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



## **MEDIA MONITORING**

**18 August 2015**

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### **GENERAL NEWS**

#### **Sexual abuse cases tarnish image of Africa UN peacekeepers**

##### NEWS STORY

Source: Anadolu Agency (<http://www.aa.com.tr/en/politics/575921--sexual-abuse-cases-tarnish-image-of-africa-un-peacekeepers>)

**17 August 2015** - The reputation of UN peacekeepers deployed in Africa has been tarnished by six sexual abuse cases perpetrated by members of UN peacekeeping forces over the past 11 years.

##### **1. Central African Republic, MINUSCA (2013-2015)**

Amnesty International accused UN peacekeeping forces of raping a 12-year-old girl and killing a 16-year-old boy and his father during an operation in Bangui in early August.

MINUSCA, the UN peacekeeping force in the Central African Republic, immediately opened an investigation after the revelations, a UN official in Bangui told Anadolu Agency.

In July last year, a Paris prosecutor opened formal investigations into an earlier raft of allegations that at least 14 French soldiers deployed in CAR had sexually abused Central African children.

MINUSCA has over 12,000 troops from 40 countries. Last month, it dismissed 20 peacekeepers accused of excessive use of force against four people, two of whom died.

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## **2. Liberia, UNMIL (2015)**

According to a report by the UN Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) released in June, UN peacekeepers in Liberia were accused of buying sex with money, jewelry, cell phones, televisions and other items from women in Liberia (489 women aged between 18 and 30 according to the UN investigation).

The report said it was a violation of UN rules which "strongly condemn sexual relations" between peacekeepers and the people they protect.

Founded in 2003, the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has nearly 5,000 peacekeepers.

## **3. Mali, MINUSMA (2013)**

Soldiers from the Chadian contingent of the UN Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) were accused of raping a woman in September 2013.

The mission said in a statement that it was taking the accusations very seriously. MINUSMA rapidly provided medical assistance to the victim.

The victim also formally identified four soldiers among her attackers. They were immediately placed in custody.

MINUSMA then announced the opening of an investigation into allegations of sexual abuse by these peacekeepers in Gao, northern Mali.

The UN force in Mali is made up of 10,000 peacekeepers. It was established in 2013 following violence in 2012.

## **4. Ivory Coast, UNOCI (2010)**

In the Ivory Coast, accusations of sexual abuse by peacekeepers occurred twice.

In 2009, Moroccan peacekeepers were convicted of rape, pedophilia and other sexual abuses and were sent back to their country.

In 2010, UNOCI was accused of sexual abuse in the western part of the country. Eight Ivorian young girls admitted to having sex with Beninese soldiers in exchange for food.

"It is up to the country of origin of peacekeepers to take appropriate action against persons involved," UNOCI said.

Established in 2003, UNOCI consists of nearly 8,000 people from 50 countries.

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## **5. Democratic Republic of the Congo, MONUC (2009)**

The UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo was established as MONUC in 2009 and then later turned into MONUSCO in July 2010.

Between December 2004 and August 2014, over 140 cases of sexual abuse involving peacekeepers were identified.

In 2009, following complaints of victims, 10 cases involving rape and pedophilia were reported.

MONUSCO has a workforce of over 18,000 people.

## **6. Burundi, ONUB (2004)**

Two soldiers from the United Nations Mission in Burundi (ONUB) were suspended in December 2004 following allegations of "sexual misconduct."

Four Ethiopian soldiers were arrested for the same offense.

In 2003, under the leadership of former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the UN decided to be unyielding toward any of its soldiers accused of sexual abuse. But as it has no internal court, it counts on states to prosecute alleged perpetrators.

Although the reputation of peacekeepers has been tarnished, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has said several times that the bad behavior of some should not impact the enormous contribution of the largest number of peacekeepers deployed across the world to ensure peace and security.

Nearly 110,000 peacekeepers are engaged in 19 operations worldwide, nearly half of which are in Africa.

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## DRC

### UN campaigns to stop sex assaults by DR Congo peacekeepers

#### NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

**17 August 2015** - The UN mission in the DR Congo launched a graphic campaign Monday aimed at preventing sexual abuse by its peacekeepers following a child rape scandal in the neighbouring Central African Republic.

