

**Disclaimer:**

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

---

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



## MEDIA MONITORING

10 June 2015

---

### GENERAL NEWS

#### African conflicts set to dominate agenda at AU summit

Source: African News Agency (<http://mg.co.za/article/2015-06-09-au-summits-focus-on-countries-derailing-africas-growth>)

**The upcoming AU summit in South Africa will likely see issues such as Boko Haram and the Burundi protests steal attention away from development talks.**

**9 June 2015** - The leaders of the 54 members states of the African Union (AU) will be meeting for their 25th ordinary summit just after the expected launch in Egypt on Wednesday of a Tripartite Free Trade area (TFTA) spanning 26 countries of Southern and Eastern Africa and creating a market of 625-million people with a gross domestic product of more than \$1-trillion.

It will combine the free trade areas of the Southern African Development Community, the East African Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

The creation of the TFTA – which is envisaged as a stepping stone to an Africa-wide free trade area by 2017 – comes on top of more than a decade of plus-five percent a year growth on average in African economies.

It is on the agenda of this week's AU summit in South Africa where the theme is how to increase the empowerment and development of women.

**Disclaimer:**

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

But persistent civil wars in South Sudan and Libya, ongoing terror threats posed by the jihadist extremist groups Boko Haram in West Africa and al-Shabab in east Africa, and the destabilising impact of a leader trying to cling to power in Burundi – and potentially other countries – could push such promising developments down the agenda as the Pretoria-based Institute for Security Studies (ISS) warned in its latest AU Peace and Security Council report.

In Burundi, President Pierre Nkurunziza has provoked violent streets protests and an aborted coup by insisting on running for a third term in office, against the apparent two-term limits of the constitution. Similar crises could be looming in both Congos, Rwanda and other countries.

Yet it is unclear how the AU will deal with this problem of “third-termism” as an official put it. South African President Jacob Zuma told the recent World Economic Forum (WEF) in Cape Town that Africa should resolve not to tolerate attempts by Africa’s leaders to extend their terms in office but Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane told journalists yesterday that the AU had no overall policy limiting leaders to two terms and would have to defer to national constitutions and wishes.

The civil war, which erupted in South Sudan in December 2013 with a split in the ruling SPLM and then led to wider political and ethnic violence is also on the agenda of the summit, as it was at the last summit. Analysts said a key question was whether the AU would agree to publish an explosive report which the AU itself commissioned into human rights abuses by both sides.

South African Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa is involved in efforts to reconcile the warring SPLM leaders, President Salva Kiir and his former deputy Riek Machar.

Leaders will also discuss the chaos in Libya, which has dragged on since the longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi was deposed and killed in 2011. The country now has two governments and the recognised one which will represent the country at the summit has been ousted from the capital by a rival government and is based in the eastern city of Tobruk.

The packed agenda will also include discussions on a plan to make the AU more self-sufficient and less dependent on foreign donors, in funding its own programmes; and also on adopting a formal African position on the Post-2015 development agenda to be agreed upon at the UN in September and in the UN climate conference in Paris in December.

**Disclaimer:**

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

South Africa stepped in to host the summit at the last minute after Chad was obliged to withdraw because of the Boko Haram threat. Since then the eruption of xenophobic – or “Afrophobic” – violence has embarrassed the host country.

It has also placed a question mark over the full participation of the continent’s leaders in the summit, with reports that some leaders whose nationals were victimised might stay away in protest.

But Nkoana-Mashabane dismissed these concerns, insisting that “there is no boycotting of the African Union summit in South Africa.”

She said the AU Commission had assured her that a majority of the leaders of AU’s 54 member states would attend and all the governments would be represented at some level.

Nkoana-Mashabane said that Zuma had “led from the front in dealing with this so-called xenophobia,” noting that he had been well-received since then by both Mozambique’s new President Filipe Nyusi and Nigeria’s new President Muhammadu Buhari.

However the ISS said that African leaders were sure to demand explanations from Zuma about what he was doing to prevent another outburst of violence.

He is likely to brief them about a revised immigration policy which an inter-ministerial commission is to present to cabinet next month, as Presidency Minister Jeff Radebe told the World Economic Forum (WEF).

## DRC

### Tenue en septembre prochain à New York de la réunion de haut niveau du mécanisme régional de suivi

Source: ACP/MCN, via mediacongo.net

(<http://www.mediacongo.net/show.asp?doc=85386#.VXfiGs-qpHw>)

**Kinshasa, 9 juin 2015** - Le Conseiller spécial de l'Envoyé spécial du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies pour les Grands Lacs, Modibo Touré, a annoncé lundi 8 juin à Kinshasa, la tenue en septembre prochain à New-York de la réunion de haut niveau du mécanisme régional de suivi de l'Accord-cadre d'Addis-Abeba.

