiens aux musulmans.

### UN troops killed two, raped girl in Central African Republic – Amnesty

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

By Joe Bavier

**11 August 2015** - Amnesty International on Tuesday accused United Nations peacekeepers of raping a 12-year-old girl and killing a boy and his father during an operation in Central African Republic's capital Bangui earlier this month.

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The U.N. mission, set up to maintain stability as the country struggles to emerge from two years of inter-religious violence, was already facing allegations of abuse, as are French soldiers and a previous African peacekeeping force.

The incidents evoked by Amnesty occurred on Aug. 2 and 3 following an armed clash between soldiers from the MINUSCA mission and residents of Bangui's PK5 Muslim enclave in which one Cameroonian soldier was killed and nine others were injured.

"Our evidence strongly suggests that a U.N. peacekeeper raped a young girl and that U.N. peacekeeping forces indiscriminately killed two civilians," Joanne Mariner, Senior Crisis Response Adviser at Amnesty, said in a statement.

U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon said through a spokesman he was "dismayed" at the allegations.

The rights group interviewed a total of 15 witnesses to the two incidents. It also spoke to the alleged rape victim, who had been hiding in a bathroom during a house search on Aug. 2 when a man wearing a U.N. blue helmet and vest took her outside and raped her behind a truck.

"When I cried, he slapped me hard and put his hand over my mouth," she told Amnesty investigators.

A nurse who examined the girl found medical evidence consistent with sexual assault, Amnesty said.

The following day Balla Hadji, 61, and his 16-year-old son Souleimane Hadji were killed in front of their home by U.N. soldiers, the statement said.

Amnesty investigators were told by a MINUSCA spokesperson that Rwandan and Cameroonian police and gendarmes had carried out the operation in PK5.

Speaking to journalists in New York on Tuesday Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, said the allegations would be thoroughly investigated.

"The secretary-general is personally dismayed and disappointed, not just by these latest reports, but by the series of allegations that has surfaced ... in recent months," he said.

In June, the United Nations announced that an investigation had been launched after peacekeepers were accused of sexually abusing street children. And last month MINUSCA sent home 20 peacekeepers in July for using excessive force against four people, killing two of them.



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There are around 10,000 U.N. peacekeepers in Central African Republic, which descended into chaos after mainly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power in 2013, sparking reprisals from Christian militia that have resulted in the country's de facto partition.

## **CAR urged to include refugees in vital October poll**

### NEWS STORY

Source: Aljazeera

**Bangui, 11 August 2015** - With just over a month left before presidential elections are held in Central African Republic, experts and humanitarians are concerned that time is running out for authorities to create a representative voters roll in the country marred by ongoing conflict.

David Smith, an advisor to the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) in Johannesburg, told Al Jazeera that failure to include people in rural areas or refugees currently in Chad and Cameroon in October's vote, "would take a problematic election and make it very flawed".

"So far, it is only people in the capital, Bangui, that have been put on electoral roll ... most people are in rural areas and they have one month to put it all together," Smith said, adding that if "these elections are to be remotely legitimate, refugees would [also] have to vote," Smith told Al Jazeera on Tuesday.

Smith's comments come days after the United Nations Security Council said it was "absolute priority" for the election on October 18 to be an inclusive one.

### **Crimes against humanity**

The country's transitional government, in power since January 2014, issued a draft electoral bill on June 30, saying that refugees who wished to vote had to first return to the country. On 22 July the country's highest court overturned the decision by the transitional parliament but it is still not clear when the government will repeal on the electoral bill.

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), around 10% of the country's population have been forced to flee and said they were "alarmed" with the decision.

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Almost 190 000 out of the 460 000 mostly Muslim refugees would be eligible to vote, the UNCHR said.

"Citizens should not be denied their right to vote based on logistical grounds," Dalia al-Achi, from the UNHCR in Bangui, said.

On Monday, it was suggested that former president Francois Bozize would return from exile to contest in the presidential election, two years after he was unseated from power.

The Seleka government that succeeded Bozize has accused him of crimes against humanity and incitement to genocide. He also faces UN travel and banking sanctions.