The words "Sex with children is a crime" were splashed across images released for the campaign by MONUSCO, one of the world's largest peacekeeping missions.

The campaign comes after UN chief Ban Ki-moon sacked his Central African Republic mission chief after a string of allegations of child sex abuse by peacekeepers there.

The mission in the DR Congo has also been tainted by similar scandals.

In 2005, the UN banned peacekeepers from having relations with Congolese residents after allegations emerged that soldiers had sexually abused 13-year-old girls.

One campaign photo issued by MONUSCO shows a young African girl on a bed, hands over her face, with a UN blue helmet and uniform on the floor next to her.

"She could be your daughter. No sex with children!" says the accompanying text.

Another photo shows the shirtless back of a UN soldier, behind bars, with a bold red banner reading "Sex with children is a crime".

A MONUSCO source told AFP that the campaign was "planned well before" the scandal that led to Wednesday's sacking of the UN mission chief in the Central African Republic, Babacar Gaye.

The MINUSCA force in the troubled country, which took over from an African Union mission nearly a year ago, has been plagued by a series of scandals involving its soldiers.

So far, there have been 57 claims of misconduct, 11 of which possibly involve child sex abuse.

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The latest allegations revealed by Amnesty International involve a 12-year-old girl who told witnesses she was raped by a UN soldier during a search operation in Bangui this month.

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

The United States said last week it was "profoundly shocked" by the claims of abuse, calling for the perpetrators to be punished and warning that the allegations undermine the credibility of UN peacekeeping missions.

The DRC campaign photos, which have been issued on the MONUSCO website as well as social media, have already prompted reactions on Facebook.

"The new campaign against sexual violence is welcome, but it's a shame that it was needed, because the UN is supposed to protect, and not attack," said one comment by Facebook user Dali Mbala.

The peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo -- which has been riven by conflict for about two decades mainly in the east -- counts about 20,000 uniformed personnel.

## RWANDA

### Rwanda: Lt Gen Karake's Arrest - Why the UK Should Apologise to Rwanda

#### OPINION

Source: The New Times (Rwanda)

By Robert Mugisha

**17 August 2015** - When a UK court dismissed the charges against Rwanda's head of the National Intelligence and Security Services, Lt General Karenzi Karake, there was relief that Britain finally realised Rwanda was not about to succumb to any pressures no matter how mighty Britain may be.

However, there are a couple of questions that remain unanswered and which Britain should respond to if Rwanda is to move on from the incident.

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**Why did the arrest take place?**

Karenzi had been to the UK on several occasions prior to the arrest,. He had held meetings with UK officials organized in the same manner; the UK knows what a chief of National Intelligence and Security Service is; why is it that the arrest was made this time round? As a Rwandan official with diplomatic status, making this arrest was clearly an affront to Rwandans as a people and they therefore deserve to know why, in the first place, the incident ever took place. It was also a violation of international conventions regarding the treatment of envoys on mission under diplomatic immunity.

There was never any doubt about the political nature of that the Spanish indictments for which the arrest were made. In 2008, at the time they were first issued, various organisations exposed the flaws in the cases.

In an opinion published by the Wall Street Journal last month, Jendayi Frazor, a former top US diplomat, questioned the motive behind the arrest.

"A U.S. government interagency review conducted in 2007-08, when I led the State Department's Bureau of African Affairs, found that the Spanish allegations against Mr. Karenzi Karake were false and unsubstantiated," she wrote.

A British lawmaker and former International Development Secretary, Andrew Mitchell, was even more pointed in his criticism of the indictment in the wake of Gen Karenzi's arrest.

He described it as "a misuse of the European Arrest Warrant system".

"It's being used by the supporters of the genocidal regime against those who stopped the Genocide," he said. "The indictment is being used for political reasons, and not judicial ones".

UK authorities ought to explain why this happened - It is unbelievable that they would have merit enough to act the way they did.