**Disclaimer:**

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

Cette réunion, a-t-il indiqué, fera le point sur l'ensemble de l'engagement pris au titre dudit accord.

En rapport avec le récent séminaire national d'appropriation et d'identification des interventions prioritaires pour l'opérationnalisation des engagements nationaux de l'Accord-cadre d'Addis-Abeba, Modibo Touré qui a rang de Sous-Secrétaire général des Nations Unies a souhaité que cette initiative puisse inspirer les autres pays signataires dudit Accord et que ses conclusions enrichissent les délibérations du prochain round.

Il a salué les efforts du gouvernement en matière de stabilisation entreprise dans l'Est du pays, l'organisation d'un dialogue national inclusif, l'établissement d'un cadre législatif approprié pour les réformes du secteur de sécurité et l'effectivité de la décentralisation, des actions du plaidoyer du gouvernement et de la société civile pour la promotion de l'Accord-cadre et de la neutralisation des groupes armés présents à l'Est.

Toutefois, il a noté que d'importants progrès ont été réalisés mais de nombreux défis demeurent.

A cet effet, il a encouragé le gouvernement et ses partenaires à redoubler d'efforts avec la Monusco suite à la résolution 2011 du Conseil de sécurité, à reprendre la coopération au niveau stratégique et opérationnelle afin de relancer les opérations militaires conjointes pour lutter efficacement contre les forces négatives.

Par ailleurs, il a loué l'initiative des consultations nationales initiées par le président Joseph Kabila avant de plaider pour l'implication de tous les acteurs politiques dans un processus électoral inclusif et transparent.

## **RDC: graves accusations d'une ONG contre la compagnie pétrolière Soco**

Source: RFI

**Il s'agit d'un nouveau rapport à charge pour l'entreprise pétrolière Soco. L'ONG Global Witness accuse l'entreprise britannique d'avoir payé plusieurs dizaines de milliers de dollars, un officier militaire congolais responsable d'exactions et de menaces à l'encontre d'opposants à l'activité d'exploration pétrolière de Soco dans le parc naturel des Virunga, dans l'est du pays. Il s'agit du parc le plus ancien d'Afrique, classé patrimoine mondial de l'Unesco et qui héberge des espèces rares de gorilles.**

**Disclaimer:**

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

**10 juin 2015** - Global Witness appelle la Grande Bretagne et les Etats-Unis a ouvrir une enquête judiciaire sur les activités de Soco dans l'est de la RDC. Les accusations sont lourdes mais documentées, affirme Global Witness. L'ONG dit détenir une série de chèques issus du compte en banque local de Soco, et adressés au major congolais Burimba Feruzi, chargé de la sécurité. Des copies de reçus, aussi, signés de la main de l'officier.

Ces documents font état de paiements d'un total de 42 250\$ versés par Soco sur deux semaines, début 2014. Soit l'équivalent de 30 ans de salaire environ, pour un major de la marine congolaise. L'ONG affirme également avoir d'autres documents qui attestent que Soco payait les salaires de soldats postés près de la base opérationnelle de l'entreprise dans le parc des Virunga. Au moment où deux pêcheurs opposés à l'exploration pétrolière de cette entreprise ont été tués. Des pêcheurs tués, selon des témoins interrogés par Global Witness, par des militaires payés par l'entreprise britannique.

**Deux pêcheurs tués sur ordre**

Des accusations graves, qui pour l'ONG, rendent Soco responsables civilement des exactions qui auraient pu être commises par des soldats payés par eux. Global Witness appelle donc à l'ouverture d'une enquête judiciaire de la part des autorités britanniques, sur la façon dont l'entreprise a mené ses opérations d'exploration dans le plus vieux parc naturel d'Afrique.

**Fosse commune en RDC: «La décision d'exhumation revient au magistrat, et non à HRW»**

Source: VOA

**C'est ce qu'a déclaré Lambert Mende, le porte-parole du gouvernement congolais, en réaction à une demande de l'ONG Human Rights Watch (HRW) d'exhumer les corps enterrés dans une fosse commune située à Maluku.**

**10 juin 2015** - Dans un communiqué publié lundi 8 juin 2015, Human Rights Watch (HRW) appelle les autorités de la République démocratique du Congo à exhumer les corps enterrés dans une fosse commune située à Maluku, dans une zone rurale à environ 80 kilomètres de la capitale, Kinshasa.

Elle « pourrait contenir les cadavres de victimes de disparitions forcées ou d'exécutions commises par les forces de sécurité congolaises », ajoute l'ONG qui rappelle que le 5

**Disclaimer:**

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

juin, les familles de 34 victimes ont déposé une plainte publique auprès du Procureur général de la République, réclamant justice et l'exhumation des corps inhumés dans cette fosse.

