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



## **MEDIA MONITORING**

**21 April 2015**

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### **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

#### **Saïd Djinnit favorable au rétablissement «rapide» de la coopération Monusco-FARDC**

Source: Radio Okapi/radiookapi.net (<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2015/04/16/said-djinnit-favorable-au-retablissement-rapide-de-la-cooperation-monusco-fardc/>)

**16 Avril 2015** - L'envoyé spécial du secrétaire général de l'Onu dans les Grands lacs, Saïd Djinnit, a plaidé pour le rétablissement «rapide » de la coopération militaire entre la Monusco et les FARDC. Dans une interview accordée mercredi 15 avril à Radio Okapi, il a insisté sur l'importance de la mission onusienne dans le processus de stabilisation de la RDC.

« La Monusco a la responsabilité pour la RDC d'aider les autorités dans un certain nombre d'objectifs, notamment la stabilisation de la situation dans l'Est du pays. Et la Monusco depuis sa mise en place et avant elle la Monuc [Mission des Nations unies au Congo], a travaillé main dans la main avec les autorités et des progrès tangibles ont été accomplis dans ce sens », a affirmé Saïd Djinnit.

Le gouvernement congolais et la Monusco ne parlent plus le même langage depuis plusieurs semaines, à cause de la présence dans la chaîne de commandement des opérations militaires contre les FDLR de deux généraux que l'Onu soupçonnés d'avoir commis des violations des droits de l'homme. Les deux parties ont renoué fin mars avec le dialogue pour aplanir leurs différends.

Saïd Djinnit a indiqué qu'« il y a encore du travail à faire » en particulier pour mettre fin à la présence continue des forces négatives dans la région [des grands lacs].

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«Nous nous réjouissons de la détermination de la RDC et de ses Forces armées, avec l'appui de la région pour faire face courageusement à ce défi sécuritaire. Et la Monusco est toujours dans l'accompagnement et dans le souci », a poursuivi Saïd Djinnit, avant d'ajouter :

«Nous sommes pleins d'espoir pour que le dialogue en cours soit couronné rapidement de succès pour que cette collaboration militaire entre la Monusco et les forces militaires de la RDC reprenne le plus vite pour que la plaine stabilisation du pays revienne le plus rapidement possible ».

En visite à Kinshasa depuis lundi 13 avril dernier, Saïd Djinnit a rencontré plusieurs autorités congolaises. Au menu de leurs échanges : plusieurs questions comme les modalités de la prochaine conférence sur les opportunités d'investissement dans la région des Grands Lacs.

## **La RDC va accueillir prochainement la conférence économique du secteur public et privé pour les pays de la région des Grands Lacs**

Source: Forum des As

Par Rachidi Mabandu

**L'envoyé spécial du S.G. de l'ONU pour la région des grands Lacs, M. Saïd Djinnit, a annoncé au président du comité national de suivi des mécanismes d'application de l'Accord-cadre d'Addis-Abeba, M. François Mwamba, que c'est en RDC que va se tenir prochainement la Conférence économique du secteur public et privé pour les pays de cette région.**

**26 Avril 2015** - Initialement prévue en juillet prochain en Ethiopie, la Conférence économique du secteur privé et public pour les pays de la région des Grands lacs aura lieu en République démocratique du Congo. En séjour à Kinshasa, l'envoyé spécial du secrétaire général des Nations Unies dans la région des Grands lacs l'a annoncé au coordonateur du Mécanisme national de suivi (MNS). Un entretien qui a permis à Saïd Djinnit et François Muamba Tshishimbi de passer en revue certaines questions liées à la mise en œuvre de l'Accord-cadre d'Addis-Abeba.

Au cours de cette entrevue au siège du MNS, Saïd Djinnit et François Muamba se sont engagés à prendre des dispositions de manière à assurer la réussite de ces assises. " Nous devons prendre des dispositions. Il faut que ça soit une réussite en vue de favoriser le développement de la région des Grands lacs. On continue à créer des

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conditions pour réussir cette conférence qui devrait être tenue d'ici la fin de l'année », affirme Saïd Djinnit.

L'idée de la Communauté internationale à organiser cette conférence économique sur les Grands lacs a été annoncée le samedi 14 mars par François Muamba, pendant qu'il recevait l'envoyé spécial de l'Union européenne dans la région des Grands Lacs, Koen Vervaeke, Le coordonnateur national du Mécanisme national de suivi de cet accord a laissé entendre qu'il sera question du développement économique et des investissements dans la région des Grands Lacs. « Ce n'est pas la Communauté internationale qui prépare cela, mais nous le faisons conjointement avec la RDC qui va fixer la date de sa tenue », fait savoir l'envoyé spécial du secrétaire général des Nations Unies dans la région des Grands lacs.

François Muamba a estimé qu'à travers cette rencontre, le peuple pourra commencer à se rendre compte que l'Accord d'Addis-Abeba n'était pas seulement « une question des FDLR, des ADF, du M23 ».

« Ça veut dire que l'accord d'Addis-Abeba commence à toucher là où les populations avaient intérêt à ce que les chefs d'Etat puissent signer un tel document c'est-à-dire après les questions de sécurité et stabilité nous puissions parler de l'économie, du social qui donne du travail aux jeunes, à la femme », expliquait en son temps le coordonnateur national du Mécanisme national de suivi de l'accord d'Addis-Abeba.

La tenue à Kinshasa d'une conférence économique sur la région des Grands lacs prouve à suffisance que le président Kabila n'a pas signé l'Accord-cadre d'Addis-Abeba juste pour des raisons politiques et de sécurité.

A travers cette conférence économique, les Congolais pourraient promouvoir des projets intégrateurs devant aussi bénéficier aux autres pays voisins de la RDC qui est le centre névralgique de l'Accord-cadre et de la sous-région.

## **Des projets de développement de la région des Grands Lacs examinés au Mécanisme national de suivi**

Source: ACP/MCN, via mediacongo.net

**15 Avril 2015** - Au forum pour le développement des investissements privés de la région des Grands Lacs, la question des réfugiés congolais et celle des FDLR ont été examinés mardi 14 avril au cours de la séance de travail entre l'envoyé spécial du secrétaire général des Nations unies pour la région des Grands Lacs, Saïd Djinnit et François Muamba, coordonnateur du Mécanisme National de Suivi (MNS).

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L'examen de ces points, selon M. Djinnit, s'inscrit dans le cadre du soutien des Nations unies dans la mise en œuvre de l'Accord-cadre d'Addis-Abeba dans son volet économique à travers l'organisation d'un séminaire sur les engagements nationaux pour une meilleure intégration dans le dispositif du programme national de développement. En effet, la ville de Kinshasa a été retenue pour abriter dans le dernier trimestre de l'année en cours les travaux dudit forum dont la réussite exige la conjugaison des efforts de tous « car nous voulons faire de lui un événement réussi pour le développement de la RDC et de l'ensemble de la région des Grands Lacs », a-t-il ajouté.

De son côté, M. Muamba a fait savoir que la neutralisation et l'éradication totale des groupes armés dans l'Est de la RDC reste une préoccupation permanente dont l'une des conséquences est la situation des déplacés internes et des réfugiés qui font l'objet de la feuille de route du MNS et pour lesquelles les Nations unies participent dans la facilitation et leur mise en œuvre, précisant qu'une mission se rendra bientôt au Rwanda et en Ouganda à ce sujet.

Le coordonnateur du MNS a indiqué, en outre, que l'Accord-cadre dans son volet économique vise l'instauration d'une paix durable qui apporte la stabilité et le développement en termes de projets intégrateurs par l'investissement en vue de doter la population de la région des infrastructures sanitaires, scolaires et routières ainsi que la desserte en eau et en électricité.

## **André Songo : « L'appui logistique attendu de la MONUSCO demeure indispensable dans la prise en charge des opérations électorales en RDC »**

Source: Le Potentiel, via mediacongo.net

(<http://www.mediacongo.net/show.asp?doc=81171#.VTUUSlffrcs>)

**16 Avril 2015** - Le vice-président de la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (Ceni), André Mpungwe Songo, a affirmé mercredi 15 avril 2015 à Kinshasa que « l'appui logistique attendu de la Monusco reste et demeure indispensable dans la prise en charge des opérations électorales en République démocratique du Congo ».

Au cours d'une séance de travail avec l'Envoyé spécial du Secrétaire général des Nations unies dans la région des Grands Lacs, Said Djinnit en visite de courtoisie auprès des membres du Bureau de la Ceni, a annoncé les « avancées palpables » observées dans la prise en charge des contraintes émises à travers le Calendrier rendu public le 12 février 2015.

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## Une copie du Calendrier électoral global remise à Said Djinnit

A cette occasion, la Ceni a dressé « un état des lieux de la mise en œuvre du Calendrier électoral global et de la planification des opérations de réception et traitement des candidatures pour les élections urbaines, municipales et locales couplées aux provinciales » comme cela est prévu dans le Calendrier électoral global rendu public le 12 février 2015.

Le vice-président André Mpungwe Songo a remis officiellement une copie du Calendrier électoral global à l'Envoyé spécial de Ban Ki-Moon dans la région des Grands Lacs.

S'agissant des contraintes soulevées dans le calendrier électoral, les membres du Bureau de la Ceni ont invité leurs hôtes du jour à « appuyer, par le lobbying et des actions concrètes, sa mise en œuvre efficiente ».