**Massive exodus**

Smith told Al Jazeera that it would suit Bozize if Muslims would not be able to vote.

"To not allow these people to vote, would be to say that most Muslims of CAR should not take part in choosing the next president," Smith said.

In July, Amnesty International said more than 30 000 Muslims were still living in seven protected enclaves around the country, amid continued instability in the country. Targeted attacks have resulted in a massive exodus of the Muslim and Fulani communities from CAR, with the communities still largely under threat from anti-Balaka militia.

The anti-Balaka, made up of Christian and animist vigilantes, have specifically targeted the country's Muslim minority, seen as sympathetic to the Seleka rebels who took over the country briefly in a coup in 2013.

"One of the root drivers of this conflict was the marginalisation of the minority Muslim community, and so in order to address that underlying issue, every effort should be made to incorporate them into the political process," Rachel Sullivan of The Project CAR, at the Conflict Resolution programme at Georgetown University in Washington, said.

**Security**

Sullivan agrees that the process needs to be balanced with time constraints, meaning that creating a safer election will "take more time than is available for this particular election".

Since 2013, the Central African Republic has been dogged by violence perpetuated by so many different actors in the country. Experts argue that the lack of spectacle in the

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country was deceptive. In the battle for eyes and ears, with ongoing trouble in Burundi, South Sudan, and northeastern Nigeria, CAR was simply not receiving the attention needed.

"The CAR is different from Burundi and Nigeria - it has really never had a government that has power outside the capital and has never had a functioning government," Smith said.

"There are a lot of battles taking place and there is no peace or stability. This is a country that does not have a functioning security service, police or army; its still the man with the biggest gun that rules."

Last week, Aurelien Agbenonci, the UN's humanitarian coordinator in CAR, told Al Jazeera that if the shortfall for aid was not met, the UN "won't be able to continue humanitarian activities till the end of the year".

Only 31 percent of the UN humanitarian appeal for the CAR has been secured, the UN said.

## **L'ONU attristée par la mort de cinq Casques bleus rwandais à Bangui**

### ARTICLE

Source: AFP via Journaldebangui.com

**11 août 2015** - Plusieurs hauts responsables des Nations Unies ont exprimé leur tristesse samedi face au tragique incident ayant causé la mort de cinq Casques bleus rwandais déployés au sein de la Minusca

Plusieurs hauts responsables des Nations Unies ont exprimé leur tristesse face au tragique incident ayant causé la mort de cinq Casques bleus rwandais déployés au sein de la Mission Multidimensionnelle Intégrée des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation en République centrafricaine (MINUSCA).

Dans un communiqué de presse rendu public samedi soir par son porte-parole à New York, le Secrétaire général de l'ONU, Ban Ki-moon, s'est déclaré attristé samedi soir d'apprendre la mort de cinq Casques bleus rwandais de la MINUSCA à Bangui.

«Une enquête approfondie est en cours afin de déterminer les circonstances de cet incident au cours duquel huit autres Casques bleus ont été blessés», a ajouté le chef de l'ONU.

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Des Casques bleus à Bangui. Photo pour illustration

Le Secrétaire général a présenté ses plus sincères condoléances aux familles des défunts ainsi qu'au gouvernement et au peuple rwandais. Il a également souhaité un prompt rétablissement aux blessés.

Les membres du Conseil de sécurité ont également exprimé dimanche leur tristesse face à cette tragédie, tout en prenant acte du fait qu'une enquête est actuellement en cours pour faire lumière sur les circonstances de l'incident.

Les membres du Conseil de sécurité ont réitéré leur plein soutien à la MINUSCA dans l'accomplissement de son mandat, à savoir d'aider les autorités de transition, «qui ont la responsabilité première de protéger la population», et le peuple de la République centrafricaine dans leurs efforts en vue d'instaurer une paix durable et la stabilité dans le pays.

## REPUBLIC OF CONGO

### Congo's Sassou Nguesso sacks ministers opposed to third-term bid

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

**Brazzaville, 11 August 2015** - President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo has replaced two ministers who last month came out against constitutional changes that would pave the way for him to seek a third term in office.