En réaction, Lambert Mende, le porte-parole du gouvernement congolais, a déclaré que la décision d'exhumer ces 421 corps revient au magistrat chargé de l'affaire.

« Des habitants de cette zone, des dirigeants de l'opposition, la mission de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies en RD Congo (MONUSCO) et des organisations de défense des droits humains, dont Human Rights Watch, ont exprimé leur préoccupation au sujet de l'inhumation massive effectuée de nuit le 19 mars à la lisière du cimetière de Fula-Fula à Maluku, à laquelle des membres des forces de sécurité gouvernementales ont participé. Le gouvernement n'a ni exhumé les dépouilles ni révélé les identités des personnes enterrées », poursuit HRW.

« Deux mois après la découverte de la fosse commune à Maluku, les autorités congolaises n'ont toujours pas fait la lumière sur l'identité des personnes qui y sont enterrées », a déclaré Ida Sawyer, chercheuse senior sur l'Afrique à Human Rights Watch. « Les familles de victimes de violations des droits humains ont le droit de savoir si leurs proches sont parmi les personnes ensevelies dans cette fosse. »

Selon HRW, les autorités devraient effectuer immédiatement une opération d'exhumation en bonne et due forme, avec l'aide d'experts internationaux. « Des gouvernements étrangers, ainsi que les Nations Unies, devraient appuyer cette investigation, y compris en fournissant des experts en médecine légale qui seraient chargés d'aider à exhumer les corps et d'effectuer des analyses d'ADN », indique-t-elle.

## BURUNDI

### **Burundi: la présidentielle reportée au 15 juillet prochain**

Source: Agence d'Information d'Afrique central

Par Fiacre Kombo

**La Commission électorale nationale indépendante (Céni) chargée d'organiser le scrutin, a annoncé le lundi 8 juin dernier, le report de la présidentielle au 15 juillet, ainsi que des communales et législatives attendues le 26 juin prochain.**

**Disclaimer:**

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

**9 Juin 2015** - En attendant un décret présidentiel pour entériner ce nouveau calendrier électoral, le président de la Céli, Pierre-Claver Ndayicariye, a indiqué que les candidats entrent en campagnes électorales à partir de mercredi 10 juin, ceci trois semaines durant. En ce qui concerne le nouveau calendrier de la présidentielle, « la date du 15 juillet est suggérée pour la tenue de l'élection présidentielle, conformément aux recommandations du Sommet de Dar es Salaam qui parle d'un report des élections de 45 jours au moins », estime le président de la Céli.

Selon la Céli, la date du 26 juin est techniquement acceptable pour l'élection des députés et des conseils communaux. En effet, souligne le numéro un de la Commission électorale, « la date des communales et législatives, permettra d'organiser dans les délais l'élection des sénateurs et de doter le Burundi d'un Parlement devant lequel prêtera serment le président élu en 2015 », comme l'exige la Constitution, a-t-il dit.

Cette nouvelle proposition de calendrier électoral a été diversement accueillie : le camp de la majorité présidentielle de Pierre Nkurunziza a salué le nouveau chronogramme électoral, indiquant qu'il favorise la tenue des élections crédibles, fiables et ouvertes conformément aux demandes des dirigeants de la région. Pour le président du parti au pouvoir, le CNDD-FDD, Pascal Nyabenda, « il n'y a pas une autre voie qui peut sauver le Burundi que les élections. Si on ne fait pas attention, on peut tomber dans un vide constitutionnel. Il faut des dates précises pour qu'on puisse faire des élections. »

L'opposition continue de réclamer un nouveau médiateur

Quant à l'opposition et la société civile qui se sont déjà retirées du processus, « le calendrier est nul et de nul effet ». Après la démission des deux des cinq membres de la Céli et le retrait des partenaires européens et américains, l'opposition burundaise réclame la mise en place d'une nouvelle commission. « Nous ne pouvons pas participer dans une réunion convoquée par une Céli qui n'existe plus constitutionnellement », a déclaré un leader de l'opposition, Charles Nditijé.

Dans une lettre datant du 8 mai 2015, les leaders de l'opposition ont fait savoir au secrétaire général des Nations unies, Ban Ki-moon, qu'ils récusent le médiateur de l'ONU pour le Burundi, Saïd Djinnit. « La médiation de Saïd Djinnit a une certaine faiblesse: il n'est pas parvenu à nous trouver un espace où nous pouvons nous sentir en sécurité. Jusque-là, les responsables du mouvement de contestation contre la troisième candidature de Nkurunziza ne sont pas dans ce dialogue. Et ça, c'est très faible, qu'un médiateur continue ce processus sans pouvoir trouver un lieu où les leaders pourront se sentir en sécurité », a confié à RFI Pacifique Nininahazwe, président du Focode, l'une des organisations membres du collectif « Halte au troisième mandat ».