Après avoir plaidé pour « la formalisation rapide du Projet d'Appui aux Processus électoral au Congo (PACEC) actuellement sous la gestion du PNUD », ils ont dit attendre de la Communauté internationale « des actions d'accompagnement du Calendrier électoral global ».

## Un sommet sur les investissements privés dans la région des Grands Lacs

Aux préoccupations de la Ceni, l'Envoyé spécial du Secrétaire général des Nations unies dans les Grands Lacs a promis de « sensibiliser les représentants des pays membres du Comité de partenariat des élections pour des réponses précises aux différentes préoccupations de la Ceni ».

Said Djinnit a, dans la foulée, annoncé la tenue à Kinshasa d'un Sommet sur les investissements privés dans la région des Grands Lacs « dans les prochains jours ».

Ont également pris part à cette séance de travail, le rapporteur Jean-Pierre Kalamba, Mme Chantal Ngoyi (questeur), Mme Micheline Bie et le Secrétaire exécutif national adjoint Corneille Nangaa pour la Ceni ainsi que, côté ONU, Modibo Touré (Conseiller spécial avec rang de Sous-secrétaire général), Said Condé (Assistant spécial) et Marc-André Lagrange (Chef Bureau de liaison).

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## Congo opposition threatens boycott of provincial elections

Source: Reuters

**20 April 2015** - Opposition parties in Democratic Republic of Congo threatened on Monday to boycott provincial elections this year unless voting rolls are first updated, the latest twist in a bitter dispute between the government and opposition.

Congo's election commission (CENI) has scheduled six separate election days over 13 months, beginning with polls for local and provincial representatives in October and culminating in presidential and legislative elections in November 2016.

President Joseph Kabila, in power since 2001, is constitutionally barred from standing for a third elected term next year. But the opposition claims he intends to use electoral delays to cling to power, a charge the government denies.

The commission began accepting candidacies for provincial elections last week. But the opposition told its members not to participate until the CENI addresses its demand that more than five million Congolese who have turned 18 since voting rolls were last updated in 2011 be allowed to vote.

"We call on the parties and groupings of the political opposition, civil society organizations and other independent candidates across the nation to abstain from all participation in the process," the parties said in a statement.

Martin Fayulu, president of the Engagement for Citizenship and Development (ECIDE) who read the statement, confirmed that the parties would boycott provincial elections if the voting rolls were not updated.

The Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), Congo's principal opposition party, was not represented at the statement's signing but its secretary-general Bruno Mavungu said he agreed with the other parties' position.

CENI member Jean-Pierre Kalamba told Reuters the election calendar made it impossible to enroll new voters before the provincial elections.

However, he said voter rolls would be updated between January and April of next year, in time for presidential and legislative elections.

A boycott of provincial elections would effectively exclude the opposition from the senate and governorships, as those posts will be chosen by the newly-elected provincial deputies and local representatives in indirect polls set for early 2016.

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Fayulu said the opposition parties would not participate in the local elections, which they considered a ploy to delay the presidential election.

The political climate in Congo has been tense since January when at least 40 people were killed during violent demonstrations against a revision of Congo's electoral law that opponents said was meant to delay the presidential polls.

## **Est de la RDC: 19 personnes tuées à la machette mercredi**

Source: AFP

### **Les rebelles ougandais musulmans des Forces démocratiques alliées accusées par l'administrateur du territoire**

**17 April 2015** - Dix-neuf personnes ont été tuées à la machette mercredi en territoire de Beni, région de l'est de la République démocratique du Congo théâtre de massacres attribués à des rebelles ougandais, selon un nouveau bilan officiel obtenu jeudi.

Nous déplorons la mort de 18 personnes plus une femme enceinte qui a été décapitée, a déclaré à l'AFP Amisi Kalonda, l'administrateur du territoire. Il avait donné mercredi un bilan de cinq morts, alors qu'une ONG locale avait parlé de dix personnes tuées.

Au total, a précisé M. Kalonda, 13 hommes et six femmes ont péri dans le massacre, et neuf des victimes ont été décapitées.

Cinq personnes ont été blessées, a ajouté l'administrateur. Il a accusé, sans apporter de preuve, les rebelles ougandais musulmans des Forces démocratiques alliées (ADF) d'être responsables de cette nouvelle tuerie.

Selon M. Kalonda, l'attaque a eu lieu dans la matinée de mercredi à Mbau, à 280 km au nord de Goma, la capitale de la province du Nord-Kivu. Les victimes, selon lui, ont été surprises par leurs assaillants alors qu'elles se rendaient aux champs.

Un photographe travaillant pour l'AFP a assisté à l'exhumation de dix d'entre elles dans la ville d'Oicha, où deux autres avaient été enterrées la veille.

Grande ville du Nord-Kivu et place commerciale régionale importante, Beni, à environ 250 km au nord de Goma, est le fief des Nande, une communauté dont les dirigeants s'étaient ralliés massivement à une milice soutenue par l'Ouganda pendant la deuxième guerre du Congo (1998-2003).

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Les ADF sont une milice opposée au président ougandais Yoweri Museveni et présente en RDC depuis 1995. Elle est accusée d'être responsable des tueries ayant endeuillé la région de Beni depuis octobre 2014.

D'octobre à décembre, plus de 260 personnes, essentiellement des civils (hommes, femmes et enfants), ont été tuées à Beni et dans ses environs dans une succession de massacres commis principalement à l'arme blanche.

En décembre, une opération conjointe de l'armée congolaise et de la Mission de l'ONU pour la stabilisation du Congo (Monusco) avait contribué à ramener le calme. Les tueries n'ont cependant pas cessé complètement et se sont étendues à des zones limitrophes de la Province-Orientale au tournant de l'année.

Depuis le 1er janvier, cinquante-cinq personnes au moins ont ainsi péri dans des attaques similaires dans le territoire de Beni ou en Province-Orientale.

Les relations entre la Monusco et les autorités congolaises se sont nettement détériorées au début de l'année, en raison d'un désaccord sur la façon de mener à bien l'offensive contre les Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) réclamée avec insistance par la communauté internationale pour mettre hors d'état de nuire ces rebelles hutu rwandais présents dans l'est du pays depuis plus de vingt ans.

Selon plusieurs diplomates en poste à Kinshasa, le renouvellement du mandat de la Monusco pour un an, fin mars par le Conseil de sécurité, n'a pas amélioré les choses, et les Casques bleus et l'armée congolaise n'entretiennent toujours aucune coopération militaire depuis plusieurs mois.

## **Toll from DR Congo machete attack rises to 19**

Source: AFP

**17 April 2015** - Nineteen people, including a pregnant woman, were killed in a machete attack in a region of the Democratic Republic of Congo that has been repeatedly attacked by Ugandan rebels, according to an updated death toll Thursday.

"We deplore the deaths of 18 people plus a pregnant woman, who was beheaded," Amisi Kalonda, administrator of the Beni area where the attack took place, told AFP.

In all, nine of the victims were beheaded, he added.

On Wednesday, Kalonda had reported five dead in the attack in Mbau, around 30 kilometers from the town of Beni in DR Congo's eastern North Kivu province.



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North Kivu borders Uganda and Rwanda.

Kalonda said the victims were killed "as they were going to work in the fields" on Wednesday morning.

Kalonda blamed the attack on rebels from the Allied Democratic Forces and National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF-NALU).

The rebels, who have been active in eastern DR Congo since being driven out of their homeland in 1995, are suspected of a spate of machete massacres in the Beni area since late last year that have killed around 300.

## **Congo-Kinshasa: Martin Kobler, Head of Monusco, Condemns the Murderous Attack on Civilians in Matiba**

Press Release

**Kinshasa, 17 April 2015** - "I am deeply shocked by the killings of civilians near Beni. It is absolutely necessary that FARDC and MONUSCO resume their cooperation. Together it will be possible to avoid a further deterioration of the security situation" declared Martin Kobler, Head of MONUSCO.

The attack, suspected to be an ADF assault, happened 5km North East of Mbau in Beni Territory in the North Kivu province.

"I strongly condemn this criminal attack perpetrated in the early morning and I want to express my sympathy, my deepest and sincere condolences to the families of the victims. My heart is with their souls," stressed the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

## **Congo illegally detained, tortured pro-democracy activists**

Source: Reuters

**16 April 2015** - Security forces in Democratic Republic of Congo have illegally detained and tortured pro-democracy advocates as part of a crackdown before a presidential election next year, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Thursday.

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As many as 40 activists, musicians and journalists were arrested in the capital Kinshasa on March 15 during a news conference organized by Congolese and West African campaigners to promote youth participation in politics.

The government says the organizers were teaching armed insurrection. A security source told Reuters that investigators are probing the financing of the event.

Three activists remain in the custody of the National Intelligence Agency (ANR), though they have not been charged or given access to a lawyer, as required by Congolese law, the U.S. rights campaigner said in a statement.

Intelligence agents and police in the eastern city of Goma also arrested members of the group Struggle for Change (Lucha) who peacefully protested the Kinshasa detentions.

Four Lucha members arrested on April 7 are being held in Goma's central prison on charges of inciting disobedience to public authority, HRW said.

Government spokesman Lambert Mende referred questions about the report to the prosecutor-general, who did not respond to a request for comment.