The removal of civil service minister Guy Brice Parfait Kolelas and trade minister Claudine Munari was announced late on Monday. No official reasons were given.

Sassou Nguesso, 71, who has ruled oil-producing Congo for a total of 31 years in two separate spells in office, is banned by the current constitution from seeking another term.

However, last month he called a national forum to discuss reforms including raising the maximum age for presidential candidates and scrapping the two-term limit, further feeding expectations he will seek to extend his rule in polls next year.

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Kolelas and Munari were not present at the forum, choosing instead to attend an alternative, opposition-organised meeting that called for resistance to the proposed changes.

Gilbert Mokoki, previously deputy transport minister, was named to replace Kolelas as civil service minister, while Kolelas' brother Euloge Landry Kolelas, deputy mayor of the capital Brazzaville, takes over from Munari as trade minister.

A number of veteran African leaders have triggered protests with plans to extend their time in office.

During a speech at the African Union in Ethiopia last month, U.S. President Barack Obama admonished African leaders trying to change constitutional term limits, warning they threatened democracy on the continent.

## **Congo: Sassou Nguesso remanie son gouvernement, deux ministres opposés au changement de constitution exclus**

### ARTICLE

Source: Koaci.com (<http://koaci.com/congo-sassou-nguesso-remanie-gouvernement-deux-ministres-opposes-changement-constitution-exclus-90272.html>)

**10 Août 2015** - Deux ministres opposés au changement de constitution ont été exclus lundi soir du gouvernement congolais par le président de la République après un réaménagement.

Denis Sassou Nguesso, qui souhaite briguer un troisième mandat, après ceux de 2002 et 2009, a exclu la ministre du Commerce et des Approvisionnements, Claudine Munari, et celui de la Fonction publique et de la réforme de l'Etat, Guy-Brice Parfait Kolélas.

Le décret du remaniement a été lu à la radio et à la télévision publique par le directeur de cabinet du président qui a dirigé le Congo entre 1979 et 1992 sous le règne du parti unique, Firmin Ayessa.

La ministre exclue sera remplacée par Euloge Landry Kolélas, frère du ministre sorti ce soir. Si Jean-Marc Thystère Tchicaya fait son entrée aux Hydrocarbures c'est Gilbert Mokoki qui prend la Fonction publique et de la réforme de l'Etat.

Fin juillet, les deux sortants avaient activement pris part à un dialogue de l'opposition en défaveur d'une modification de la constitution de 2002 en vue de permettre au président

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de 72 ans de briguer un nouveau mandat en 2016. Il répondait à celui que le président congolais avait convoqué mi-juillet à Sibiti (ouest).

Par ailleurs, Alain Akouala Atipault (Zones économiques spéciales), Basile Ikouebé (Affaires étrangères) et André Raphaël Loemba (Hydrocarbures) ont également été exclus mais pour d'autres raisons (...)

Par ailleurs, alors que les cinq ministres d'État ont conservé leur portefeuille, sur les 35 contre 37 membres du nouveau gouvernement, aucun ministre délégué et quatre femmes au lieu de trois.

Isidore Mvouba (Développement industriel) et Florent Ntsiba (Travail), fidèles parmi les fidèles depuis l'arrivée au pouvoir de Sassou en 1997 après la guerre civile, restent bien évidemment en poste.

Pour finir, Jean-Claude Gakosso, passe de la Culture aux Affaires étrangères, Bienvenu Okiemy, précédemment à la Communication, prend quant à lui en main le ministère de la Culture et des Arts.

## KENYA

### East Africa: Kenya, Uganda Relations Vital for EAC Integration

#### NEWS STORY

Source: The Monitor

**11 August 2015** - Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta is on a state visit in Uganda. Mr Kenyatta came along with his wife Margaret and son Muhoho, together with a delegation. Much as the visit is seen by many as political, actions speak louder than words, if you want to know what the visit is all about.

The Kenyan leader yesterday addressed Parliament, and on Sunday visited Quality Chemical Industries in Luzira, a pharmaceutical plant that manufactures malaria and anti-retroviral medicine. Mr Kenyatta also addressed the Ugandan business community and Kenyans in Uganda.