**Disclaimer:**

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

Le Burundi a basculé dans la violence depuis l'annonce de la candidature le 26 avril dernier par le président Pierre Nkurunziza, à un troisième mandat. Plusieurs milliers de Burundais continuent de fuir leur pays à cause de la violence pour se réfugier en République démocratique du Congo, en Tanzanie et au Rwanda.

## **Burundi president defiant despite UN warnings**

Source: AFP

**9 June 2015** - Burundi's government defied opposition demands Tuesday for President Pierre Nkurunziza to end a third-term bid for power, as the UN warned the country risked being "catapulted" back into civil war.

"This decision is non negotiable," government spokesman Philippe Nzobonariba said in a radio broadcast, dismissing opposition demands the president step down.

The government said the electoral commission's proposal to delay the presidential election until July 15 was the final time polls would be postponed.

Around 40 people have died and scores more have been injured in protests that began when Nkurunziza announced in late April that he would stand again, after Burundi's constitutional court gave him the green light.

The UN human rights chief on Tuesday warned that increasing violence by a pro-government militia, including executions, abductions and torture, was threatening to destabilise further the crisis-wracked central African nation.

"They could tip an already extremely tense situation over the edge," Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said in a statement.

"The last thing Burundi needs after a decade of gradual and largely successful peace-building is to be catapulted back into civil war because of a small number of people's ruthless determination to retain, or gain, power at any cost," he added.

Nearly 100,000 Burundians have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

But Nzobonariba said the "vast majority" had "fled because of the terrorist rumours spread by politicians who do not want elections, aided by some foreigners and some non-governmental organisations who want to push Burundi into chaos."

Nkurunziza's opponents say his candidacy is unconstitutional and goes against the 2006 Arusha peace deal that ended 13 years of civil war.



**Disclaimer:**

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

The president survived a coup attempt last month and has since faced down international pressure, including aid cuts, aimed at forcing him to reconsider.

The opposition has rejected proposals for the new election timetable, saying conditions for holding fair polls were not met.

"If things remain as they are, we consider that it will be a masquerade, a parody of elections," opposition leader Charles Nditije told AFP late Monday, demanding the setting up of a new independent electoral commission.

**- 'Extremely dangerous' -**

He also called for the disarmament of the ruling party's youth wing, the Imbonerakure, and for Nkurunziza to end his third-term bid for power.

Zeid expressed alarm at repeated allegations "that Imbonerakure members operate under instructions from the ruling party and with support of the national police and intelligence services, who provide them with weapons, vehicles and sometimes uniforms."

"If these claims are even partly true, they indicate an extremely dangerous effort to escalate fear and tension," he warned.

"If state authorities are indeed colluding with a violent lawless militia in this manner, they are gambling with the country's future in the most reckless manner imaginable."

The militia has carried out summary executions, abductions, torture, beatings, death threats and other forms of intimidation, according to testimony gathered from 47 Burundian refugees in camps in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the UN statement said.

While few violent acts have been committed by the opposition so far, he also urged opposition leaders to "make a huge effort" to rein in any possible violent elements in their midst.

The electoral commission has also suggested delaying parliamentary elections until June 26, and senator elections to July 24.

The parliamentary election had been scheduled to take place on June 5 but was postponed indefinitely on the eve of the vote, while the presidential vote was initially scheduled for June 26.

Civil society leaders have also questioned the impartiality of the key UN mediator, special envoy for the Great Lakes region Said Djinnit.

**Disclaimer:**

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

Vital Nshimirimana said it would be "wise" to appoint another envoy who "inspires confidence in all parties," and calling for stalled talks to restart on "neutral territory" outside the country.

## **U.N. rights chief sounds alarm over reports of Burundi youth 'militia' violence**

Source: Reuters

**Bujumbura, 9 June 2015** - The U.N. human rights chief said on Tuesday he was alarmed by accounts from refugees fleeing Burundi about violence and threats by members of the ruling party's youth wing which risked tipping the African nation "over the edge" into conflict.

Nearly 100,000 people have fled Burundi after more than a month of protests against President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid for a third term, which opponents say violates the constitution. The president cites a court ruling saying he can run.

Many of those who have fled have given accounts to journalists and aid workers of threats from the ruling CNDD-FDD's youth group Imbonerakure, which diplomats say has been armed and has been acting like a pro-government "militia".

The government dismisses the charge, saying the group is purely political. It accuses opponents of stirring up tensions in a nation that emerged from an ethnically charged civil war in 2005.

"We have been receiving consistent testimonies indicating that Imbonerakure members operate under instructions from the ruling party and with the support of the national police and intelligence services, who provide them with weapons, vehicles and sometimes uniforms," the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said in a statement.

"If these claims are even partly true, they indicate an extremely dangerous effort to escalate fear and tension," he said. "They could tip an already extremely tense situation over the edge."

Frequent clashes between police and protesters, which have eased in recent days, have alarmed neighbors in a region with a history of ethnic conflict, particularly Rwanda, which has the same ethnic mix as Burundi and suffered the 1994 genocide.

**Disclaimer:**

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

The reports from refugees cited by the U.N. rights chief echo those made by protesters in the capital who have accused Imbonerakure members of attacking them during rallies, sometimes saying they had dressed up in police uniforms.

"The last thing Burundi needs after a decade of gradual and largely successful peace-building, is to be catapulted back into civil war," the U.N. rights chief said.

The United Nations, Western donors and African nations have been pushing the two sides to resolve differences in talks. But several rounds of discussions have failed to bridge the gap between opponents demanding Nkurunziza end his re-election bid and supporters who insist he will press on.

Some members of the opposition and civil society groups involved in the talks have accused the U.N. envoy overseeing the talks, Said Djinnit, of bias, a charge U.N. officials dismiss.

A group of 17 opposition parties said on Monday it was committed to dialogue but also committed to continuing the political fight to ensure Nkurunziza quit. The presidency says any debate over his re-election bid is "closed".

## **Burundi civic groups reject UN facilitator of crisis talks over president's third-term bid**

Source: Associated Press

By Gerard Nzohabona

**9 June 2015** - Civic groups in Burundi on Tuesday rejected a U.N. facilitator of talks between the government and those opposed to a third term for President Pierre Nkurunziza, saying they feel he backs the president.

Several civic groups have written a joint letter to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressing opposition to the role of Algerian diplomat Said Djinnit, according to Pierre Claver Mbonimpa, a leading rights activist here.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Ban continues "to fully stand behind" Djinnit, who arrived back in Bujumbura on Tuesday and will attend the African Union summit later this week for talks with political leaders.

He said the U.N. has heard the opposition and others, and its message to the Burundian parties is to "rise above" their own interests and think of the national interests and the need to end the crisis.

**Disclaimer:**

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

Willy Nyamitwe, a presidential spokesman, said Tuesday the rejection of Djinnit is evidence of the opposition's "lack of maturity."

Burundi has been hit by political unrest since the announcement April 25 that Nkurunziza would seek a third term in office, which many see as unconstitutional. The country's constitutional court has ruled in favor of him, however.

Protesters say Nkurunziza's bid for a third term is illegal because the constitution only allows for two five-year terms after popular elections. Some protesters are vowing to stay on the streets until Nkurunziza says he will not run. At least 20 civilians have been killed in clashes with police who have used a combination of tear gas, water cannon and live ammunition.

A youth militia, the Imbonerakure, affiliated with the ruling party is accused of harassing opponents.

Zeid Raad al-Hussein, the U.N. human rights chief, said Tuesday the Imbonerakure's actions "could tip an already extremely tense situation over the edge." He said his office has received "consistent testimonies" indicating that Imbonerakure members operate under instructions from the ruling party and with weapons, vehicles and sometimes uniforms provided by police and intelligence services.

Zeid said Burundian authorities must "show their commitment to peace by clearly disassociating themselves from their violent supporters" and ensure they are accountable for any crimes.

## UGANDA

### **Electoral reforms: We are no longer a colony, Uganda tells EU envoys**

Source: The East African (Kenya)

**9 June 2015** - A delegation of EU ambassadors in a closed-door meeting with the Speaker of Parliament, Ms Rebecca Kadaga, questioned the credibility of the 2016 General Election.

Government spokesman says the proposals contained in the Constitutional Amendment Bill were not cast in stone.

The electoral agency downplays the demand for reforms and the stance by the opposition and civil society for an independent commission.

**Disclaimer:**

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

Uganda has responded with derision to criticism by the European Union that reforms it presented to Parliament were cosmetic and do not address substantive issues needed for free and fair elections.

A government spokesperson said on Monday that the country's electoral laws have been improved over time and can deliver a credible election despite misgivings by EU envoys, opposition politicians and the civil society.

"Uganda is not their colony anymore and therefore, we do not hold elections for their satisfaction," Mr Ofwono Opondo, the government Media Centre director, said in an interview Monday.

A delegation of EU ambassadors held a closed-door meeting with the Speaker of Parliament, Ms Rebecca Kadaga, last Friday during which they questioned the credibility of the 2016 General Election.