The political climate is tense in Congo ahead of a presidential election scheduled for late next year when President Joseph Kabila's mandate is set to expire.

## **Human Rights Watch urges DR Congo to free seven activists**

Source: The Sun Daily

**16 Avril 2015** - Human Rights Watch has urged officials in the Democratic Republic of Congo to free seven political activists held by intelligence services and police.

"Authorities should immediately release seven peaceful activists who have been wrongfully detained, some since March 15, 2015," the New York-based international watchdog said in a statement released Wednesday.

"Security forces in the eastern city of Goma beat and otherwise mistreated demonstrators protesting government repression, including with water torture," the organisation added.

The DRC's National Intelligence Agency (ANR) made a wave of arrests in the capital Kinshasa on March 15, seizing people who had just attended a US-sponsored workshop of the Filimbi project, which aims to help youngsters become involved in democratic citizenship.

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Security agents rounded up French journalists, a US diplomat, the French owner of the venue and visiting opposition activists from Senegal and Burkina Faso as well as dozens of Congolese, taking them all to ANR headquarters.

The American and French detainees were freed the same night, while the Burkinabe and Senegalese activists were expelled three days later, once Communications Minister Lambert Mende had accused them of belonging to a "subversive movement inspired from abroad" and plotting "violent acts".

**Allegations of mistreatment**

Three people still detained in Kinshasa include Fred Bauma, leader of the opposition Goma-based movement Struggle for Change (Lucha), while four Lucha militants have been held in Goma since a rally on April 7 to protest at the arrests in the capital.

The constitution stipulates that security forces may not hold suspects without charge for more than 48 hours and should then let them go or turn them over to the appropriate judicial authorities, HRW noted.

"They should immediately release the seven activists or charge them with a credible offence and investigate allegations of mistreatment," said Ida Sawyer, HRW's senior Africa researcher.

ANR director-general Kalev Mutondo told HRW "on April 10 that the three detainees in Kinshasa were being held as part of a 'security investigation', not a 'judicial investigation', presumably to permit their detention without the protections given criminal suspects," the statement said.

While Katombo said he had sent the public prosecutor's office a request to keep holding the activists, the national prosecutor told HRW he knew of no such request.

The activists in Goma have been charged with illegal "distribution of pamphlets, inciting a revolt and the organisation of an unauthorised march," according to authorities.

On March 27, the National Assembly, dominated by supporters of President Joseph Kabila, set up a commission to probe the prolonged detentions, but it is yet to release any findings.

"Congolese authorities should quickly reverse the repressive trend that is diverting Congo from the path towards credible elections," Sawyer said.

The giant, mineral-rich nation in central Africa is recovering from two successive wars, during which Kabila came to power in 2001, and many armed groups keep eastern provinces unstable.

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Presidential and parliamentary polls are due in November next year. Opposition forces have already accused Kabila of seeking by devious means to ensure he gets a third mandate, rather than quit in line with the constitution.

"The arrests are part of a worsening crackdown on freedom of expression and assembly in advance of Congo's 2016 national elections," HRW commented.

## **Congolese refugees in CAR demand better living conditions**

Source: APA

**16 April 2015** - Refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo settled in Zemio (900 km from Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic) after fleeing the abuses of the Uganda-based Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in 2009, held a peaceful demonstration in the streets of Bangui to denounce their difficult living conditions.

The 3,000 Congolese refugees have been demanding not only better treatment from the United Nations High Commissioner for the Refugees (UNHCR) with more food assistance from the World Food Program but also more security guarantee.

The LRA have allegedly captured and killed ten of them who had attempted to return home to DRC in search of food.

The UNHCR authorities in CAR questioned on the matter declared that they fully understood the demands of the Congolese refugees adding that the situation is caused by the security chaos prevailing in the crisis-torn country undermining the free movement of food transport trucks.

They however reassured that the situation will be normalized in the near future.

## **UN body records 198 cases of human rights violations in DR Congo**

Source: Xinhua

**16 Avril 2015** - The United Nations Joint Human Rights Office has said it recorded 198 cases of human rights violations across the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) national territory in the month of February this year.

According to the report that was released on Wednesday [15 April] in Kinshasa, rebel groups committed 65 percent of the violations while the state committed 35 percent.

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Among the state agencies, the national police was responsible for most of the violations, getting involved in 39 cases that left 79 victims.

The DR Congo armed forces were responsible for 25 violations with 30 victims.

The civilian spokesman for the UN Mission for Stabilization of Congo, Charles Bambara, said the UN had regularly shared information with Congolese authorities so that they could prosecute perpetrators of human rights violations documented by the UN human rights office.

## **RDC - Débat agité [...] sur le calendrier électoral à l'Assemblée nationale**

Source: RFI / MCN, via mediacongo.net

**Kinshasa, 18 avril 2015** - En République démocratique du Congo (RDC), pendant plusieurs heures les députés se sont interrogés sur la pertinence du calendrier électoral qui prévoit d'organiser sept scrutins en un an et demi. Ainsi que sur la pertinence de mettre en place le redécoupage du pays en 26 provinces alors que démarre un cycle électoral crucial pour le pays. Un débat très attendu à l'Assemblée nationale.

Ambiance chahutée dans l'hémicycle congolais. Le débat est agité car la question des élections et du redécoupage divise au-delà de l'opposition et de la majorité. C'est d'ailleurs de la majorité qu'est venue la demande qu'un débat se tienne. « La question est tellement importante et aux implications à la fois financières et politiques qu'il fallait que la représentation nationale donne son point de vue », analyse Christophe Lutundula, le député de la majorité qui a introduit la question à l'Assemblée nationale.

Car les questions sont nombreuses : comment financer à la fois sept scrutins de plus d'un milliard de dollars et le redécoupage du pays en 26 provinces. Le tout d'ici quelques mois. Pour Delly Sessanga, député de l'opposition, cette hâte est dangereuse, notamment pour les élections locales encore jamais organisées dans le pays : « Les lois, les moyens financiers qui devaient être mobilisés ne sont pas au rendez-vous. Parce que si les élections locales sont faites dans la précipitation avec des contours mal définis, je peux vous assurer que le pays va implorer par le bas. »

Des craintes sécuritaires donc, mais pas seulement. L'enrôlement des personnes devenues majeures entre 2011 et 2016 n'est pas prévu pour les locales, provinciales et sénatoriales. Pour Samy Badibanga, député de l'UDPS (Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social), c'est un problème. « Les nouveaux majeurs doivent être enrôlés, c'est la Constitution, souligne-t-il. Mais si on doit les enrôler, ça prend un certain temps et forcément ça va produire des changements dans le calendrier. »

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Mais pour d'autres, il est trop tard pour revenir en arrière, il faut aller aux élections.

Pendant près de quatre heures, les députés ont tour à tour posé leurs questions. Le ministre de l'Intérieur, Evariste Boshab, s'est voulu rassurant et a promis que toutes les questions seraient résolues au fur et à mesure. « Je peux vous réitérer au nom du gouvernement notre engagement et notre détermination à réaliser avec succès, grâce à votre concours, l'opération d'installation de nouvelles provinces dans les délais et les procédures prescrites par la loi de programmation, a-t-il déclaré. Mettons le pied à l'étrier sans irritations ni tergiversations et les résultats seront au rendez-vous. Nous maintiendrons ainsi nos ambitions aussi grandes qu'elles paraissent. D'ailleurs, ne dit-on pas qu'il faut avoir des rêves suffisamment grands pour ne pas les perdre de vue pendant qu'on les poursuit. » Evariste Boshab doit revenir ce samedi 18 avril à l'Assemblée répondre aux députés.

## **Processus électoral en RDC: la Céni veut rassurer, l'Eglise s'implique**

Source: RFI

**Le président de la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (Céni) de République démocratique du Congo, l'abbé Malu Malu, a assuré que le calendrier électoral sera respecté. Les sept scrutins qui doivent se dérouler dans les mois à venir auront bien lieu, malgré les débats sur la possibilité d'organiser toutes ces échéances en un an et demi. L'Eglise catholique a de son côté annoncé le lancement d'un programme de formation d'observateurs indépendants.**

**17 avril 2015** - Depuis mercredi, la Commission électorale enregistre les candidatures pour les élections provinciales et celles des conseillers communaux. Ce scrutin doit avoir lieu le 25 octobre prochain. Premier rendez-vous avant une série de six élections jusqu'à la présidentielle fin 2016.

Pour le président de la Commission électorale indépendante, l'abbé Malu Malu, c'est la preuve que le processus électoral est lancé. Le calendrier électoral n'a plus à être débattu affirme-t-il : « Ce calendrier est exécutoire pour tout le monde. Donc, à partir de là il n'y a pas à dire "Est-ce que c'est l'opposition ?" ; "Est-ce que c'est la majorité ?" ; "Est-ce que c'est la société civile ?". Nous sommes là pour exécuter le calendrier de la Céni. Nous allons vers des élections et nous les espérons apaisées. »

### **Les retards s'accumulent**

Mais si la volonté est là, les premiers retards aussi. La loi sur la répartition des sièges pour les locales et municipales devait être adoptée le 5 avril, elle n'a même pas encore

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été examinée par les députés. Idem avec le financement de ces élections. Le gouvernement n'a toujours pas annoncé le plan de décaissement pour tous ces scrutins de plus d'un milliard de dollars.