**Why did it take 7 weeks to dismiss the case?**

General Karenzi was barred from leaving the UK for about 7 weeks. Owing to the controversies around the case, any competent judicial system would have discovered that the issue was not judicial, it was politically motivated and designed to inconvenience Rwanda. As a sovereign state, Rwandan should never have been dragged through this mess, not to mention for seven weeks.

The UK prides itself in being a champion of Human Rights and no doubt, has strong functioning institutions. The Rwandan people believe in friendly relations, but what the

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UK did was not friendly at all. However much more powerful the UK is compared to Rwanda, it does not have the authority to tramp on another sovereign country more so over a spurious legal tract. Attempting to do so against Rwanda; given what Rwanda has gone through; is of course a huge miscalculation.

It is not surprising that the UK dismissed the case. The truth finally came out, leaving the Judge with no option but to drop all charges. In March, a Spanish High Court, disagreed with the indicting Judge, Fernando Andreu Merelles, and overturned the arrest warrants on all the 40 Rwandans. The case is now with the Supreme Court which is expected to make a ruling next month. This, as President Paul Kagame said in Parliament on Thursday, is however not enough. Rwanda needs to understand why this happened; to be reassured it will not happen again and to understand how the UK plans to rebuild the lost trust.

For the UK to allow its system to be used by Rwanda's political detractors to gain, dishonors the country. The least the UK should do is apologise to the Rwandan people. While Rwandans are glad General Karenzi is back to work, answers to these questions and sincere apologies will help come good on the assertions that Rwanda is a close ally to the UK.

And, as Andrew Mitchell said shortly after the case was dismissed, "These events do not reflect well on the Spanish legal system, the European Arrest Warrant or indeed on Britain.

"What a terrible way to treat a senior official from a friendly government who was here to help us in the battle against terrorism. There's little doubt that the Rwandan government deserves an apology."

## BURUNDI

### **Burundi: Ban condemns assassination of senior army officer amid 'troubling' political violence**

#### NEWS STORY

Source: UN News Centre

**17 August 2015** - United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has condemned the assassination Burundi's former Army Chief of Staff, Colonel Jean Bikomagu, who was

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shot dead by unknown assailants in the capital, Bujumbura, on 15 August, the second killing of a senior official in the crisis-torn country this month.

“[The Secretary-General] is troubled by the trend of politically-motivated violence in Burundi. He welcomes the Government’s decision to carry out investigations, and arrests and trials of the perpetrators behind the recent killings,” said a statement issued by Mr. Ban’s spokesperson in New York.

The Secretary-General, the statement added, reiterated his calls to all Burundians to resume an inclusive dialogue without delay to peacefully settle their differences, as well as the commitment of the UN to support the efforts aimed at consolidating peace and stability in their country.

On 2 August, another officer, General Adolphe Nshimirimana, was killed by a rocket attack.

## **Grenade explosion injures eight in Burundi capital say witnesses**

### NEWS STORY

Source: Xinhua

**17 August 2015** - At least eight people including two policemen were injured in a grenade explosion that happened Monday afternoon at Musaga in the south of the Burundian capital Bujumbura, witnesses told Xinhua after the incident.

"An unidentified man blasted a grenade on a group of persons near a bridge between the Second Avenue and the Third Avenue at Musaga at 16:15 (14:15 GMT). Eight persons were injured and two of them were policemen," said witnesses.

According to them, two of the victims were "seriously injured" and one of them was a schoolchild.

They also said that the attacker ran away after blasting the grenade.

Musaga is a neighborhood that was very active during protests against the third term bid of Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza since late April.

Since the controversial re-election of Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza for a third term in office on July 21, more than ten people were killed in the east African country’s capital Bujumbura alone in post-election violence.



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## **African Union condemn killing of former Burundi army chief**

### NEWS STORY

Source: Xinhua

**17 August 2015** - The African Union (AU) has condemned the assassination of Burundi's former Chief of Staff of the Army, urging restraint and talks.

Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, has strongly condemned the assassination of Jean Bikomagu on August 15 in Bujumbura, Burundi, said an AU statement late Sunday.

Dlamini-Zuma has presented the deepest condolences of the AU to the family of the deceased and wished speedy recovery to his daughter who was injured in the attack.