This, according to the envoys, was because government has ignored demands for meaningful reforms of electoral laws, including establishment of an independent electoral commission.

However, Mr Opondo said electoral laws and electoral management have progressively improved.

"We have no doubt that the ongoing processes will give a credible process, including election results," he added.

Mr Opondo said the proposals contained in the Constitutional Amendment Bill were not cast in stone.

"They are disappointed that their allies in the opposition are complaining. Government put proposals before Parliament, which can be amended, deleted or added," Mr Opondo said.

On Monday, the EU Delegation to Uganda clarified that while it remains concerned that the proposals do not address substantive issues, "the EU has not passed a verdict on the credibility of the 2016 General Election."

"As you are aware, at the conclusion of the 2011 General Election, the EU Electoral Observation Mission fell short of describing that election as free and fair. The observers cited electoral reform as one of the key recommendations needed for address. It is, therefore, a missed opportunity that the last four years have not addressed some of these recommendations," Mr Emmanuel Gyezaho, the EU press and information officer, said.

**Disclaimer:**

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

The electoral agency also on Monday downplayed the demand for reforms and the stance by the opposition and civil society for an independent commission.

The agency said there are enough safeguards in the existing laws, including the proposed use of biometric data captured during the registration for the national identity cards to fire-proof the polls from any rigging.

“We are going to have free and fair elections. An election is about a registration that is publicly verifiable. When carrying out the registration, we captured bio-data, fingerprints, pictures and digital signatures. There were no multiple registrations and, therefore, there will not be multiple voting,” the Electoral Commission's spokesperson Jotham Taremwa stated.

## SOUTH SUDAN

### IGAD meets S. Sudan stakeholders before fresh round of peace talks

Source: videonews.us (<http://news.videonews.us/igad-meets-s-sudan-stakeholders-before-fresh-round-of-peace-talks-0923982.html>)

**9 June 2015** - The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an East African regional bloc that has been mediating between the South Sudanese government and rebel forces, is currently holding a series of closed-door meetings with South Sudanese stakeholders in Addis Ababa.

“The meetings – which have been held since late Monday in secret – are aimed at finding a framework for the launch of ‘IGAD-plus’, which is a revitalized peace process,” a source privy to the meetings told Anadolu Agency on Tuesday.

The meetings are being attended by delegations from the South Sudanese government; the SPLM/A-in-opposition (an SPLM/A faction led by rebel leader Riek Machar); and 11 political personalities who had earlier been detained by South Sudanese authorities, including former SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum and politician Deng Alore.

The “IGAD-plus” initiative was first unveiled publicly by IGAD’s current chairman, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn. The initiative calls for bringing five more African countries – one from each of the continent’s five regions –into the mediation process.

**Disclaimer:**

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

Within this context, IGAD is expected to resume South Sudanese peace talks on the sidelines of an African Union heads-of-state and government summit that is currently underway in Johannesburg.

“IGAD-plus” will involve Rwanda, Algeria, the Central African Republic, Nigeria and South Africa, along with the AU, the UN, China and the so-called Troika (Norway, the U.K. and the U.S.),” the source said. “If and when it is launched in South Africa, the IGAD-plus will have married the IGAD peace process with the Arusha Agreement, a reconciliation agreement between the three SPLM factions.”

In preparation for resumed peace talks, IGAD officials are meeting separately with representatives of the three parties.

IGAD-mediated peace talks were last held in Addis Ababa in March. These quickly ground to a halt, however, even though they were attended by both Kiir and Machar.

The new initiative appears to be a last-ditch effort to find a peaceful solution to the nascent country’s civil war, which is now in its second year.

Since the conflict first broke out in late 2013, tens of thousands of people have been killed and millions displaced from their homes.

A recent World Food Program report warned that a whopping 40 percent of South Sudan’s population were currently at risk of going hungry.

IGAD’s monitoring and verification mechanism, meanwhile, established in the wake of a January 2014 cessation-of-hostilities agreement, has reported ongoing fighting throughout the country, blaming both sides for violating the ceasefire.

South Sudan has been shaken by violence since December of 2013, when Kiir accused Machar, his sacked vice president, of trying to overthrow him.

The situation on the ground in South Sudan, meanwhile, has continued to deteriorate.

Last week, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said that over 100,000 people had been displaced within the last two months alone due to heavy fighting in South Sudan’s Unity and Upper Nile states.

According to the UNHCR, ongoing violence is also preventing humanitarian aid deliveries from reaching some 650,000 people in need, as aid organizations are forced to withdraw from conflict zones.