Enfin au sein de la majorité comme de l'opposition certaines voix continuent de réclamer qu'on décale les locales pour éviter de retarder tous les autres scrutins. Un débat sur cette question est programmé vendredi 17 avril à l'Assemblée nationale.

**L'Eglise veut former 30 600 observateurs indépendants**

De son côté, la conférence épiscopale nationale du Congo se prépare également. Elle a lancé jeudi 16 avril un programme de formation de plusieurs milliers d'observateurs congolais pour superviser l'ensemble du processus électoral.

Le principe est simple : il s'agit de former 30 600 observateurs congolais indépendants capables d'évaluer le bon déroulement du scrutin selon les standards internationaux. Une mission pour laquelle l'Eglise catholique a toute sa place, selon le président de la commission « Justice et paix », de par le maillage très dense des ses églises dans le pays, mais pas uniquement.

« Nous ne cherchons pas un pouvoir politique. Notre rôle n'est pas là. Notre rôle, c'est d'accompagner le peuple. Lui indiquer le chemin. La consolidation de la démocratie fait partie des outils dont le peuple a besoin pour vivre mieux », insiste Mgr Fridolin Obongo, président de la commission Justice et Paix de la Conférence épiscopale nationale congolaise (Cenco).

**La Cenco en quête de financements**

Et pour consolider la démocratie, il faut des élections transparentes et crédibles. L'objectif est d'éviter les erreurs de 2011. « On a constaté en 2011 que, quand il y a quelques préoccupations et inquiétudes quant au déroulement du scrutin, cela minait dans une certaine mesure la confiance dans le résultat, expose James Swan l'ambassadeur des Etats-Unis à Kinshasa, qui est l'un des contributeurs au projet de formation des observateurs. Pour la prochaine étape, des missions d'observations à court terme et aussi à long terme renforceront la confiance de la population et des partis politiques quant aux résultats. »

Les Etats-Unis vont financer la formation de 600 de ces futurs observateurs, en offrant une enveloppe d'un million de dollars sur deux ans. Mais pour former les 30 000 autres observateurs, l'Eglise catholique congolaise cherche toujours activement des fonds.

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## **Selon l'ONU, les trafics de ressources naturelles en RD Congo pèsent 1,3 milliard de dollars par an**

Source : Agence Ecofin

**19 avril 2015** - Le Programme des Nations unies pour l'environnement affirme dans un rapport qu'en RD Congo, des groupes criminels internationaux militarisés sont impliqués dans des trafics à grande échelle de « minerais, d'or, de bois, de charbon et de produits issus de la faune sauvage tels que l'ivoire », qui rapportent jusqu'à 1,3 milliard de dollars chaque année.

Sur ces milliards de dollars, environ 2%, soit 13 millions de dollars par an, financent 8000 hommes répartis entre 25 et 49 groupes armés congolais qui sèment la terreur et le chaos depuis 20 ans, parmi les populations locales de l'est du pays.

Selon le PNUE, le reste de l'argent généré, soit 98%, bénéficie aux « réseaux criminels transfrontaliers, opérant en et hors de RDC ».

« Ces fonds captés par des gangs criminels (...) auraient pu être utilisés pour bâtir des écoles, des routes, des hôpitaux et un avenir au peuple congolais », se désole Martin Kobler, le chef de la Mission de l'ONU en RDC (Monusco) à l'AFP qui rappelle que le budget des forces de maintien de la paix en RD Congo est de 1,4 milliard de dollars par an.

## **La commission Défense et Sécurité de la RDC et de la Tanzanie en séance de travail au Nord-Kivu**

Source: Journal Le Potentiel (RDC)

Par Pitshou M.

**Les députés nationaux François Kasende Kandolo et Juvénal Munzibo, respectivement président de la Commission Défense et Sécurité et rapporteur de la sous-commission Forces armées de l'Assemblée nationale accompagnent depuis mercredi à Goma la délégation des députés tanzaniens membres de la commission Défens conduite par la député Anna Margarete Abdallah.**

**Kinshasa, 18 avril 2015** - Les députés nationaux François Kasende Kandolo et Juvénal Munubo Mubi, respectivement président de la Commission Défense et Sécurité et rapporteur de la sous commission Forces armées de l'Assemblée nationale de la RDC, accompagnent, depuis hier mercredi 15 avril au Nord-Kivu la délégation des



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députés tanzaniens membres de la Commission Défense et Sécurité conduite par la députée Anna Margarete Abdallah.

Joint au téléphone, le rapporteur de la sous-commission Forces armées de l'Assemblée nationale (RDC), Juvénal Munubo, a indiqué qu'à Goma, la délégation s'est rendue à la base de la brigade d'intervention des Nations unies où un échange de travail a été organisé. Le commandant de cette brigade, le général tanzanien Ramadan Kimweri, a présenté brièvement aux parlementaires de deux pays le travail de la brigade.

« Un travail salué par toute la population congolaise, surtout que l'action des militaires tanzaniens dans les rangs de la brigade spéciale a été pour beaucoup dans la défection des rebelles du M-23 », a déclaré le député Juvénal Munubo.

La mission parlementaire au Nord Kivu se poursuit jusqu'à ce samedi 16 avril. Et ce jeudi 16 avril, les parlementaires congolais et tanzaniens se rendront à Beni.

Pour rappel, à l'étape de Kinshasa, les députés tanzaniens ont été reçus par les présidents de deux Chambres du Parlement, Aubin Minaku et Léon Kengo ainsi que le ministre de la Défense nationale.

Au Palais du peuple, les hôtes d'Aubin Minaku avaient également eu droit à une séance de travail très intéressante dans le cadre de la diplomatie parlementaire. Au menu des questions essentielles sur la défense notamment celle soulevée par le député Juvénal Munubo sur l'expérience tanzanienne en matière d'élaboration du budget de la Défense.

Les membres de la commission Défense et Sécurité de l'Assemblée nationale de la RDC ont ainsi été informés que le parlement tanzanien intervient directement dans la conception du budget de la Défense avec le gouvernement.

C'est ainsi que l'envoi des troupes à l'étranger à l'instar du contingent tanzanien se trouvant en RDC, requiert l'autorisation de la Commission Défense et Sécurité.

Nous avons aussi parlé de la collaboration entre les FARDC et la MONUSCO qui, comme vous savez la brigade d'intervention est attachée à la MONUSCO. Le Congo a besoin de s'assumer, mais il faut savoir que les besoins sont encore énormes en matière de sécurité. Pour cela, on ne peut pas se passer de l'appui de la MONUSCO. D'où, beaucoup de Congolais, comme moi, ont souhaité la reprise de cette collaboration à travers un dialogue stratégique entre le gouvernement et la MONUSCO pour maximiser les chances de mettre fin à l'existence des groupes armés et garantir le processus électoral apaisé », a indiqué l'élu de Walikale.

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Juvénal Munubo établit un lien entre la nécessité de la reprise de ladite collaboration aux élections en ces termes: « La collaboration doit reprendre entre MONUSCO et FARDC pour un plan opérationnel de sécurisation des élections, un plan qui met ensemble plusieurs acteurs, armée, police, renseignement, autorités locales, politiques, etc. La CENI doit être associée à ce plan... ».

## BURUNDI

### Burundi's opposition names candidate for presidential election

Source: Xinhua

**20 April 2015** - Nine parties forming the Participatory Opposition Coalition in Burundi (COPA) have designated Jean de Dieu Mutabazi as the Coalition candidate during Burundi's forthcoming presidential election, the Coalition told a press conference on Monday.

"The political parties gathering in the Participatory Opposition Coalition in Burundi (COPA) have chosen me to run the upcoming presidential election. We don't fear any candidate including President Pierre Nkurunziza if his party (the CNDD-FDD) designates him as a candidate," said Jean de Dieu Mutabazi, chairman of the COPA since its creation in September last year.

According to him, the platform for the Coalition focuses on two main pillars including adapting the National Constitution and eradicating poverty in Burundi.

"The ethnic component in the National Constitution should be adapted to realities. The majority Hutu ethnic group (85 percent of Burundian people) has been given 60 percent of positions in the country's institutions but this is not enough. The Ganwa (royal family) group is absent in the National Constitution while it should also be represented," said Mutabazi.

The specificity of the Participatory Opposition Coalition in Burundi (COPA) is that it appreciates positive initiatives taking place in Burundi and denounces negative actions by showing which ways to take.

Jean de Dieu Mutabazi is the sixth candidate to Burundi's presidential election.

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Last week, the National Rally for Change (RANAC) opposition coalition designated former President and Senator Domitien Ndayizeye as its candidate to the country's presidential election.

Three weeks ago, Dr Jean Minani chairman of the Front for Democracy in Burundi (FRODEBU-Nyakuri) was also designated as the party candidate for presidential election.

Earlier this month, Jeremie Minani also announced that he will participate in the forthcoming presidential election as an independent candidate.

Two months ago, former chairman of Burundi Bar Association Isidore Rufyikiri also announced his plan to stand the forthcoming presidential election as an independent candidate.

Burundi is this year to hold general elections between May 26 and August 24, with the presidential election to be held on June 26.

## **Opponent sees protests if Burundi president seeks re-election**

Source: Reuters

**20 April 2015** - Burundi's president will provoke more protests if he announces plans this month to seek a third five-year term and the poor African nation risks being dragged back into a cycle of unrest, a rebel-turned-politician said.