Apart from the political relations Uganda enjoys with Kenya, the two countries are historically intertwined, and are strong business partners who hardly exist without the other. Kenya is Uganda's biggest business partner in the region.

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According to President Museveni, last year bilateral trade between Uganda and Kenya was valued at \$880 million, with Kenyan exports to Uganda standing at \$700 million versus imports of \$180 million.

The two countries, therefore, need each other and must avoid anything that can hurt such cordial relations. The 2008 post-election violence in Kenya reminded us of the hard reality, when Uganda-bound goods were briefly cut off by rioters in parts of Kenya, making life for the business community in Uganda and ordinary consumers hard.

We commend the efforts made by Kenya and Uganda's leaders to knock down the red tape that held back trade and movement between the two countries, and the larger East Africa Community. Now, traders spend less money given the fact that cargo between Mombasa port and Kampala takes three days from 18 days previously.

The Northern Corridor infrastructure projects, including the Standard Gauge Railway, will further enhance trade between the two countries, speed up and cut the cost of movement of people and cargo in our region.

It is when ordinary people benefit from bilateral and multilateral relations with other nations that diplomacy makes sense to the wananchi.

Uganda is home to thousands of Kenyan workers and students. Kenya has also been host to thousands of Uganda over the decades, particularly during the time our country was at war in the 1970s and 1980s. Uganda reciprocated the gesture when we played host to the refugees of the 2008 post-election violence. It is such history and factors that Mr Kenyatta's speech on pulling down walls that divide our countries, touch the aspirations of many East Africans.

There are many opportunities that abound by seamless borders for the people of our countries. It is, therefore, critical that the people of Kenya and Uganda continue enjoying their long history of co-operation successive regional integration arrangements.

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## SOUTH SUDAN

### Réunion des rebelles sud-soudanais avant les pourparlers de paix

#### REPORTAGE

Source: France24

**11 août 2015** - Les rebelles sud-soudanais emmenés par l'ancien vice-président Riek Machar se sont réunis dans leur base de Pagak, en Éthiopie, pour préparer les négociations de paix au Soudan du Sud. Reportage exclusif.

Les négociations de paix au Soudan du Sud ont repris à Addis Abeba, en Éthiopie, avec toujours un même objectif: conclure un cessez-le-feu durable après 19 mois d'affrontements entre les Dinka de Salva Kiir et les Nuers de Riek Machar.

France 24 a suivi en coulisse la préparation des rebelles avant ce nouveau round de discussions. Riek Machar doit apaiser certains généraux qui rechignent à déposer les armes, mais sa stratégie est claire: nouer des alliances pour atteindre ses objectifs politiques.

Dans cette optique, l'occupation du territoire est un enjeu majeur. "La guerre est partout au Soudan du Sud donc tout accord portant sur le partage du pouvoir doit concerner l'ensemble du territoire", affirme un général.

Les médiateurs ont présenté un document aux deux parties qui doit être signé d'ici au 17 août.

### IGAD nations agree on peacekeepers for troubled S/Sudan

#### NEWS STORY

Source: APA

**11 August 2015** - Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya have reached a consensus to deploy peacekeeping troops to neighbouring South Sudan under the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The IGAD member states made the decision at a summit held in Kampala, Uganda from where Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn had returned on Tuesday.



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It is not clear how large the peacekeeping mission will be or how many troops it will command.

IGAD countries have managed to narrow down their differences on ways of solving the crisis in the world's youngest nation which erupted after reports of a failed coup in 2013.

Prime Minister Hailemariam, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and a representative of Sudan attended Monday's summit.

Leaders of the warring sides in South Sudan are expected to meet in Addis Ababa on Saturday to reach a final agreement.

## **IGAD leaders vows to end South Sudan conflict**

### NEWS STORY

Source: APA

**11 August 2015** - The Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Regional leaders have agreed to work together to end the conflict in South Sudan, the world's newest nation, reports said on Tuesday. Leaders of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda on Monday discussed the need for a similar stance on the issues of South Sudan, IGAD Special Envoy to South Sudan Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin told reporters in Addis Ababa on Tuesday.