**Disclaimer:**

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

## South Sudanese president directs frank consultations with rebels

Source: Sudan Tribune

**9 June 2015** - South Sudanese president Salva Kiir has directed government representatives at the preparatory consultative meeting with armed opposition representatives in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to engage in frank discussions to remove obstacles when the next round of peace talks resume.

The three opposition factions including representatives of the government and armed opposition faction of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM-IO) as well as former detainees have been consulting in Addis Ababa for the last two days under the auspices of the East African regional bloc, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

The joint consultations were meant to set an agenda for the next round of talks as well as fix a date for the resumption of negotiations.

President Kiir, according to the lead negotiator of the government, Nhial Deng Nhial, has expressed commitment to bring peace to the country and urged opposition leadership and the other stakeholders invited by IGAD to the consultation to realise that it was time for people to unite instead of pulling down the country for "self-serving purposes."

"The president has given us a go ahead to engage the SPLM-IO and the other stakeholders in frank and honest consultations so that we set the agenda of negotiations", Nhial told Sudan Tribune on Tuesday.

Nhial said consultations have started and hoped to come out with the consensus on the way forward.

South Sudanese armed opposition leader's spokesman, James Gatdet Dak, also said the rebel leadership was always committed to the peace process and hoped the government would this time realise that military solution was "too unrealistic" to be achieved, adding it was therefore time to resort to serious and frank negotiations on critical issues.

"We are always serious and clear about issues that the country should tackle in order to achieve good governance and sustainable peace and development," Dak told Sudan Tribune on Tuesday.



**Disclaimer:**

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

“Our chairman and commander-in-chief, Dr. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, has already left his headquarters in South Sudan and moved to the venue in Addis Ababa in show of the serious commitment to the peace process,” he said.

He however expressed doubt over government’s seriousness to negotiate in good faith, saying it was executing “full scale offensive” on positions held by the rebels in violation of the cessation of hostilities agreement the two sides signed since 23 January 2014.

Dak also challenged IGAD to ensure its mediated ceasefire agreement was implemented by reigning on Uganda to withdraw from South Sudan its troops per the agreement. Uganda, he said, is an IGAD member state which forces have directly interfered and taken side in the war by supporting president Kiir’s government.

Ugandan troops have been deployed in Central Equatoria and Jonglei states to help defend the national capital, Juba and Jonglei state’s capital, Bor, while allegedly providing air cover for government troops in other states in the country.

Rebels said this was affecting the implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement and encouraging the government to continue with the war.

Talks collapsed on 6 March when the two factional principal leaders could not agree on almost all the outstanding issues on governance, security arrangements, leadership structure, power sharing, reforms and accountability and reconciliation.

IGAD has been developing a new mediation mechanism that will include representatives of member states of the African Union (AU), Troika countries (United States, United Kingdom and Norway), China, European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN).

A date for resumption of the next round of talks is expected to be announced after concluding the ongoing consultations in Addis Ababa.

## **S Sudan civil society declares month to demand for peace**

Source: Radio Tamazuj

**10 June 2015** - South Sudanese civil society have declared the month from now until Independence Day a time to campaign for peace, after a year and a half of civil war.

Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO) led by Edmund Yakani announced this on Tuesday at a press conference at the organization's premises in Juba.

**Disclaimer:**

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

“As you know in every 9th of the month in our level as CEPO we do conduct peace campaign in our country. This time we feel that the 9th of June until the 9th July, we wanted to declare a month for campaigning for peace,” he said.

Yakani said the campaign will involve different groups of peace-lovers aiming to carry out peaceful public rallies in the state capitals across South Sudan with the exception of Malakal and Bentiu. He said also the religious leaders will dedicate Fridays and Sundays respectively for fasting and prayers for peace.

“At the end, the ultimate goal of this campaign is to influence the agenda – as you know the peace mediation is going on. We need to raise up the voices of the people of South Sudan so that their voices can be heard.”

“And the other one is that, if peace comes, the peace will not become an achievement of two warring parties like what we have in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)”, Yakani said, referring to the 2005 deal which has sometimes been criticized as an elite power-sharing deal that did not adequately account for stakeholders like civil society.

Yakani called on the East African regional organization IGAD to prioritize permanent cessation of hostilities in the next phase of the mediation. A consultative meeting between the South Sudanese government, SPLM-G10 and SPLA-IO kicked off yesterday in Addis Ababa mediated by IGAD.

## SUDAN

### Sudan: Ban Ki-Moon - 'No Withdrawal of UNAMID from Sudan'

Source: Radio Dabanga (<https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/ban-ki-moon-no-withdrawal-of-unamid-from-sudan>)

**New York, 9 June 2015** - The UN-AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur (Unamid) will not leave Darfur, despite repeated pressure by Khartoum.