Agathon Rwasa, a presidential hopeful who in 2009 was the last rebel commander to lay down weapons, told Reuters he would call for peaceful protests if Pierre Nkurunziza chose to run, a move opponents say would violate the constitution and the Arusha deal that ended a 12-year civil war in 2005.

Nkurunziza has yet to state his intentions, but supporters argue he can and should run in the June presidential vote. Diplomats expect him to declare this month before a May deadline to register. Some opponents have already held small protests.

"The constitution gives us the right to protest," Rwasa, now a leading opposition voice, said on Sunday from Burundi.

He pledged to battle the president and his CNDD-FDD party at the ballot box and not by taking up arms.

"We don't want any struggle any more in this country."

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But he added the Imbonerakure youth wing of the ruling party was stashing weapons and "terrorising the people" in some areas, driving thousands of people to flee in fear to next door Rwanda.

"What is it (the weaponry) aimed for if not violence?" he said.

CNDD-FDD party president Pascal Nyabenda denied such charges to Reuters, blaming the "weak" opposition for stoking fears and seeking to use violence itself because they could not win.

The president's office says it will be up to the constitutional court to decide on eligibility of the ruling party's candidate, whoever it is.

The constitution and the peace deal that ended that war both stipulate no one should be president for longer than 10 years. But Nkurunziza's backers argue that his first term should not count since he was picked by lawmakers rather than voted in.

Nkurunziza is one of several African leaders approaching term limits. In Burkina Faso, mass protests last year ousted long-time ruler Blaise Compaore when he tried to stay on.

Regional leaders have urged Nkurunziza to stick to the limit. The United States and the European Union have indicated they could take steps against those causing any violence.

Diplomats say the president seems to be ignoring pressure.

"I am afraid that the international community ... may isolate Burundi," Rwaswa said. One of the world's poorest countries, Burundi depends on donors to fund almost half its budget.

Rwaswa and the opposition boycotted the 2010 elections, complaining of rigging. But Rwaswa said the opposition could not stand aside this time in May local and parliamentary elections, a June presidential race and the senate vote in July.

"We must ... confront all the obstacles that they are placing in front of us," said Rwaswa, who will run as an independent as his party is not recognised, with the backing of a coalition of several parties and groups.

The government denies obstructing opponents and promises a fair race.

Some opposition parties have talked of fielding a single candidate to challenge Nkurunziza, whose powerbase is in the countryside where he spends much of his time. But agreement is difficult in a nation with dozens of registered parties.

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Rwasa said one candidate would be the best scenario, although he said a deal might only emerge once parties or coalitions see how they fare in voting in May.

The president's office said the ruling party expects to hold a congress to pick its presidential candidate before the end of April to meet the May 1-9 window to register.

Burundi's civil war broadly pitted the army, then dominated by the ethnic Tutsi minority, against rebel groups of mostly majority Hutus, such as Rwasa's FNL. The army is now divided between both ethnic groups and has absorbed rival factions.

Rwasa, a Hutu, said there was a risk the army could fracture if the political crisis deepened and some politicians or groups could try to play on ethnic tensions, although he said ethnicity had no role in the nation of 10 million's problems.

"Hutu and Tutsi are suffering alike under mismanagement of the government of President Nkurunziza," he said.

## **Burundi warns army could be called out over protests**

Source: AFP

**20 April 2015** - Burundi's government warned Monday it could call out the army if protests escalate over controversial plans by President Pierre Nkurunziza to defy a two-term limit and seek re-election.

The warning from senior cabinet ministers comes after last Friday's clashes between demonstrators and police. On Saturday, prosecutors said 65 protesters were charged with rebellion after their arrest.

Tensions in the small, landlocked central African nation have been mounting for months, with opposition parties and rights groups concerned at Nkurunziza's expected bid for re-election in June.

The president has not yet confirmed whether he intends to try to stay in power, but his supporters say he has the right to do so.

Burundi's Defence Minister, General Pontien Gacyubwenge, said "one of the missions" of the army was to help maintain security in the event of worsening civil unrest.

"At the request of the Supreme Commander (the president) or another authority, I am ready to accompany the other security actors in resisting the detractors of peace, and together seek peace for the people of Burundi," he told reporters.

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Security Minister General Gabriel Nizigama backed up the warning, saying that when it came to any "disturbance of public order and public safety, we say to you: 'the defence and security forces are united'."

"The forces of order and the administration will take all necessary measures to punish and bring to justice the perpetrators, instigators of these calls for uprisings," Interior Minister Gabriel Nizigama also said at the news conference.

Burundi, situated in Africa's troubled Great Lakes region, only emerged from a brutal 13-year civil war in 2006. It holds general elections in May to elect lawmakers before a presidential poll in June.

Five opposition parties, as well as splinter groups of the ruling CNDD-FDD who oppose Nkurunziza, have launched a campaign calling for the president not to run again.

The CNDD-FDD is expected to hold a party congress by the end of April to nominate its presidential candidate in the polls.

The UN Security Council on Friday warned that the upcoming elections could turn violent and vowed to take action against those who are fomenting unrest.

## **UN Security Council promises response to threats to peace in Burundi**

Source: The Guardian

**18 April 2015** - The UN Security Council says it [will] follow closely and respond to any action that threatens the peace, security or stability of Burundi.

The 15-Member body made this stand known in a statement issued in New York on Friday night.

The statement noted that the up-coming elections were extremely sensitive and had the potential to spur violence and undermine the peace sustained for almost a decade in Burundi, in the spirit of the Arusha Agreement.

The Security Council called on all political parties to prioritise the preservation of Burundi's fragile and hard-won peace.

It welcomed Ban Ki-Moon's engagement, of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein and, President Kikwete.

Others are AU Chairperson Dlamini-Zuma, UN Electoral Mission in Burundi (MENUB), the Burundi configuration of the Peace Building Commission with Burundian authorities.

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The council took note of Wednesday's statement by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, expressing concern at the rising tensions.

The council stressed the need for the government and political opposition to refrain from any acts of violence and intimidation before, during, and after elections.

It also said that it would actively support the conditions for peaceful, timely, credible and inclusive election process.

In this regard, the council condemned the Wednesday assassination attempt on the wife of opposition leader Agathon Rwaso.

Members also expressed concern about the impact of this situation on the region, including reports of increased Burundian refugee flows into Rwanda by persons who cited a fear of violence.

They took note of Burundian government officials' commitment to hold free, credible, peaceful and transparent election according to the electoral calendar and called on them to make good on this commitment.

The council recalled that during its March 13 visit to Burundi, many civil society organizations and members of the political opposition warned of the likelihood of elections-related violence and the need for all parties to abide by the non-violence charter of March 9.

It called on all parties to address any elections-related concerns peacefully.

## **UN calls for calm in Burundi as violent protests continue**

Source: France 24

**18 April 2015** - Burundian police fired tear gas and water cannons on Friday at hundreds of protesters opposed to the president running for a third term, as the UN Security Council warned that violence threatened to disrupt June elections.

Supporters have urged President Pierre Nkurunziza to stand again in June's election, although he has not commented on his intentions. Opponents say such a move would violate the constitution, and even some ruling party officials have asked him not to run.

"We won't let him run again!" people in the demonstration in the capital Bujumbura shouted.

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Protesters took shelter in shops or buildings before regrouping. Some hurled stones at police. Rain later helped disperse them.

There have been growing regional and international calls for Nkurunziza to steer Burundi clear of a crisis. UN rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein on Wednesday warned that the country was at a "crossroads" between a fair vote that would boost the country and a route back to its "horrendously violent past."

On Friday, the UN Security Council called on the government and the opposition to refrain from acts of violence and intimidation ahead of the May parliamentary vote and the presidential polls that will follow.

"The upcoming elections are an extremely sensitive issue that has the potential to spur violence and undermine the peace sustained for almost a decade in Burundi," the council said in a statement.

The members vowed "to respond to any actions in Burundi that threaten the peace, security or stability in Burundi by actively facilitating violence, including by reportedly distributing weapons to youth groups."

In Washington, the State Department said on Friday that the United States was "deeply concerned" about the crisis and would "take steps, including, where appropriate, by denying US visas to individuals who order, plan, or participate in acts of violence."

**"We will continue the struggle"**

Opposition parties are discussing uniting behind a single candidate to improve their chances of defeating Nkurunziza, who took office in 2005 after 12 years of civil conflict. He has served two terms.

The constitution and the peace deal that ended that war both stipulate no one should be president for longer than 10 years. The president's backers argue that his first term should not count since he was picked by lawmakers rather than voted in.

Chauvineau Mugwingizo, a spokesman for the five opposition groups that called the protest, said: "The police used brutality to disperse peaceful protesters, but this will not discourage us. We will continue the struggle."

Presidential spokesman Gervais Abayeho said the protests had no justification when the ruling party had not announced its candidate, which would happen this month at a party congress.



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“How can you protest against something that has not happened? The president has not announced that he will run for a third term,” said Abayeho.

Since the civil war that pitted the then-Tutsi-dominated army against rebels from the Hutu ethnic group, the army has undergone reform and has in the past said it would not intervene in the political crisis.