Seyoum recalled the differences among the countries about the South Sudan issue made the peace process challenging. But the meeting in Uganda brought a major change in position and hope, he said.

The conflict in the world's newest nation started in Mid December 2013 after troops loyal to President Salva Kiir and his former deputy, Riek Machar, now opposition and rebel leader clashed in the capital, Juba.

The clash left at least 1,000 people dead and hundreds displaced and led the nation into civil war.

"President Salva Kiir Mayardit and rebel leader Reik Machar will arrive in Addis Ababa on Thursday to join their negotiators to discuss on the document prepared by IGAD for the reconstruction of South Sudan" the ambassador said.

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According to Seyoum, the African Union, EU, China, U.S., Norway and UK have approved the document and the regional leaders will meet on Friday to evaluate the process.

The South Sudanese rivals are expected to sign the accord on 17 August with the presence of IGAD plus leaders. The leaders will consider other alternatives to end the conflict including asset freeze and arms blockade, if they fail to reach agreement, the ambassador said.

## South Sudan Sees No Agreement on Peace before Aug. 17 Deadline

### NEWS STORY

Source: Bloomberg

**11 August 2015** - South Sudan's warring factions haven't made progress on a peace deal and it seems likely that no breakthrough will be reached by the Aug. 17 deadline, Information Minister Michael Makuei Lueth said.

"None of the outstanding issues that were left pending in other negotiations have been agreed upon," he said by phone from the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, where the on-off negotiations resumed last week.

International pressure is increasing on South Sudan to find a solution to a conflict that broke out in December 2013 between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and fighters allied with former Vice President Riek Machar. The fighting has killed tens of thousands of people and driven more than 2 million others from their homes. Multiple cease-fire agreements have been broken and rounds of peace talks have faltered.

"I doubt reaching an agreement by the 17th, but the final decision is not with us but with the principals," said Lueth, referring to Kiir and Machar. "When they come, they will have to resolve that, whether to sign or not to sign."

The U.S. is considering new sanctions, possibly an arms embargo and blocks on individuals' assets and ability to travel, through the United Nations or European Union if the deadline for the peace deal isn't met. On a visit to Ethiopia last month, President Barack Obama met regional leaders to build support to end the crisis in South Sudan.

The main sticking points in the talks include the structure of governance, changes to the security apparatus, judiciary, economic management and the public service, and the division of power sharing, Lueth said.

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## **Soudan du Sud: Deux importants chefs rebelles se séparent de Riek machar**

ARTICLE

Source: Koaci.com (<http://koaci.com/soudan-deux-importants-chefs-rebelles-separent-riek-machar-90315.html>)

**11 Août 2015** - Deux importants chefs rebelles ont annoncé leur scission du mouvement dirigé par l'ancien vice-président Riek Machar.

Alors que des négociations de paix au Soudan du Sud ont repris à Addis Abeba, en Éthiopie, deux importants chefs sont entrés en dissidence contre l'ex vice Président Riek Machar Search Riek Machar qui combat depuis décembre 2013 les forces du président Salva Kiir.

« Tous deux "symbolisent la haine, la division et l'incapacité à diriger", a déclaré M. Gatkuoth, un responsable logistique de la rébellion, limogé en juillet par M. Machar, en compagnie de Peter Gadet, chef de guerre frappé début juillet par des sanctions de l'ONU, avec qui il a fait dissidence.

La guerre civile les violences au Soudan du Sud a commencé à la mi-décembre 2013 entre les partisans du président Salva Kiir Search Salva Kiir et ceux du vice-président Riek Machar.

Cette rivalité a fait des dizaines de milliers de personnes fuyant les combats, exposées à un risque de famine, selon le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge.

Des négociations de paix sont en cours s à Addis Abeba, en Éthiopie, avec toujours un même objectif, conclure un cessez-le-feu durable après 19 mois d'affrontements.

## **South Sudan rebels split, reject peace efforts**

NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

**11 August 2015** - A top South Sudan rebel general said Tuesday that he and other powerful commanders had split from their chief Riek Machar, rejecting ongoing peace talks and risking a worsening of the country's civil war.

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Already more than two dozen armed groups are involved in a 19-month-long civil war that has left tens of thousands dead and has been marked by widespread atrocities on both sides.

Rebel commander Gathoth Gatkuoth, sacked last month along with another key commander, Peter Gadet, said they were now at war with both former rebel comrades and the government in Juba.

Gatkuoth, the former rebel logistics chief, said he and Gadet would now battle Machar and President Salva Kiir.

"They are symbols of hate, division and failed leadership," he said. "Both leaders were responsible for starting the crisis."

South Sudan's civil war began in December 2013 when Kiir accused his former deputy Machar of planning a coup, setting off a cycle of retaliatory killings that has split the poverty-stricken, landlocked country along ethnic lines.

Peace talks in neighboring Ethiopia restarted last week as international pressure mounts ahead of an August 17 deadline to strike a deal.

But the breakaway rebels accused Machar of seeking power for himself, and said they would not recognize any deal agreed.

"Those talks are about Riek Machar looking for positions, it is not the peace that we want," Gatkuoth told AFP, claiming to be speaking from border regions between South Sudan and Sudan. "Any peace that is signed will not be legitimate and will not be respected."

It is unclear how many troops the new rebel faction command, but both Gatkuoth and Gadet have long been powerful commanders on the ground. It will also likely weaken Machar's position at the talks.

The war has been characterised by ethnic massacres and rape. Recent attacks have included castration, rape and tying children together before slitting their throats.

Gadet - blacklisted with United Nations sanctions - operated as a notorious militia chief for decades in the northern battleground state of Unity.

He was accused of shooting down a UN helicopter in August 2014 in which three Russian crew members were killed, claims he denied. He also led an April 2014 attack on the oil town of Bentiu in which hundreds were slaughtered, according to the U.N.

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## Maigre espoir de paix au Soudan du Sud

### ANALYSE

**12 août 20150020-** Les négociations entre les parties reprennent, mais la guerre civile continue.

Riek Machar et Salva Kiir sont attendus à partir de jeudi à Addis-Abeba, capitale de l'Éthiopie. Les deux protagonistes de la guerre civile soudanaise qui déchire le pays depuis fin 2013 y signeront-ils un accord prévoyant un partage du pouvoir et un gouvernement de transition ? C'est peu probable: « Aucun des deux leaders n'a d'intérêt à trouver un arrangement. Si Salva Kiir signe aujourd'hui un accord, il aura d'énormes problèmes dans son camp, tout comme Riek Machar », estime Roland Marchal, chercheur sur la corne de l'Afrique au Ceri (Centre d'études relations internationales). Le président du Soudan du Sud et son ancien vice-président ont déjà mis en échec deux cessez-le-feu et huit sessions de pourparlers. L'espoir est donc maigre pour les Sud-Soudanais, usés par un conflit qui a fait 1,5 million de déplacés, plus de 600.000 réfugiés et des dizaines de milliers de morts.

Quatre ans après l'indépendance du Soudan du Sud, le 9 juillet 2011, il ne reste rien de la liesse qui s'était emparée de Juba, alors plus jeune capitale au monde. En fait, la guerre civile actuelle résulte des dissensions au sein du mouvement qui avait conduit, justement, à la sécession envers le Soudan. Salva Kiir et Riek Machar s'opposent désormais pour le pouvoir et le contrôle du territoire, avec des relents de rivalité ethnique.

### Appel à la paix d'Obama

Les champs pétrolifères du nord du pays sont aussi convoités. Depuis quelques mois, ils sont au cœur d'une opération de reconquête par le président Salva Kiir. Conséquences: une escalade de la violence, de la torture et des viols. Lors de sa tournée africaine fin juillet, Barack Obama a reconnu l'urgence de la situation. Le président américain et l'Igad, organisation régionale de la corne de l'Afrique, ont appelé les protagonistes à trouver un accord de paix avant le 17 août. Pour Obama, c'est un aveu d'impuissance: sa visite n'a pas réussi à faire émerger une position régionale unique nécessaire à une négociation. Ainsi, l'Ouganda soutient Salva Kiir, tandis que l'Éthiopie favorise Riek Machar.