Burundi has seen months of violent clashes since President Pierre Nkurunziza decided to run for a third term in office which he later won.

Dlamini-Zuma said "this despicable act and multiple other acts of violence recorded in recent months illustrate once again the seriousness of the situation prevailing in Burundi and the potential of further escalation."

She called for a transparent and credible investigation to identify the perpetrators of the murders and swiftly bring them to justice.

She also reiterated the need for dialogue and consensus to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the current crisis in Burundi, and vowed AU's assistance in the process.

In this regard, the AU, in collaboration with other international actors, will continue to extend full support to the mediation efforts led by President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda on behalf of the East African Community, the statement said.

## **Burundi president order speedy probe into killing of former army chief**

### NEWS STORY

Source: Xinhua

**17 August 2015** - Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza has given seven days to investigators to arrest those who killed former army chief of staff Jean Bikomagu on Saturday.

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"Entitled institutions are given seven days to investigate, identify and bring criminals before trial," said Gervais Abayeho, presidential spokesman in a condolence message sent to the family of the retired colonel.

According to the president's spokesman, the "loss of Bikomagu" is a "loss that the whole country is suffering."

In the message, the president called on all the Burundian people to remain "united" in order to avoid falling in the wrongdoers' trap.

Bikomagu was shot dead in his car near his home in Kabondo in the capital Bujumbura by unidentified gunmen, as he was going back home from a church service.

During the gunfire, Bikomagu's daughter was also seriously injured.

Bikomagu, Tutsi, was the army chief of staff between 1993 and 1997 when the Hutu rebel movements were fighting the then army dominated Tutsi.

Bikomagu's assassination followed the killing of Burundi's former intelligence chief, Hutu Lieutenant General Adolphe Nshimirimana, who was killed on August 2 in Bujumbura.

## Human rights situation in Burundi continues to deteriorate – UN

### NEWS STORY

Source: Xinhua

**17 August 2015** - The human rights situation in Burundi continues to deteriorate, with at least 96 people killed since the beginning of election-related violence in late-April, the spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) Ravina Shamdasani told a press briefing on Friday here in the UN Office at Geneva.

According to the spokesperson, at least 600 people have been arrested and detained during this period, and there have been at least 60 cases of torture and many more cases of other ill-treatment in police and intelligence detention facilities.

Many of these detainees have been in pre-trial detention well beyond the time limits stipulated by law, the spokesperson said, adding that the actual numbers of persons killed, detained or tortured may be much higher.

"Over the past two weeks, at least seven members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party have been killed by unidentified assailants.

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"Such attacks are indicative of a climate of reprisals, but also a worrying sign that some parts of the opposition are increasingly resorting to violence," the spokesperson noted.

"UNHCR has documented that more than 181,000 people have sought refuge in neighboring countries. Commercial activities have reduced and as a result, there is increasing unemployment and the health sector is also suffering from supply shortages," the spokesperson added.

According to UNHCR, so far no trials have taken place in relation to the violence, killings, torture and ill-treatment since April, although the authorities have repeatedly indicated that investigations are under way and that some police elements have been arrested.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### UN: 12-Year-Old Girl Had 'Brutal Ordeal' in Africa Attack

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Associated Press

**17 August 2015** - A 12-year-old girl who says she was raped by a U.N. peacekeeper in Central African Republic went through "a most brutal ordeal," the U.N. children's agency said, and the United Nations pledged again Monday to fully investigate all allegations of sexual misconduct and hold perpetrators accountable.

Amnesty International last week accused peacekeepers of the rape, and of the indiscriminate killing of a 16-year-old boy and his father, in separate incidents Aug. 2 and Aug. 3. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon then fired the head of the peacekeeping mission in Central African Republic, an unprecedented action.

A spokeswoman for Ban, Vannina Maestracci, said investigations by U.N. human rights and child protection officials and U.N. police are continuing, and information has been handed to the U.N.'s internal watchdog. Preliminary findings will not be published to protect the confidentiality of victims and witnesses, she said.