At least 6,000 Burundians have fled to neighbouring Rwanda in recent weeks. A Western diplomat said they appeared to be both Tutsi and Hutu and that Rwanda feared more could come.

Rwanda, which has a similar ethnic make-up, was the scene of a 1994 genocide in which about 800,000, mostly Tutsis and moderate Hutus, were killed.

## **EU following closely debate on 3rd term of Burundi president**

Source: Xinhua

**16 April 2015** - The European Union (EU) delegation in Burundi said on Wednesday it was closely following debate on the possibility of President Pierre Nkurunziza contesting for a third term.

"It is an issue that we shall follow closely and which will determine our support for the electoral process," head of EU delegation in Burundi Patrick Spirlet said.

Spirlet said EU had expressed concern over intimidations against some individuals from the ruling party who had rejected the proposal for Nkurunziza to contest for a third term.

EU, he added, wants the Burundian government to take necessary measures to maintain peace during the electoral period.

During previous meetings between the Burundian government and EU, the latter insisted on the need to respect the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi (AAPRB) in order to resolve the dispute over Nkurunziza's third term bid.

According to the AAPRB that was signed in 2000 in Tanzania, "the Burundian president is elected for a period of five years, renewable once. No one can serve for more than two terms."

Nkurunziza was elected in 2005 and re-elected in 2010. His supporters have urged him to contest for a third term during the June 26 presidential elections.

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## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### U.N. frees 21 herders enslaved by militia in Central African Republic

Source: Reuters

**20 April 2015** - U.N. peacekeepers have liberated some 21 nomadic Muslim herders, most of them women and children, enslaved by militia groups in the west of Central African Republic, though up to 100 more remain in captivity, a U.N. official said on Sunday [19 April].

The herders, from the Fulani ethnic group, were captured about a year ago near the town of Yaloke during religious violence unleashed after Muslim Seleka rebels seized power in the majority Christian country in 2013, provoking a backlash from local militia groups.

A spokeswoman for the U.N. refugees agency (UNHCR) said the two men, six women and 13 children had been freed after negotiations involving the U.N. peacekeeping mission (MINUSCA) and local authorities. "Three of the six women were raped and are in a state of shock, totally traumatized," said Dalia Alachi, spokeswoman for UNHCR.

"They spoke to us about torture, gang rape, forced labor. These people are now receiving medical treatment and psycho-social support," she said. Based on information from local surveillance committees, UNHCR estimates that roughly 100 people remain in captivity in the same region. The liberated people were transferred to Yaloke, some 300 km (190 miles) northwest of the capital Bangui, where an enclave of more than 400 Fulani exists under U.N. protection.

The Fulani in Yaloke had sought shelter more than a year ago after they were hunted through the bush by the 'anti-balaka' Christian militia, which killed more than 50 of the herders and stole their cattle. Despite an improving situation in some towns of Central African Republic, Alachi said simmering violence persisted in rural areas, with most of the abuses going undocumented.

## REPUBLIC OF CONGO

### 140 étrangers expulsés du Congo

Source: Le Griot.info (Quotidien panafricain d'informations générales)

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**Le gouvernement congolais a procédé à l'expulsion de 140 ressortissants étrangers en situation irrégulière, courant le premier trimestre de 2015. Cette expulsion s'inscrit dans le cadre l'opération « Mbata ya Bakolo », qui signifie la « gifle des aînés ».**

**20 avril 2015** - Cette opération a été mise en place pour répondre à la montée vertigineuse du grand banditisme et au phénomène « kuluna » ; une horde de bandits venus de la RDC, équipés d'armes blanches, qui sème la désolation et la mort, apprend-on auprès porte-parole de la police nationale, le colonel Jules Monkala-Tchoumou.

Parmi les étrangers rapatriés, se trouvent 1 Nigérien, 1 Camerounais, 1 Sénégalais, 4 Nigériens, 2 Maliens et 95 personnes de la République Démocratique du Congo. Ils étaient en situation irrégulière. Ils ont été interpellés et expulsés du Congo-Brazzaville avec le concours des autorités de leur ambassade.

En 2014, l'opération « Mbata ya Bakolo», a failli créer une crise diplomatique entre Kinshasa et Brazzaville. Au cours de l'expulsion des ressortissants de la RDC, certaines femmes de Kinshasa, expulsées n'avaient pas manqué d'accuser la police congolaise de violence et de brutalité à leur égard.

D'autres avaient prétendu avoir été dépouillées de leurs biens, avant leur reconduite à la frontière, par le Beach de Brazzaville. Pour éviter un embrasement et permettre une sortie de crise, les présidents Denis Sassou Nguesso et Joseph Kabila autorisent l'ouverture des pourparlers entre Brazzaville et Kinshasa. Les policiers qui s'étaient livrés aux actes de brutalité sont radiés des effectifs de la police congolaise.

## SOUTH SUDAN

### Over 500,000 S. Sudan refugees in E. Africa: UN

Source: Xinhua

**20 April 2015** - More than 522,000 refugees who have fled their homes in South Sudan scatter in four Eastern Africa countries, the United Nations (UN) humanitarian agency said on Monday.

There is an increase of over 20,000 people into neighboring countries in the last two months, a 4 percent up, the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Eastern Africa said in its latest report.

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According to OCHA, the number of refugees uprooted are 200,000 in Ethiopia, 50,000 in Kenya, 150,000 in Uganda, and 150,000 in Sudan.

The UN agency warned that the deteriorating food insecurity situation in South Sudan is expected to further increase the number of refugees entering Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda.

"Renewed fighting and inter-communal violence in Upper Nile, Lakes and Unity States has resulted into increased displacement across the region and influx into Malakal and Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites," it said.

South Sudan has been plagued with a conflict between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and his rival and former deputy, Riek Machar, since December, 2013. Fighting has swept the oil-rich Greater Nile region, particularly the three states of Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei.

The South Sudanese refugee population in Kenya's Kakuma camp has more than doubled from 45,239 to 90,592 since the fighting erupted, the agency said.

"The main challenge is unavailability of land to accommodate new arrivals and inadequate supply of drinking water," it said, adding that progress has been made after extensive consultations with the county government and the host community for new land.

The United States had provided 15.4 million U.S. dollars to the World Food Programme Uganda to provide support for over 150,000 refugees through April-July hunger gap.

The agency added there has been a dramatic increase of over 10, 000 South Sudanese refugees in Sudan due to renewed fighting in Upper Nile state since February.

Regional leaders are pushing the two South Sudanese rival leaders to meet in a final round of negotiations expected to resume this month in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

Sanctions including travel ban, asset freeze and arm embargo would be imposed if no peace agreement reached.

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## SUDAN

### Sudanese Expatriates Apathetic About Presidential Vote

Source: Al Jazeera

**19 April 2015** - Amid reports of low voter turnout in Sudan, the overwhelming mood among Sudanese voters at home and abroad appears to be unprecedented apathy.

The head of the African Union (AU) observer mission and former Nigerian president, Olusegun Obasanjo, estimated that only about one-third of eligible voters had cast their ballot. The mission's presence comes despite an African Union pre-election assessment report which concluded that "the necessary conditions and environment for the holding of transparent, competitive, free and fair elections, as agreed in the AU principles governing democratic elections, have not been satisfied".

For many, the election result is a foregone conclusion as President Omar al-Bashir, head of the National Congress Party (NCP), completes his 26th year in power. Bashir, 71, led a military coup in 1989 and had claimed previously that he would not stand for re-election.

As polls closed internally on April 16, following a one-day extension due to low voter turnout, they opened on April 17 for three days for Sudanese nationals living abroad to vote. Sudan's National Election Commission (NEC) has organised for Sudanese citizens in seven countries to cast their votes, covering the areas with the most populous Diasporas: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar, Oman, the UAE, the UK, and Belgium - the latter acting as a centralised hub for mainland Europe. Their ballots will be sent to Sudan for final computation and the overall results of the election are scheduled to be announced on April 27.

Forty-four political parties are competing to win seats in Sudan's National Assembly, while 15 candidates are officially running for the presidency.

But Mohammed Ibrahim, a 27-year-old IT student in Malaysia, told Al Jazeera that because the main "opposition parties are boycotting the elections", including the Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionists, he would not be voting. "They are the reason this election has become pointless. If they had participated, I would have voted," Ibrahim told Al Jazeera.

Amjed AbdulHakeem, 34, a microbiologist who has lived in Jeddah for the last two years, has a common story: He studied in Sudan, struggled to find work and eventually

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moved to Saudi Arabia, where he now works in a large hospital laboratory and sends money home to support his family.

"Election?" He laughs: "That assumes there is a choice. If I knew the result wasn't already 100 percent determined, I might have been interested in voting, but I won't take part in this charade."

AbdulHakeem's views are common among Sudanese expatriates, who reside at a distance of relative safety from the Sudanese National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) and can express their views more freely. According to Amnesty International, "during the 2010 general elections, the NISS intimidated, arrested, and detained opposition candidates, voters, and human rights defenders". Sudan's parliament has also recently approved amendments to its interim constitution, further expanding the role of the NISS.

In Qatar, Sudanese Ambassador Yasser Khadir told Al Jazeera that there were only "approximately 7,000 Sudanese nationals registered to vote out of the 50,000 resident here".

"Sudanese nationals are involved in all levels of society in Qatar, from engineering and management to sports and policing," Khadir said. However, he estimated that only "664 voters had cast their ballot so far" after the first day of voting.

Many Sudanese nationals left Sudan as refugees following the first civil war with the region now known as South Sudan, in 1955. The more recent waves of expatriates are economic migrants. Many families in Sudan have members working abroad and rely on remittances to survive.

Abra Daifallah, a 17-year-old pharmacy student, moved with her family to Doha five years ago. "I am excited to participate in my first election and cast my vote," she told Al Jazeera. "This is my right. All of my family in Sudan will be voting for Bashir too."

This is the second set of elections under Bashir's rule; the first occurred in 2010 and was monitored by the European Union. This time, however, the EU has declined to attend, stating: "The upcoming elections cannot produce a credible result... The people of Sudan deserve better. We therefore chose not to engage in support of these elections."

Retired businessman Ahmed Idris, 75, opted to settle in London, viewing it as the business epicentre of the world and with hopes of being able to provide a quality education for his three children. In the 1990s, Idris says, he was formally asked to leave Sudan by the Ministry of Justice, following a legal business dispute with Bashir's government.

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"I was unjustly arrested multiple times and had my land seized. I was unable to continue, and unfortunately my story is not unique," he said.

Idris believes that living outside Sudan does not prohibit one from engaging with Sudanese politics: "I love my country and I want to see it develop. But those with a vision and the tools to improve our economy are being forced out. Bashir's government has failed its people."

## **African Union confirms low turnout in Sudan elections**

Source: Sudan Tribune

**17 April 2015** - The head of the African Union's observation mission for Sudan's general elections has conceded that voter participation had been weak, estimating that only about one-third of eligible voters had cast their ballot.

Speaking in a press conference after the end of the four-day ballot, former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo told reporters that the percentage of eligible voters varies between 30 and 35 adding "the turnout was low, almost is less than 40%".

Obasanjo attributed the small turnout to the boycott by opposition and civil society groups, but added that the elections should not affect the national dialogue between the Sudanese political forces to end war and achieve democratic reforms.

The National Election Commission (NEC) announced that the vote count operation will begin on Friday and the result will be officially announced on 27 April.

The opposition parties and civil society groups called to boycott the electoral process as the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) rejected their demand to postpone the elections and prioritise the African Union supported efforts to bring peace and engage a comprehensive national process for a new constitution.

Obasanjo noted that the vote faced difficulties in troubled Blue Nile and South Kordofan states where the government troops fight the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement North (SPLM-N).

He also mentioned the logistical problems that triggered the extension of vote process in Al Jazirah state and some parts of Darfur region.

In a report disclosed recently, an African Union technical team tasked with evaluating the pre-elections environment in Sudan said the political environment in the country is

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restrictive due to the lack of political freedoms and continuation of war in different parts of the country.

In a report submitted to the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) last month, the assessment mission advised not to send a monitoring mission due to its inconsistency with the standards of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

However, the AUPSC went against its recommendations, underscoring its involvement in the ongoing efforts to end Sudan's conflict and operate a smooth democratic transition.

Sudan Tribune reporters spotted several polling stations were empty from voters in different electoral constituencies in the Sudanese capital on Thursday while the ruling party urged its membership to work actively to bring voters to the vote centres.

Several heads of polling stations complained of weak voter turnout on the fourth day, also they pointed to the existence of errors related to the fall of voters names and the repetition of the names of electors in a number of electoral constituencies.

**Satisfied with turnout**

However presidential assistant and NCP vice president Ibrahim Ghandour told reporters they are satisfied with the election turnout, adding they are not part in the NEC's decision to extend the vote period.

"I can assure you that we are quite satisfied with the turnout of (election)," Ghandour said in a press briefing for foreign reporters at the premises of the ruling party on Thursday evening.

"Those who are talking about the low turnout they just do not know what is going on or they are deliberately talk about," he said in English.

He further explained that his government was not involved in the decision of the electoral body to extend the vote for an additional day after the small participation during the three-day vote period.

**Transparent election**

The head of the Chinese delegation to monitor the Sudanese election, Zhang Xun, said the electoral process was characterised by transparency, stability and safety, and was held in line with international electoral standards.



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In a press conference held at the Chinese embassy in Khartoum on Thursday, Zhang stressed that the elections are an internal matter for Sudan alone, adding “We firmly reject (foreign) interference in the affairs of others.”

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## Soudan: un journal indépendant saisi par les renseignements

Source: RFI

**Les services de renseignement soudanais ont confisqué samedi la totalité des exemplaires de l'édition de samedi du quotidien indépendant al-Youm al-Tali. Motif de cette saisie selon le rédacteur en chef : un article sur une opposante arrêtée dimanche dernier, juste avant la tenue des élections législatives et présidentielle. Des scrutins boycottés par l'opposition et que le président Omar el-Béehir est assuré de remporter.**

**19 avril 2015** - L'opposition dénonce un véritable kidnapping. Sandra Kaduda se rendait à un meeting de l'opposition à la veille des élections quand des hommes l'ont arrachée à sa voiture. Elle n'est relâchée que trois jours plus tard, mercredi, avec des traces de sévices.

« Elle a été littéralement kidnappée au volant de sa voiture, raconte Hamid Mutarda, membre du parti Umma, comme Sandra Kaduda. Pendant plusieurs jours, personne n'a su où elle était. Les autorités et le service national de renseignement ont affirmé ne pas la détenir. Sa famille était très inquiète, d'autant que Sandra a des problèmes de santé.

Finalement, mercredi, ses kidnappeurs l'ont relâchée dans la rue, sans aucune explication, après l'avoir sévèrement battue. Même si les autorités démentent l'avoir détenue, il est évident que c'était le service national de renseignement. »

C'est en tout cas le service de renseignement qui a saisi samedi les exemplaires du quotidien indépendant al-Youm al-Tali. A cause, selon son rédacteur en chef, d'un article sur Sandra Kaduda. L'auteur y demandait que soit révélée l'identité de ses kidnappeurs. Hamid Mutarda n'est pas surpris : selon lui, ce type de confiscation est monnaie courante. « Le service national de renseignement a une équipe chargée de relire les journaux chaque soir avant leur mise en circulation le lendemain, affirme-t-il. Ils opèrent un contrôle très strict des journaux. A la moindre évocation d'un sujet qui leur déplait, la mise en circulation du journal est immédiatement stoppée. »

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## SOUTH AFRICA

### South Africa: 300 suspects arrested for anti-immigrant violence

Source: CNN

**20 April 2015** - More than 300 suspects have been arrested in South Africa in connection with deadly attacks on foreigners that have forced thousands to flee, the government said Sunday.

"We once again unequivocally condemn the maiming and killing of our brothers and sisters from other parts of the continent," the government said. "No amount of frustration or anger can justify these attacks and looting of shops."

Thousands sought refuge in temporary shelters after mobs with machetes attacked immigrants in Durban.

The attacks in Durban killed two immigrants and three South Africans, including a 14-year-old boy, authorities said.

Heavily armed police have scrambled to stop clashes after local residents accused immigrants from other African nations of taking their jobs.

The government praised law enforcement agencies for stopping further bloodshed in Durban.

"We believe that their commitment to duty has prevented injuries and even deaths that could have happened if they security forces had not acted," it said.

#### 'Disgusted with the attacks'

The xenophobic sentiment is certainly not representative of all South Africans.

"There has been an outpouring of support from ordinary South Africans who are disgusted with the attacks not only because they are foreign, or African, but because they are fellow human beings," said Gift of the Givers charity, which is helping those seeking refuge.

The charity said last week that about 8,500 people had fled to refugee centers or police stations because of the violence.

South Africa's government implored citizens to remember the country's history of overcoming challenges with the support of African neighbors.

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"During the Apartheid many South Africans fled persecution and death at the hands of the Apartheid government," it said in its statement. "Africa opened its doors and became a home away from home for many South Africans."

President Jacob Zuma has canceled a trip to Indonesia and visited displaced foreign nationals in Chatsworth to express his support, the government said.

## History of anti-immigrant strife

The Gift of the Givers charity assured immigrants that it has a facility in Johannesburg to help those who might need shelter there.

"We have tents and all essential supplies on standby but pray that sanity prevails and this does not become necessary," it said.

In the past, Johannesburg has been the epicenter of anti-immigrant tensions.

In 2008, scores were killed in attacks in the poorest areas of Johannesburg.

Most of the victims were Zimbabweans who had fled repression and dire economic circumstances. In that attack, police arrested more than 200 people for various crimes including rape, murder, robbery and theft.

## Strong Words Start, May End, S. African Xenophobic Attacks

Source: VOA

**17 April 2015** - After a protracted silence, South African President Jacob Zuma publicly has condemned a rise in attacks on foreign nationals in two major cities. But critics point out that the leadership in the Rainbow Nation — including Zuma himself — has been less than welcoming to foreign residents, and that a war of words started this conflagration. And the perpetual thorn in Zuma's side, opposition rabble-rouser Julius Malema, says Zuma is to blame for the fact that South Africans increasingly see violence as the solution to their problems.

"We condemn the violence in the strongest possible terms," Zuma said. "The attacks violate all the values that South Africa embodies, especially the respect for human life, human rights, human dignity and Ubuntu. Our country stands firmly against all intolerances such as racism, xenophobia, homophobia and sexism."