Sans accord de paix, le président américain a menacé les deux chefs de guerre de sanctions économiques. « Cela ne suffit pas mais si elles sont bien ciblées, elles pourront causer du tort aux dirigeants du Soudan du Sud », estime Roland Marchal. « Elles comportent cependant un risque de déstabilisation régionale car l'élite

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économique a placé ses actifs à l'étranger, souvent en Ouganda », poursuit-il. Des interdictions de voyager et des embargos sur les armes pourraient être aussi envisagés.

## SUDAN

### Sudan refuses to negotiate with opponents outside the country

#### NEWS STORY

Source: APA

**11 August 2015** - Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) has refused to hold the negotiations with rebels and the other opposition parties anywhere outside the country.

The head of the NCP political sector Hamid Momtaz told reporters in Khartoum on Tuesday that there are no arrangements underway to move the dialogue with the opposition outside Sudan, considering that this is what has been agreed upon by all stakeholders in the country.

Momtaz stressed that the issue of dialogue is an internal issue which requires that the dialogue be between Sudanese themselves.

"We do believe that the suggestions of the head of the African mediation, Thabo Mbeki on dialogue, is in the general framework, and would contribute positively to getting the armed movements that oppose dialogue and fighting to overthrow the government to the negotiating table," he insisted.

He called on the Sudanese parties to support the process of dialogue as the best means to solve all the issues of Sudan, stressing that arrangements are under way for the convening of the general assembly, and then start the dialogue in October.

However, the rebel alliance of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) has refused to participate in the dialogue inside the country. They insisted that they are sticking with the UN Security Council's and the African Union's previous decision in this regard to hold the meeting under the AU mediation in Addis Ababa.

Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir has granted general amnesty to the rebels, calling them to participate in the dialogue in Khartoum.

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AU mediator Thabo Mbeki has failed during his visit last week to convince Khartoum to hold the dialogue outside the country.

## Le Soudan accuse la Libye d'héberger des rebelles du Darfour

ARTICLE

Source: AFP

**11 août 2015** - Le Soudan a convoqué mardi l'attaché militaire libyen en poste à Khartoum, accusant la Libye d'héberger et d'entraîner des rebelles du Darfour, a annoncé un porte-parole de l'armée soudanaise.

Les "forces armées (soudanaises) ont convoqué l'attaché militaire libyen du gouvernement de Tobrouk qui héberge des insurgés" de l'Armée de libération du Soudan (ALS), un groupe rebelle de la région du Darfour, où fait rage une insurrection armée depuis plus de 10 ans, a indiqué le Colonel Al-Sawarmy Khaled Saad.

En proie au chaos, la Libye est dotée de deux Parlements et deux gouvernements rivaux: un basé à Tobrouk, et reconnu par la communauté internationale, l'autre, basé à Tripoli, sous le contrôle de Fajr Libya, une coalition de milices.

Il a été convoqué "pour protester contre le comportement du gouvernement de Tobrouk, qui représente une intervention dans les affaires internes soudanaises", selon un communiqué de M. Saad.

Depuis 2003, le chef rebelle Minni Minnawi est à la tête d'une insurrection contre les forces du gouvernement soudanais au Darfour, vaste région du Soudan frontalière de la Libye.

Selon M. Saad, les hommes de Minnawi sont entraînés en Libye pour combattre aux côtés des troupes du général Khalifa Haftar, nommé en avril chef de l'armée libyenne fidèle au gouvernement de Tobrouk.

Cette présence de rebelles soudanais en Libye représente une "menace" à la sécurité du Darfour, a avancé M. Saad.

Réagissant à ces accusations, l'ALS a nié toute présence en territoire libyen.

"C'est faux. Nous ne sommes pas en Libye, nous sommes au Darfour, et le gouvernement le sait", a déclaré Abdullah Mursal, un porte-parole du groupe rebelle.

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Les hommes de Mini Minnawi font partie de plusieurs groupes rebelles, principalement noirs, qui ont lancé il y a 12 ans une campagne contre le président Omar el-Béehir et son gouvernement, accusant les élites arabes du Soudan de les marginaliser.

Plus de 300.000 personnes sont mortes, et deux millions ont été déplacées par ce conflit depuis 2003, selon l'Onu.

## TANZANIA

### Tanzania Electoral Body to Probe Voter Card Seizure Claims

#### NEWS STORY

Source: The East African

By Henry Mwangonde

**10 August 2015** - Tanzania's National Electoral Commission (NEC) is investigating reports that security agencies may have ordered all their personnel to hand in their voter cards at their duty stations. According to the reports circulating in social media, the police and the army are also affected.

NEC chairman Damian Lubuva told The Citizen newspaper that the electoral body was following up on the issue. "We have no information on this matter, but I have heard of it from the media and I promise to follow up. That is not acceptable," he said.

He will meet heads of security agencies to establish what the purported order is about, he added, assuming the reports are true. Mr Lubuva called on those who had already registered to keep their cards safe since they are private and confidential. "I will follow up on this as we all don't know the motive and it is totally out of order," he said.

#### **Serious competition**

Tanzania is gearing up for an October 25 General Election which promises to be hotly contested. For the first time, the ruling Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party faces serious competition from a reinvigorated opposition led by former Prime Minister Edward Lowassa.

Salum Mwalimu, the acting secretary-general of the opposition coalition Ukawa, told journalists over the weekend that there was "an element of truth" in the voter cards reports and that they, too, were following the issue up.



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According to Mr Mwalimu, the alleged move by the security agencies is a plot to interfere with the upcoming general election.

Initial reports suggested that the Coast regional police headquarters was part and parcel of the alleged plot. But Coast Regional Police Commander Jaffary Mohammed said the reports were baseless and bore no truth.

"Those are just political statements," he added. "We have never issued such a statement and, as the police, we will never get involved in politics."

A voter card is a personal document and there is no way the police can issue such an order, Mr Mohammed said.

## ZAMBIA

### La Zambie et la RDC abolissent leurs frontières douanières

#### ARTICLE

Source: Okapi.net

**11 août 2015** - La Zambie et la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) signent un accord commercial bilatéral qui abolit les droits de douane à travers leurs frontières communes. Selon le magazine Manager du lundi 10 août, cet accord permettra à chacun de deux pays voisins d'importer les produits sans payer les droits de douane.

Le mensuel français précise également que cet accord ne sera mis en œuvre que lorsque les deux pays auront finalisé deux annexes complémentaires comprenant la liste de produits qui pourront être exonérés de la taxe douanière.

«Cet accord commercial couvre également des dispositions qui permettront aux deux pays d'adopter des mesures pour répondre aux pratiques déloyales et combattre la contrebande de produits à travers les frontières», a expliqué la ministre zambienne du Commerce et de l'Industrie.

Pour sa part la ministre congolaise du Commerce, Néfertiti Ngudianza, est persuadée que cet accord permettrait de réduire une partie de barrières commerciales subsistant entre les deux pays.

Selon elle, le texte offrira également à la Zambie et à la RDC une grande opportunité d'augmenter leur production de biens à valeur ajoutée.

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A l'occasion, Néfertiti Ngudianza a incité les secteurs privés des deux pays à profiter de cet accord commercial pour augmenter les échanges.

La RDC reste le plus important partenaire commercial de la Zambie du Marché Commun pour l'Afrique orientale et australe (Comesa) tout comme de la Communauté sud-africaine de développement (SADC), représentant respectivement près de 24 % et 35 % du commerce au sein de ces blocs commerciaux entre 2010 et 2014.

Il ressort de cette rencontre que les importations zambiennes en provenance de la RDC sont passées de 487 millions de dollars en 2009 à 1,8 milliard de dollars en 2013, tandis que les exportations vers la RDC ont augmenté de 300 millions de dollars en 2009 à 1,2 milliards de dollars.