Maestracci said the investigations are "complicated by the large number of nationalities of police and military personnel" involved in the operation in the capital, Bangui, where the alleged attacks occurred. The peacekeepers were carrying out an operation in the PK5 neighborhood, one of the few remaining Muslim residential areas.

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U.N. peacekeepers have been in the country since September 2014 to try to calm deadly violence between Christians and Muslims, which has forced thousands of Muslims to flee the country.

Amnesty International said last week that the girl was reportedly raped by a U.N. police officer, meaning that U.N. police are investigating one of their own members.

UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake said in a statement Saturday that UNICEF staff met with the girl and is providing her and her family with medical assistance and support, including legal advice.

"Our hope is that the process of healing for this young girl can now begin," Lake said.

Maestracci said the U.N. "is determined to ensure that acts of misconduct, including sexual violence by its personnel, should not go unpunished."

The United Nations, however, has no powers of criminal investigation or prosecution, leaving that up to peacekeepers' home countries.

Since its creation in April 2014, Ban said the peacekeeping mission in Central African Republic has received 57 cases of misconduct, including 11 allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. The mission is also being investigated over how it handled several child sexual abuse allegations against French troops last year.

## **CAR Refugees Face Difficult Living Conditions in Cameroon**

### NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

By Moki Edwin Kindzeka

**17 August 2015** - Central African Republic refugees in eastern Cameroon are insisting on leaving refugee camps due to difficult living conditions, saying they are being poorly fed, and their children lack school and humanitarian assistance.

But the government of Cameroon has been arresting refugees who leave the camps.

Nadiko Angel, 36, who fled the refugee camp in Giwa, eastern Cameroon, said she was in Garoua-Boulaye looking for a job to raise money and assist her husband, who has been sick since they fled the Central Africa Republic's (CAR) capital, Bangui, and arrived in Cameroon one year ago.

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She said her husband was suffering in the refugee camp and they did not have enough to eat.

**Forced back to camp**

Moukoulou Lionnel, 22, who also fled from CAR's town of Bria, said he was arrested by Cameroon police and forced back to the Giwa refugee camp. He said he would never live in the camp because they did not have enough food, water and medical care.

He said he was asked to clear a farm, but after doing the job, the owner of the farm refused to pay. He said he has decided to open a garden in an unoccupied land with the hope of selling vegetables in two months.

Cameroon estimates there are at least 200,000 CAR refugees in the central African nation.

Jean Angelbert Malaka, the most senior government official in Garoua Boulaye, said there were so many refugees escaping to towns and villages, the government has been insisting the refugees return to the camps.

Malaka said there were strict and systematic controls organized by the police and military, especially at night, because of rising insecurity.

Augustine Doli Deba of the Yaounde-based, nongovernmental organization Refugee Rights, said the standoff between the refugees and the government of Cameroon would likely continue until peace returned to CAR and the refugees went back home.

**Refugees**

Deba said everyone knew there was no peace in the Central African Republic and the refugees were not ready to go back.

He said the governments of Cameroon and CAR should agree on how to manage the refugees because with the difficult conditions in the camps, they would never stop insisting on leaving the camps to integrate themselves with Cameroonians.

Conflict began in CAR in 2013 after the Muslim Seleka rebels toppled Francois Bozize's government leading to reprisals from Christians who formed anti-Balaka militias.

Last year, the government of Cameroon announced that it was not able to cope with the increasing needs of the refugees and pleaded with the international community to help.

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## SOUTH AFRICA

### Activists Push Southern Africa for Human Rights Improvements

#### NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

By Anita Powell

**17 August 2015** - Southern Africa often draws praise for its nations' progressive constitutions, relatively mature democracies and advanced state of development compared to the rest of the continent.

Hidden in the background of that rosy picture, activists say, is a new and worrying trend: a "downward spiral" of human rights in the region.

Human Rights Watch is calling for Southern African Development Community leaders meeting in Botswana to do more to arrest this new trend, which has even affected South Africa, long thought of as a haven for rights on the continent.

#### Violence against immigrants

Dewa Mavhinga, a senior researcher at Human Rights Watch, said that has been seen in violence against African immigrants that critics say the South African government has not done enough to protect victims.