Strong words from President Jacob Zuma before a nation in the throes of violence against African immigrants. In recent weeks, his nation has seen an upswing in attacks

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against foreign residents — particularly lower-income residents originally from Ethiopia, Malawi, Somalia and Zimbabwe.

**Criticism**

The violence started in the coastal city of Durban and then spread to the economic hub, Johannesburg. But Zuma's words before parliament failed to satisfy his critics, who immediately pounced on him.

Zuma's biggest critic, far-left politician Julius Malema, delivered a rousing speech that highlighted — in more ways than one — that the president's stoic, often stilted rhetoric is an impediment to his message.

"Mr. President, you come here, you want to condemn violence against xenophobia. But the Cubans have taught us that body language speaks volumes than prepared speech," he said.

"You come with a prepared speech, your body doesn't suggest any other leader who is concerned about the killings in KwaZulu-Natal. But when you were defending the spending in Nkandla, your body language was very stronger than when you were condemning the violence ... activities in the country. Fellow South Africans, we need each other, let us not kill each other. There is no country in Africa that can survive in isolation."

**Fanning the flames**

After all, it was a speech that may have sparked this latest round of xenophobic attacks. In late March, the king of the Zulu people, Goodwill Zwelithini, delivered a speech that many construed as being derisive of foreign residents. Zuma's son later publicly supported and added to the king's sentiments, adding fuel to the fire.

Among the king's reported remarks: "We ask foreign nationals to pack their belongings and go back to their countries."

The king claims his words were poorly translated from isiZulu and that he was misinterpreted. He now faces a charge of hate speech.

Activist Tim Flack this week laid a complaint against the king. Flack's day job is as an organizer for the South African National Defense Union, but he says he laid the hate speech charge in his personal capacity. He says that hate speech is imbedded in South African society.

**Apartheid mentality lingers**

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“South Africa’s come from a very very, sort of, racist past, coming from the apartheid regime and moving over into democracy,” said Flack. “People have still got wounds from all those years back and now those guys that were young then have now had children, it’s sort of carrying on. It’s going to take a very long time before that sort of mentality of us and them ... it’s always us and them. And this is mentality that’s been coded into us by the apartheid regime and it’s very difficult, it seems like it’s been very difficult for people to sort of let that go.”

More worrying, Malema says, is the tendency of South Africa’s leadership to react violently — as an example, he mentioned the 2012 mineworkers’ strike in the town of Marikana that led police to shoot dead 34 protesters.

Malema put the blame for this squarely on Zuma.

“It was through the state that our people were taught that the resolution to differences will be through violence,” he said. “It was under your leadership that when you disagreed with people in Marikana, you killed them. Because you never believed in peaceful resolution of differences.”

**Rainbow Nation at risk?**

This is not the South Africa that many people hoped for in 1994, when the nation ended its racist regime and dubbed itself the inclusive Rainbow Nation. And it’s not the nation that so many immigrants — from Africa and beyond — flocked to in search of a new life and better opportunities.

This, in the words of former President Nelson Mandela, is what that nation was about.

“Let be justice for all. Let there be peace for all. The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement. Let freedom reign. I thank you,” Mandela said.

**TANZANIA****Mob Lynchers Suspected Somali Militant in Tanzania**

Source: VOA

**15 April 2015** - Tanzanian security forces have arrested 10 suspected members of the Somali Islamist group al-Shabab in a raid on a mosque and another was lynched by a mob, police said on Wednesday.

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Officials said Tanzania was on high alert for al-Shabab attacks after the group claimed an attack on a university in neighboring Kenya this month that killed 148 people.

Police Commissioner Paul Chagonja told Reuters the suspected members of the al-Qaida-linked group had been arrested on Tuesday night in Kilombero district, Morogoro region, about 200 km (125 miles) east of the commercial capital Dar es Salaam.

Morogoro regional police chief, Leonard Paul Lwabuzala, said in a statement that one member of the group was lynched by a mob as he was pursued by the police.

“The suspects arrested at a mosque were found in possession of 30 sticks of explosives, detonating cord, a black flag, military uniforms, masks and swords,” Lwabuzala said.

Tanzania has been spared the level of assaults by al-Shabab militants seen in Kenya although there have been sporadic attacks on tourists.

Unlike Kenya, Tanzania, which is roughly evenly split between Christians and Muslims, has not sent troops to Somalia and it does not share a border with the Horn of Africa nation.

Al-Shabab has said it has targeted Kenya to punish the country for sending troops to Somalia where they have battled the militants as part of an African Union peacekeeping force. It said other contributing African nations could also be targeted.

## UGANDA

### Uganda's Museveni to seek re-election in his 30th year in office

Source: San Fransisco Bay View

By: Ann Garrison

### Besigye draws a line between citizens and dictators, calls for no election without electoral reform

**20 April 2015** - Three presidents in the Great Lakes Region of Africa, Burundi's Nkurunziza, DR Congo's Kabila and Rwanda's Kagame, are all doing their best to stay in office beyond constitutional term limits. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, however, doesn't have to overcome term limits because Uganda's Parliament abolished

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them in 2005. He has already announced that he will run again in 2016, his 30th year in office.

KPFA Evening News Anchor Cameron Jones: Three sitting presidents in the Great Lakes Region of Africa are doing their best to stay in power beyond constitutional term limits. They include Burundi's Pierre Nkurunziza, the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Joseph Kabila and Rwanda's Paul Kagame.

U.S. State Department officials have urged Nkurunziza to step down in Burundi's October election. They've also called on Kabila to step down in the DR Congo in 2016. The State Department has not, however, said anything about Rwanda's Paul Kagame or Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni's announcement that he will stand for election yet again next year. Uganda's Parliament abolished term limits in 2005 and, in 2016, Museveni will have been in power for 30 years. KPFA's Ann Garrison has more.

KPFA/Ann Garrison: As Uganda's 2016 election year draws closer, opposition politicians and civil society groups are demanding electoral reform, including a complete overhaul of the country's electoral commission. They demanded the same in advance of the 2011 election, without success, but this time prominent Ugandans say that there should be no elections without electoral reform, because that would only serve to legitimize an illegitimate regime.

Dr. Kizza Besigye, who ran against his former ally, President Yoweri Museveni, in 2001, 2006 and 2011, told NTV Uganda that he is among those who believe there should be no election in 2016 without electoral reform. Dr. Besigye has become a hero to many Ugandans after being publicly arrested and even injured many times by Ugandan police. He maintains that Ugandans have nothing to gain by another violent seizure of power and that they need to experience a peaceful electoral transition.

Dr. Kizza Besigye: No leader in this country has ever peacefully handed over power to another. And don't forget that in 2006, the Supreme Court of this country unanimously said that the elections were not free or fair.

KPFA: When asked whether he would run against President Museveni again, Besigye said there was no point in discussing candidates before there is electoral reform.

Besigye: We don't have an election now to field the candidates for. If those reforms don't take place, we will fight for them until they take place, and if they have not taken place by 2016, we should have no election at all in 2016.

KPFA: Besigye also said that he will make cause with any Ugandans demanding electoral reform, regardless of party affiliation.



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Besigye: It's not an opposition-government divide. It's citizens versus dictators, and that should be the divide. And whoever is rallying citizens to ensure that we have credible elections or no elections will be my ally.

KPFA: In 2011, after the last Ugandan presidential and parliamentary elections, the U.S. State Department released a statement saying that the election was flawed by Museveni and his party's use of state funds for their own re-election, by the absence of registered voters' names on the voter rolls, and by the heavy deployment of military and police force on election day.

But they said that they hoped Ugandans would peacefully abide by the results. The State Department also urged the Ugandan government to create an independent and more representative electoral commission before this year's election, but it has not remarked on the matter since.

U.S. and other Western leaders have applauded President Museveni for agreeing to the privatization of state enterprises and institutions, and to the neoliberal structural adjustments advanced by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Uganda is also one of the USA's most longstanding and most often deployed military partners in Africa; its soldiers serve in U.S.-led military operations in Somalia and elsewhere on the African continent. In 2009, the Christian Science Monitor reported that there were 10,000 Ugandans working for private U.S. military contractors in Iraq and more in training.

## **Ugandan military on alert after rebel group attacks in eastern DR Congo**

Source: Xinhua

**16 April 2015** - The Ugandan military on Thursday said it is on high alert to deal with any cross border incursions by the rebel group, Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) currently causing havoc in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo).

Maj. Ronald Kakurungu, the second division army spokesperson based in western Ugandan told Xinhua by telephone that the military is ready to deal with the rebel group if it crosses the border into Uganda.

"The ADF know we are here. We are on standby and doing everything possible along our common borders with DR Congo to make sure they don't cross into Uganda and cause havoc," he said. He added the Ugandan troops gave them a big blow in the

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Rwenzori region. "If they dare to come back, we are equal and up to the task. We shall deal with them in the best language they understand. They know it."

The ADF have continued to commit atrocities and human rights abuses in eastern DR Congo despite the Congolese military hunting them.

At least five people were beheaded in a machete attack this week in Mbau area, about 30km from Beni town, North Kivu Province. The local authorities and humanitarian agencies blamed it on ADF.

The ADF formed in the mid-1990s in the Ruwenzori mountain range in western Uganda is believed to have killed more than 260 people in the final three months of last year in eastern DR Congo, mostly using knives and machetes.