Sudan has not fulfilled the criteria to justify a withdrawal, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reported to the Security Council. The mandate will be renewed until June 2016, without any changes.

Sudan told Unamid to leave the country, after Radio Dabanga exposed an alleged mass rape in Tabit, North Darfur, by army troops in October last year. The UN peacekeepers

**Disclaimer:**

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

were initially not allowed to investigate the matter independently. Despite vehement denials by Khartoum, Human Rights Watch confirmed the mass rape in a report published in February 2015.

Ban Ki-moon states that since his report in March, “there has been no tangible progress towards the resolution of the conflict in Darfur”.

**No progress**

An agreement on the exit strategy of Unamid has not been reached yet, according to the report sent by the joint working group of UN, AU, and the Sudanese government, to the UN Security Council, On 19 May, the group’s meetings were suspended, and are supposed to resume later this year.

During the negotiations, Unamid suggested to withdraw gradually from West Darfur, and leave from three bases in North and South Darfur, in areas that “do not currently necessitate the presence of Unamid”. Withdrawal from other areas would only be possible, if a ceasefire and protection of displaced are ensured.

**‘Dry season’ offensive**

The UN secretary-general blames the Sudanese government for using cluster bombs during its renewed military offensive, the “Decisive Dry Season Operation”, that started late December 2014. It aimed to put an end to the armed rebellions in Darfur, South Kordofan, and the Blue Nile state.

In Darfur, the main focus of this phase was on reclaiming Jebel Marra, and preventing the armed movements from crossing the borders with South Sudan to regroup.

“Despite their numerical superiority, better equipment and logistics, the objective of the Sudanese Armed Forces/Rapid Support Forces joint operations, which was to dismantle the rebel stronghold of Jebel Marra, and establish a firm grip on the area, was not achieved,” Ban Ki-moon said.

**No modification of mandate**

Given the current situation in the war-torn western region of Sudan, the UN chief recommended the Security Council to extend the mandate of Unamid, without modification, for 12 months, until 30 June next year.

Sudan features prominently in the June programme of the Security Council. Besides the extension of the current Unamid mandate, expiring the 30th of June, International Criminal Court Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda is expected to provide a semi-annual briefing on the Court’s work regarding Darfur.

**Disclaimer:**

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

## TANZANIA

### The presidency is not for every tom, dick and harry

Source: The Citizen (Dar es Salaam)

**9 June 2015** - We are witnessing something very unusual. It seems that virtually all Cabinet ministers want to succeed President Jakaya Kikwete ahead of the October 25 General Election. Ministers have in the past few weeks been jostling for attention as CCM prepares to nominate its candidate. Democratically, this is a very positive development because everyone has the constitutional right to elect or be elected, provided he or she fulfils the conditions set by his or her party.

The biggest question we should be asking ourselves as potential voters is whether some of these folks are really serious or they are just political adventurers who are in it for the attendant publicity in the hope it will come in handy in future endeavours.

Knowing how tough and demanding the presidency is, it is surprising that all and sundry, including those who have dismal records as Cabinet ministers, want to be Tanzania's next president.

If all these people are really serious, then it means the presidency has become so cheap to the extent that anybody with a fat bank account can seek the highest office in the land.

While we humbly respect Tanzanians' right to vie for any political office in this country, the frenzied scramble for the presidency, particularly within CCM, is cause for concern.

For someone with no credible leadership track record in the past decade or so to think that he or she is capable of being president of this country is a big joke.

People are queuing up to succeed President Kikwete and yet they have no leadership experience and have not been tested anywhere to prove that they are mature enough to be the commander in chief of our defence and security forces.

It's a tough mission

Being president is not a leisurely walk in the park, but a tough mission that needs someone who has been thoroughly moulded from the family through to the national level. Some may argue that Mr Barack Obama was a "mere senator" before he became the US president. That is all well and good, but it should not be lost on anybody that Tanzania and the US are as different as night and day.

**Disclaimer:**

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

In contrast to the situation in Tanzania, things will still function smoothly regardless of the experience of the White House occupant.

The US is a mature democracy with strong and well-defined systems that assist the president, but in a fledgling democracy like ours with weak institutions, the president is almost everything – he or she is the heartbeat of the nation.

People who know they have neither the requisite leadership qualities nor experience should stop making laughable comparisons between US and Tanzania to justify their rush to succeed President Kikwete.

What we are witnessing is a wake-up call for CCM to consider setting new criteria for people aspiring to be the country's president through the party.

There have to be clear guidelines on the selection of the party's presidential candidate. These criteria should go beyond just knowing how to read and write because we are not looking for comedians, but someone who is akin to the Chief Executive Officer of Tanzania Incorporated.