It has also been seen more recently in the government's refusal to arrest Sudan's president, who is wanted for genocide, during a June visit for an African Union summit.

South African officials said President Omar al-Bashir enjoyed diplomatic immunity from arrest as a summit attendee.

"South Africa is displaying very worrying trends in terms of tolerance for the rule of law and human rights respect," Mavhinga told VOA News.

Most of the 15 countries in the continental bloc have progressive, rights respecting constitutions, he said.

The problem is that, increasingly, southern African leaders are borrowing tactics from their West and Central African colleagues, and either ignoring their own laws, or changing them to their benefit, Mavhinga said.

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“There is a sense, I believe, that the authorities across southern Africa, there is this sense that human rights are not universal and there is some kind of exception they can be able to get away with by not respecting human rights, and this trend is getting more entrenched,” he said.

**Rights-centered approach**

The group is calling for leaders to commit to a more rights-centered approach.

Mavhinga noted Africa’s constant rhetorical tug-of-war between development and human rights, in which leaders often defend allegations of rights abuses by countering with tales of economic and social development.

In fact, Mavhinga said, this argument that development and human rights are competing forces is bad for development.

“It is not a valid argument, it is a false dichotomy,” he said.

“Development and human rights go hand in hand, and many leaders make the mistake of believing that these are mutually exclusive. If in fact, if you go with some of the leading economic and development thinkers, like (Indian economist) Amartya Sen, who speaks of development as freedom, what underpins genuine, long-lasting or sustainable development is respect for human rights,” Mavhinga said.

“For example, access to information, civil and political rights, but which also guarantees that there is accountability and that there is transparency, which augurs well for development in a broader sense,” he added.

He said African nations long ago committed to following international conventions on human rights, and are bound to obey them.

**Angola example**

Angolan activist Elias Isaac, who heads that nation’s branch of the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, agrees.

Angola is the third-largest economy in sub-Saharan Africa. It’s also one of the most unequal societies in the world, he said, adding that while Angola is an extreme example, it’s not an exception.

“It’s so difficult in Africa for you to pinpoint a good and a positive example of development that really produces social transformation whereby this development, you know, impacts the lives of the majority of the population,” he told VOA during a recent visit to Johannesburg.

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“So in most countries in Africa, the experience is that development (doesn’t) accommodate a number of people,” Isaac said.

The southern African leaders gathered for this week’s summit will be focusing on a theme of accelerating industrialization. But rights defenders say such an agenda means little without human rights.

## SOUTH SUDAN

### US warns South Sudan leader over refusal to sign peace deal

#### NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

**18 August 2015** - The United States urged South Sudan's president Monday to sign a peace deal with rebels within two weeks to end 20 months of brutal civil war.

While rebel chief Riek Machar signed the accord, President Salva Kiir and his government did not, with a mediator saying they had "certain reservations" and would return within 15 days after consultations.

"The United States deeply regrets that the government of South Sudan chose not to sign an agreement that was supported by all of the states in the IGAD plus the troika - the United States, United Kingdom and Norway, China, the African Union and the United Nations today," said US State Department spokesperson John Kirby.

"We call on the government to sign the agreement within the 15-day period it requested for consultations."

Kiir had warned from the start of talks that it would be impossible to sign a credible peace deal because rebel forces have split.

#### Peace process

The regional eight-nation bloc IGAD, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, as well as the United Nations, AU, China and the "troika" of Britain, Norway and the United States mediated the talks for 10 days.

"As the president has stated, if there was no agreement signed today, we consider - we would consider ways to raise the cost for intransigence," Kirby said.



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He added that Washington would "work with our regional and international partners on next steps and on ways to increase pressure, especially against those that are undermining the peace process or opposing this agreement".

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

At least seven ceasefires have already been agreed to and then shattered within days, if not hours, in the world's newest country, which broke away from Sudan in 2011.

Earlier this month, President Barack Obama pressured Kiir and Machar to reach a deal by Monday, and Washington has repeatedly called for an end to the fighting that has killed tens of thousands of people.

But so far, the threat of sanctions, an arms embargo, travel bans or the freezing of assets have not had any effect.

## États-Unis: Washington menace le président du Soudan du Sud

ARTICLE

Source: RTL

Par Julien Quelen, avec AFP

### **Les États-Unis ont menacé le président du Soudan du Sud qui n'a pas signé l'accord de paix avec les rebelles, censé mettre fin à la guerre civile.**

**18 août 2015** - Après que le président du Soudan du Sud Salva Kiir a refusé de signer l'accord de paix négocié lundi à Addis Abeba (la capitale éthiopienne) et ce malgré un ultimatum de la communauté internationale, Washington a menacé les belligérants de prendre les mesures qui s'imposent. "Les États-Unis regrettent profondément que le gouvernement sud-soudanais ait choisi de ne pas signer un accord qui avait le soutien de tous les États de l'Igad (médiation de pays d'Afrique de l'Est), de la troïka (USA, Royaume-Uni et Norvège) de la Chine, de l'Union africaine et des Nations unies", a ainsi déclaré John Kirby, porte-parole du département d'État américain.

Alors que le dirigeant de l'opposition du jeune État d'Afrique de l'Est Riek Machar a lui apposé sa signature à l'accord de paix, le gouvernement américain a pressé le président en poste à l'imiter dans les deux prochaines semaines. "Nous appelons le gouvernement à signer l'accord sous une période de 15 jours qu'il a réclamée pour

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consultations. Comme le président (Barack Obama) l'avait déclaré, s'il n'y avait pas d'accord aujourd'hui, nous envisagerions les moyens d'augmenter le prix à payer pour cette intransigeance", a ainsi repris le porte-parole.

Début août, le président Obama avait mis la pression pour que les deux hommes acceptent d'ici à ce lundi un accord de paix. Les États-Unis sont à l'origine de la création du Soudan du Sud en juillet 2011, né de la partition du Soudan. Depuis que la guerre civile a éclaté en décembre 2013, Washington réclame en vain la fin des hostilités qui ont fait des dizaines de milliers de morts et plus de deux millions de déplacés.

## South Sudan's president declines to sign proposed peace deal

### NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

By Aaron Maasho

**17 August 2015** - South Sudan President Salva Kiir declined to sign a peace deal proposed by regional leaders on Monday, saying he required more time, the mediator of the crisis said.

South Sudan, which gained independence from Sudan in 2011, descended into chaos in December 2013 when a political row between Kiir and his deputy Riek Machar spiraled into armed conflict that reopened ethnic faultlines.

Seyoum Mesfin, the mediator for IGAD, the East African bloc leading the talks, said Kiir's side required two weeks before signing the peace deal that was accepted by the South Sudanese rebels.

"In the next 15 days, the government will come back to Addis Ababa to finalize the peace agreement," Seyoum said. No one from the government was immediately available to comment.

The U.S. State Department said it deeply regretted the government decision, urged it to sign within 15 days and renewed a threat to raise pressure on those opposing the peace proposal.

Numerous rounds of negotiations have failed to end fighting that has killed over 10,000 people and displaced more than 2 million, with both sides engaging in a war of attrition despite signing ceasefire deals.

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Last month, IGAD set Aug. 17 as the deadline to end the drawn-out talks, outlining proposals for ending the fighting.

The proposal designates a 30-month transition period with Kiir as president, with a first vice president post allocated to the rebels, IGAD said.

Elections would be held two months after the close of the interim period. Both Kiir and Machar would be eligible to run.

A member of IGAD's mediation team told Reuters Kiir had reservations over the proposal's plan to demilitarize the capital, Juba, and also sought to scrap a provision that calls for consultations with Machar on "powers, functions and responsibilities" he would exercise.

Kiir's delegation has also criticized other aspects of the proposal, including an 18-month deadline for the integration of armed forces, saying this must be done in less than six months.

Machar said he was satisfied with the agreement.

"We do not have any reservations on the ceasefire. We have no reason to continue fighting," he told reporters. "There is no reason why he (Kiir) requested for more time. He has got a good agreement."

Seyoum said the government's delay did not mean it was not committed to the search for a settlement, but western diplomats urged Kiir to accept it swiftly.

"The humanitarian catastrophe in South Sudan is huge. We need the guns to fall silent," Tobias Ellwood, Britain's minister for Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia, told journalists.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman John Kirby echoed President Barack Obama's July 27 threat to weigh putting more pressure on the parties if no deal was signed by Monday.

"We are going to work with our regional and international partners on the next steps and on ways to increase pressure, especially against those that are undermining the peace process or opposing this agreement," Kirby told reporters.

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## Soudan du Sud: signature de l'accord reportée

### ARTICLE

Source: Le Figaro.fr

**17 août 2015** - Autorités et rebelles qui s'affrontent depuis décembre 2013 au Soudan du Sud devaient signer un accord aujourd'hui à Addis Abeba (Ethiopie), à quelques heures de l'expiration d'un ultimatum fixé par la communauté internationale aux belligérants pour parapher un traité de paix. Selon la médiation, le gouvernement n'a pas signé l'accord de paix et demande un délai de 15 jours supplémentaires.

Le secrétaire-général du parti au pouvoir, Pagan Amum, au nom du gouvernement, et l'ancien vice-président Riek Machar, chef des rebelles, ont signé ce document, sous les yeux du président Salva Kiir qui avait auparavant serré la main de M. Machar. Mais le président a finalement refusé de signer l'accord dans l'immédiat. L'accord devrait se finaliser dans 15 jours, à Addis Abeba.

## South Sudanese President threatens to kill journalists: report

### NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

**17 August 2015** - The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), a New York-based organisation, has condemned statements made by South Sudan President Salva Kiir on Sunday in which he threatened to kill journalists for reporting "against the country".

The South Sudan leader reportedly uttered this in the capital, Juba, before he left for Ethiopia for Friday's meeting with former vice president Riek Machar.

Mediated by the East African regional leaders, the talks between South Sudan's warring factions seek to end 20 months of violent conflict in the world's youngest nation.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed and nearly two million displaced since the war started in December 2013, pitting forces loyal to Kiir against those allied to Machar.

"If anybody among [journalists] does not know that this country has killed people, we will demonstrate it one day, one time. ... Freedom of the press does not mean you work against the country," Kiir reportedly told journalists as he spoke about press freedoms.

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Local journalists told CPJ they believe Kiir's comments were in connection with the media's criticism of the protracted nature of the peace negotiations and for alleging corruption in the government. Authorities have cracked down on journalists as pressure mounted to commit to a peace deal. Earlier this month, security agents reportedly shuttered two privately owned newspapers, the Arabic daily Al-Rai and the English daily Citizen as well as the independent media outlet Free Voice South Sudan.

"The leader of any country threatening to kill journalists is extremely dangerous and utterly unacceptable," said CPJ East Africa Representative Tom Rhodes.

"We call on President Salva Kiir to retract his comments immediately," he added.

According to CPJ, at least five journalists have been killed in direct relation to their work in South Sudan this year. The journalists were killed by unidentified gunmen on January 25, 2015, during an ambush of as they traveled through Western Bahr al Ghazal state.

## SUDAN

### Tanzania to reopen its embassy in Khartoum after two decades closure

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

**Khartoum, 17 August 2015** - The United Republic of Tanzania has decided to reopen its embassy in Khartoum, two decades after it was shut down.

The Tanzanian foreign ministry undersecretary, Liberata Mulamula, on Monday has conveyed her government's decision to her Sudanese counterpart, Abdel-Ghani al-Nai'm.

The two officials discussed ways for promoting the bilateral cooperation in the trade, economic and cultural domains besides the exchange in the training of diplomats and coordination in the regional and international forums.

They stressed the need for forming joint ministerial committees between the two countries as well as forming another committee for political consultation between the two ministries to lay the foundations for the development of bilateral relations in all fields.

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It is worth mentioning that Tanzania has shut down its embassy in Khartoum more than two decades ago for economic reasons.

The Sudanese diplomat, for his part, briefed his Tanzanian counterpart on the security and political developments in the country besides the ongoing consultations among the Sudanese government, United Nations and the African Union on the exit strategy for the hybrid peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID).