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



MEDIA MONITORING

19 August 2015

DRC

Le gouvernement réitère son engagement à promouvoir les droits des femmes en RDC

ARTICLE

Source: ACP / MCN, via mediacongo.net

(http://www.mediacongo.net/show.asp?doc=87716#.VdQyO_mqpHw)

Kinshasa, 18 août 2015 - Le vice-Premier ministre, ministre de l'Emploi, travail et prévoyance sociale, Willy Makiashi a réitéré, lundi 17 août à Kinshasa, l'engagement du gouvernement à promouvoir les droits des femmes en République démocratique du Congo (RDC), lors de l'ouverture de la session de formation des experts sectoriels impliqués dans le processus de la rédaction du rapport étatique de la RDC sur le protocole de Maputo.

Cet engagement, selon Willy Makiashi, vise à appuyer les actions du Chef de l'Etat capables d'assurer la promotion de la femme congolaise et consolider la paix au pays, particulièrement dans les territoires de l'Est où les femmes et les enfants sont les premières victimes des violences de la part des groupes armés.

Il a indiqué également que pour accompagner ce processus, la RDC a d'une part ratifié plusieurs instruments juridiques régionaux et internationaux, et d'autre part, s'est résolument engagée dans la confection d'un arsenal juridique national en faveur de la promotion de l'équité et de l'égalité de genre.

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Le vice-Premier ministre a rappelé quelques textes ratifiés, dont la Convention sur l'élimination de toutes les formes des discriminations à l'égard de la femme (CEDEF) et la résolution 1820 et 2008 du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies reconnaissant et condamnant le viol comme arme de guerre et l'élevant en crime contre l'humanité.

En outre, il a noté qu'un Rapport national genre (RNG) est produit depuis 2011 par le gouvernement tous les deux ans en vue de faire l'état des lieux genre dans différents secteurs et dégager les perspectives en rapport avec l'impératif du développement humain durable.

En termes de bilan, il a relevé les avancées enregistrées soulignant que beaucoup reste encore à faire pour assurer le respect et la promotion de tous les droits reconnus à la femme comme personne humaine à part entière.

S'agissant de la rédaction du rapport attendu, le vice-Premier ministre a instruit les experts qui vont bénéficier pendant trois jours de la formation ad hoc à se doter de la capacité de collecter toutes les données nécessaires pour produire un rapport à même de documenter toutes les avancées réalisées par la RDC dans la mise en œuvre du Protocole de Maputo.

Il a promis à ce sujet l'appui du gouvernement pour que le rapport soit prêt le plus tôt possible, saluant dans le même temps la présence de Mme Gansou, rapporteuse spéciale sur les défenseurs des droits de l'homme en Afrique venue appuyer la formation des experts congolais. Quant au représentant de la ministre du Genre, de la famille et de l'enfant, cette journée marque le fruit des efforts conjugués et de la collaboration entre le gouvernement de la RDC, l'ONU-femmes et la commission africaine des droits de l'homme de l'Union africaine, remerciant la présence de Alapini Gansou d'avoir accepté de venir faire bénéficier aux experts congolais son expérience dans l'élaboration des rapports étatiques relatifs au Protocole de Maputo.

En sa qualité de membre de l'ONU et de l'UA, la RDC a pris un certain nombre d'engagements importants à respecter pour la crédibilité du pays, de son peuple et de ses dirigeants. Pour parer à cette situation et aider les Etats à résorber le retard accumulé dans sa production de ce rapport, la commissaire Soyata Maiga, rapporteuse spéciale sur les droits de la femme en Afrique, de la commission africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples, s'est investie à former en 2014 un groupe d'experts sur la rédaction du rapport étatique.

Etant donné que ce protocole implique plusieurs secteurs et partant plusieurs ministères sectoriel, le processus d'élaboration du rapport y relatif doit être à la fois inclusif et participatif. Le coordonnateur de la Cellule d'études et de planification (CEPFE), José Mangalu a rendu hommage au Président de la République, Joseph

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Kabila Kabange pour la paix restaurée et consolidée dans le pays, particulièrement à l'Est où les femmes et les enfants ont payé un lourd tribut du fait des conflits armés, mais aussi pour sa vision de la révolution de la modernité qui réserve une place de choix à la femme, en qualité d'actrice de développement.

Viols commis par des casques bleus: la campagne choc de l'ONU en RDC!

ARTICLE

Source: Afrik.com (<http://www.afrik.com/viols-commis-par-des-casques-bleus-la-campagne-choc-de-l-onu-en-rdc>)

La Mission de l'ONU en République démocratique du Congo (MONUSCO) a lancé ce lundi une campagne choc contre les violences sexuelles sur mineurs à l'attention de ses employés. Une initiative qui intervient à la suite de la démission du chef de la MONUSCO en Centrafrique.

18 août 2015 - Après les scandales de viols qui ont éclaboussé les employés de l'ONU en Centrafrique et en République démocratique du Congo (RDC), la mission onusienne en RDC a lancé ce lundi une campagne choc contre les violences sexuelles sur mineurs à l'attention de ses employés afin de dissuader de commettre de telles atrocités. Menée en français et en anglais, cette campagne est en ligne sur le site de la MONUSCO, ainsi que sur les réseaux sociaux.

La tolérance zéro est au coeur de cette campagne. Plusieurs photos avec des phrases chocs ont été publiées. Ainsi on peut lire sur l'une des photos, " elle pourrait être ta fille, pas de relations sexuelles avec les enfants" ou encore " les relations sexuelles avec les mineurs sont un crime". L'ONU est allée encore plus loin en publiant la photo d'un préservatif avec le sigle de l'institution. Sur la photo, on [peut] lire ceci: " Ceci n'est pas un laisser-passer pour la prostitution".

Une campagne qui n'a pas laissé indifférent puisque des internautes ont manifesté leur soutien à l'institution": « Cette nouvelle campagne de la MONUSCO contre les violences est à saluer. Toutefois il est dommage qu'il en faille une puisque l'ONU est censé protéger et pas agresser », précise l'un d'entre eux. En colère, certains internautes, souhaitent le départ de la MONUSCO de la RDC estimant qu'elle n'a pas remplie sa mission.

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La campagne et la démission du chef de la Mission de l'ONU en Centrafrique (Minusca) ne sont pourtant pas liées selon une source de la Monusco qui précise que la campagne était prévue bien avant et qu'elle s'inscrit dans le cadre de ses activités régulières de prévention. Le 12 août dernier Babacar Gueye, le chef de la Minusca, a quitté son poste à l'ONU après une série d'accusations d'abus sexuels sur des enfants par des Casques bleus en Centrafrique.

A plusieurs reprises la mission de l'ONU a été accusée d'agressions sexuelles, essentiellement envers les mineurs. Il y a 10 ans, une affaire d'abus sexuels sur des filles de 13 ans avait totalement discrédité l'ONU en RDC.

UN Mission Must Withdraw from DRC, Says Chief

NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

By Nick Long

Goma, 18 August 2015 - The head of the United Nations mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Martin Kobler, told reporters Monday the mission - MONUSCO - must withdraw from the country. Kobler said the recent decision by Ethiopian Airlines to restart flights to Goma in eastern Congo is a welcome step toward MONUSCO's withdrawal.

Kobler spoke at Goma airport after landing there aboard an Ethiopian Airlines jet.

Ethiopian is the only international carrier flying direct to Goma from outside the DRC. It started the flights last month, just six weeks after a night attack on the airport by gunmen who were repelled by security forces.

Kobler told reporters he felt very proud at this moment and wanted to thank the DRC government and its donors.

"It is very important to develop the economy here and this economic link with the outside world is what the people of eastern Congo need," he said.

Goma and the surrounding province have come a long way in the past two years since Kobler took over as head of MONUSCO. In mid 2013, the M23 rebel group controlled the hills north of the city, and mortar rounds were falling in the streets.

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Under Kobler's leadership, MONUSCO played a key role in helping the Congolese army defeat M23 and improve security across the east of the country.

As other crises beckon, the U.N. Security Council is now anxious for MONUSCO to wind down.

"We're now discussing MONUSCO's withdrawal with the government and that also means reducing our fleet of planes. Why use MONUSCO flights if there's an alternative? We must now withdraw from the country and having these direct flights here is a step towards that," he said.

A spokesman for civil society groups in Goma, Djento Maundu, told VOA the Congolese army was lucky to have MONUSCO's support. He said the groups were concerned that recently MONUSCO and the army have not been collaborating fully against all the armed groups, some of which are still resisting state authority.

"There's a disagreement between MONUSCO and the army and we think that's why Kobler, whom we respect very much, is talking of withdrawing his troops," said Maundu.

There has been tough fighting in the past few weeks between the army and several armed groups. Maundu said even the foreign armed groups like the FDLR and ADF-Nalu contain many Congolese fighters, and civil society could help persuade them to lay down their arms.

He said he favored dialogue because that way all sides could be heard, and their claims put on the table to see how peace can be restored to Congo.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Viols présumés en Centrafrique: l'ONU demande aux États d'enquêter

ARTICLE

Source: AFP

Le Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies estime que les pays dont les troupes sont impliquées dans le scandale doivent enquêter de leur côté.

18 août 2015 - Le Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies a exprimé mardi son indignation et sa colère concernant le scandale de viols présumés par des Casques bleus et a estimé que les pays dont les troupes sont impliquées devaient enquêter de

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leur côté. Les 15 membres du Conseil se sont exprimés une semaine après la décision sans précédent du secrétaire général Ban Ki-moon qui a demandé - et obtenu - la démission de Babacar Gaye, le chef de la mission de l'ONU en Centrafrique (Minusca). Les Casques bleus de la Minusca font face à une série d'accusations d'abus sexuels sur des enfants lors de leur mission dans ce pays.

Dans un communiqué validé à l'unanimité, le Conseil a dit partager "l'indignation (de Ban Ki-moon) et la colère concernant ces allégations". Il a rappelé "la responsabilité des pays qui contribuent par (l'envoi) de troupes et de (forces de) police à enquêter sur ces faits présumés contre leur personnel en uniforme", ajoutant que les pays concernés devaient, "si cela est approprié, les traduire en justice". Selon les lois onusiennes, il relève de la discrétion de chaque État de mener ou non ces enquêtes.

Des accusations contre des soldats français

Pour l'instant, une enquête a été ouverte à l'ONU sur des accusations de viol sur une fillette et l'homicide d'un adolescent de 16 ans et de son père qui auraient été commis au cours d'une opération dans la capitale centrafricaine début août par des Casques bleus.

Dans une affaire séparée, l'ONU a nommé une commission indépendante pour enquêter sur des allégations d'abus sexuels commis sur des enfants en Centrafrique entre décembre 2013 et juin 2014. Ces accusations visent notamment 14 soldats français qui faisaient partie de l'opération Sangaris menée par la France et qui n'étaient pas sous le commandement de l'ONU. L'enquête porte notamment sur la façon dont les Nations unies ont géré l'affaire, après des critiques pointant du doigt la lenteur de sa réaction sur le dossier.

SOUTH SUDAN

Fighting resumes in South Sudan after no peace deal signed

NEWS STORY

Source: Associated Press

19 August 2015 - A military spokesman says fighting has resumed between South Sudanese troops and rebels two days after the president declined to sign a peace deal.

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Col. Philip Aguer said Wednesday that there is fighting in Manyo County in the state of Upper Nile. He said the clashes are happening near the border with Sudan, with rebels trying to take areas controlled by government troops.

He said there was also fighting Tuesday in Eastern Equatoria state in an area where there previously had been no fighting, suggesting the rebels were opening up a new front.

Kiir on Monday declined to sign a peace agreement with his former deputy Riek Machar, saying he needed more time to consult.

US, Britain push for sanctions on South Sudan

NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

18 August 2015 - The United States and Britain pushed for UN sanctions on Tuesday to punish South Sudan's government over failure to sign a peace deal as the Security Council weighed its next move to help end the nearly two-year war.

South Sudan rebel chief Riek Machar signed the power-sharing agreement late on Monday but President Salva Kiir only initialled part of it and said he would return to the table in early September to finalise the accord.

The US envoy for political affairs, David Pressman, called the latest failure to end the 20-month conflict "outrageous" and said it was time to pile pressure on those who are blocking a peace deal.

The council must "take action to mobilise our collective resources and increase pressure accordingly on those frustrating peace," he added.

The US diplomat also called for steps to ensure that those responsible for atrocities in the war - which has killed tens of thousands - face justice.

The accord was brokered by the eight-nation East African IGAD bloc, bolstered by the UN, the European Union, the African Union, China and other players - including Britain and the United States.

"If the government will not sign up to the IGAD-plus deal, then we must all be firm on our next steps," British Deputy Ambassador Peter Wilson told the 15-member Security Council.

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"We cannot sit by while leaders fight and their people's suffering grows."

More time for Kiir

The council last month imposed sanctions on six commanders - three from the government forces and three from the rebels - the first to be blacklisted by the United Nations over the conflict.

A travel ban and an assets freeze were slapped on the six men and the council is considering adding new names to the sanctions list, as well as an arms embargo.

But China, which has oil interests in South Sudan, said the government should be allowed more time to come onboard.

"The best solution would be to reach an agreement," said Chinese Ambassador Liu Jieyi.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the signing of the deal by the rebel leader and expressed "his strong hope that President Kiir will sign the agreement by the end of the 15-day deadline."

The Security Council is due to discuss sanctions on South Sudan at a meeting next Tuesday.

South Sudan has been torn by fighting between forces loyal to Kiir and rebels allied with Machar, his former deputy, since December 2013 and the violence has imploded along ethnic lines.

Nearly 70% of the country's population is facing food shortages while nearly 200 000 terrified civilians are sheltering in UN bases.

Soudan du Sud: Londres et Washington appellent à des sanctions à l'ONU

ARTICLE

Source: AFP

18 août 2015 - Nations unies (Etats-Unis) - Les Etats-Unis et le Royaume-Uni ont appelé mardi l'ONU à imposer de nouvelles sanctions contre le gouvernement du Soudan du Sud après son refus de signer un accord de paix visant à mettre fin à une guerre qui a fait des dizaines de milliers de morts.

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Le nouvel échec des négociations est scandaleux, a réagi l'envoyé américain à l'ONU pour les affaires politiques, David Pressman. Les 15 membres du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU doivent agir pour mobiliser nos ressources collectives et faire monter la pression en conséquence sur ceux qui frustrent les efforts de paix, a-t-il ajouté.

L'accord de paix a été négocié par le groupe Igad + comprenant les huit pays de l'organisation intergouvernementale est-africaine (Igad) ainsi que notamment l'ONU, l'Union européenne, l'Union africaine, la Chine, le Royaume-Uni et les Etats-Unis, pour mettre fin à vingt mois de guerre civile.

Le président du Soudan du Sud, Salva Kiir, a refusé lundi de le signer, demandant un délai supplémentaire de 15 jours. Le chef de la rébellion, Riek Machar, a lui ratifié l'accord.

Nous sommes extrêmement déçus que le gouvernement du Soudan du Sud mené par le président Kiir ait une nouvelle fois gâché une chance de paix en refusant de signer cet accord, a réagi Susan Rice, conseillère du président américain Barack Obama, dénonçant en termes très fermes cette absence de leadership.

Si le gouvernement ne signe pas l'accord Igad +, nous devons tous nous montrer fermes au cours des prochaines étapes, a déclaré pour sa part l'ambassadeur adjoint britannique à l'ONU, Peter Wilson. Nous ne pouvons pas rester impassibles.

Le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU a décrété en juillet des premières sanctions, - gels d'avoirs financiers, interdiction de voyager -, contre six chefs militaires sud-soudanais: trois du côté des forces gouvernementales et trois du côté des rebelles.

Le Conseil envisage désormais d'ajouter plus de responsables sur cette liste et d'introduire un embargo sur les armes. Ses membres débattront de possibles nouvelles sanctions lors d'une réunion mardi prochain.

La Chine, qui a des intérêts pétroliers au Soudan du Sud, est partisane de laisser plus de temps au gouvernement. La meilleure solution serait de parvenir un accord, a déclaré l'ambassadeur chinois à l'ONU, Liu Jieyi.

Le secrétaire général de l'ONU Ban Ki-moon a lui salué mardi la signature de l'accord par le chef de la rébellion et exprimé son profond espoir de voir le président Kiir signer l'accord d'ici 15 jours.

Le Soudan du Sud, plus jeune État du monde, a proclamé son indépendance en juillet 2011 après 30 ans de conflit contre Khartoum. Il a replongé dans la guerre en décembre 2013. Un conflit marqué par des massacres et atrocités contre des civils qui a fait des dizaines de milliers de morts.

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Soudan du Sud: Ban appelle le président Kiir à signer l'accord de paix

ARTICLE

Source: Le Matin.ma (http://www.lematin.ma/express/2015/soudan-du-sud_ban-appelle-le-president-kiir-a-signer-l-accord-de-paix/229678.html)

Le secrétaire général des Nations unies, Ban Ki-moon a appelé mardi le président du Soudan du Sud Salva Kiir à signer l'«accord de paix» conclu lundi entre Pagan Amum, secrétaire général du SPLM, parti au pouvoir, et le chef des rebelles Riek Machar.

19 août 2015 - Un communiqué du porte-parole de l'Onu indique que Ban Ki-moon, tout en se félicitant de l'accord, a exprimé «son ferme espoir que le président Kiir va signer le document avant la fin du délai de 15 jours».

Alors que l'ancien vice-président et chef des rebelles, Riek Machar, a signé le texte à Addis Abeba, Kiir a refusé d'opposer sa signature au document négocié, sollicitant un délai de 15 jours pour mener des consultations avec les membres de son gouvernement concernant certains points sur lesquels les autorités de Djouba ont exprimé des réserves.

Ban Ki-moon s'est, en outre, dit «encouragé» par le «consensus régional et international» autour de l'accord, signé également par l'Onu en tant que témoin, soulignant que l'organisation onusienne se tient prête à œuvrer de concert avec l'IGAD (Autorité intergouvernementale pour le développement) et les partenaires internationaux pour «finaliser l'accord et aller de l'avant, le plus tôt possible, vers son application».

Selon l'Onu, le conflit qui ravage le Soudan du Sud depuis décembre 2013 a fait des dizaines de milliers de victimes. Un Sud-soudais sur cinq, d'un total de 12 millions d'habitants, a dû fuir son domicile depuis l'éclatement des affrontements armés.

A cet égard, le secrétaire général s'est dit «profondément attristé par les terribles souffrances des civils sud-soudanais, et exhorté les belligérants à cesser immédiatement les hostilités.

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Forget egos, sign peace deal: Uganda tells South Sudan leaders

NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

Kampala, 18 August 2015 - Uganda told South Sudan's warring factions on Tuesday to put their egos aside and make peace, a day after President Salva Kiir refused to sign a deal to end a 20-month-old conflict.

The blunt words from a regional power underlined growing exasperation among African and global leaders over a string of broken ceasefires and accords in the world's newest nation. Washington has threatened sanctions if no deal is reached.

Kiir asked for another 15 days of discussions, shrugging off pressure from regional mediators to meet a Monday deadline for an agreement. His spokesman told journalists in Juba on Tuesday the deal on the table had been a "sell-out", without going into details.

A line-up of African leaders flew in to join the negotiations in Addis Ababa and press for an agreement, including Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni who at one stage stormed out of the venue.

"The Ugandan government knows how strenuous it is to achieve peace between belligerents, especially when the belligerents have big egos and when those belligerents put their personal egos above national interests," Ugandan government spokesman Shaban Bantariza said in Kampala.

"We can only continue to mediate, to encourage every side to realise that their country is superior to every one of them individually," he added.

Oil, Chaos

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

Machar, who signed the deal, accused government troops of launching attacks on opposition forces' positions just hours after Kiir snubbed the peace deal.

"The regime in Juba rejected to sign the peace agreement because it has chosen war over peace," he said in a statement on Tuesday. The government was not immediately available to comment.

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Rights groups have accused both sides of abuses in clashes and raids often pitting Machar's Nuer group against Kiir's Dinkas. Fighting has killed more than 10,000 people and forced more than 2 million to flee their homes.

A member of the mediation team from regional bloc IGAD told Reuters that Kiir, who only initialled the deal, rather than signing it as Machar did, had reservations over the proposal's plan to demilitarise the capital, Juba.

Kiir had sought to scrap a provision that called for consultations with Machar on "powers, functions and responsibilities" he would exercise in any future administration, the official said.

"We strongly believe that (the deal) cannot serve the people of South Sudan. It is a sell-out and we will not accept that," Kiir spokesman and South Sudan Information Minister Michael Makuei Lueth said on Tuesday.

Western diplomats urged Kiir to accept the deal swiftly.

"After 20 months of fighting, and with 2 million displaced from their homes, further delay beyond the 17 August deadline is completely unacceptable," Britain's minister for Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia, Tobias Ellwood, said in a statement.

Soudan du Sud: le projet d'accord de paix est une « capitulation », selon le gouvernement

ARTICLE

Source: Jeune Afrique

Le gouvernement sud-soudanais a jugé mardi que le projet d'accord de paix présenté lundi à Addis-Abeba par la médiation internationale pour mettre fin à 20 mois de guerre civile s'apparentait à une "capitulation".

18 août 2015 - Lundi 17 août, date butoir fixée par la communauté internationale aux belligérants pour trouver un accord, le président sud-soudanais, Salva Kiir, a refusé de signer le document soumis par la médiation, demandant un délai de 15 jours. Le chef de la rébellion, Riek Machar, a pour sa part signé le document.

« Ce document nous a été présenté et nous l'avons contesté [...] en faisant valoir qu'il contenait des dispositions litigieuses et qu'il restait des sujets en suspens devant être

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négociés et faire l'objet d'un accord », a expliqué mardi 18 août à la presse Michael Makuei, porte-parole du gouvernement sud-soudanais.

« C'est une capitulation et nous l'accepterons pas »

« Ce document ne peut sauver le peuple du Soudan du Sud. C'est une capitulation et nous l'accepterons pas », a-t-il martelé à l'aéroport de Juba, de retour de Addis-Abeba en compagnie de Salva Kiir. Le chef de l'État a quitté l'aéroport sans faire de commentaires.

« Le gouvernement a décidé de ne pas signer l'accord malgré les pressions exercées », a poursuivi Michael Makuei.

Et de conclure: « Nous sommes venus consulter [...] si vous – peuple du Soudan du Sud – dites d'aller signer, alors nous le ferons, mais je doute que le peuple dira cela », a-t-il ajouté, sans préciser comment la population serait consultée.

Juba warns against foreign imposed peace deal with rebels

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

18 August 2015 - South Sudanese government under President Salva Kiir warned on Tuesday that it would not be bound by an agreement imposed by the foreign powers, citing resistance for implementation if it is not accepted.

“South Sudan is an independent country. It is a sovereign state with all the sovereignty rights which should be respected just like any sovereign rights in the world. The leadership has time and again expressed full commitment to bringing peace to this country but this does not mean a peace which our people want and which the government has expressed commitment should be an imposed peace,” South Sudanese cabinet affairs minister, Martin Elia Lomuro, told reporters in Juba on Tuesday.

Minister Lomuro explained that the president declined to sign a peace deal proposed by regional leaders on Monday because it did not incorporate reservations made by the government in the letter which President Salva Kiir sent to the Ethiopian prime minister in his capacity as the chairperson of the East African regional bloc, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD. IGAD has been mediating the talks

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between the two main warring parties and other South Sudanese stakeholders in the more than 20 months of deadly conflict.

Meanwhile, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, Barnaba Marial Benjamin, said in a separate interview that he was surprised the revised version did not reflect consensus he had reached with most of the foreign ministers from the IGAD member countries during his recent regional tour preaching peace messages and position of his government on the draft proposal.

At the Eastern African Pan African Congress held in Nairobi, Kenya, last Thursday, Marial said he had met regional leaders and deliberated on the South Sudan issue during which the leaders allegedly expressed their commitment to supporting the position of the government on the proposal.

“The fact is that what has come out of the summit does not demonstrate the spirit of the recent mini-summit held in Uganda, not even a single reflection of the views and opinions of the government and the people of South Sudan which I personally shared with members at the Eastern African Pan African Congress held in Nairobi, Kenya,” said Marial, who felt let down by the regional leaders.

He further explained that in those meetings the government stated its position and concerns with leaders from the region that the peace agreement should not be imposed by IGAD mediation.

“We affirmed our commitment to bringing the conflict to an end but we said clearly that [for] the peace to be successful, it must not be imposed. We told them clearly a peace that is imposed will have a lot of challenges during implementation and which [we] did not want them to happen, he said. We want a peace will be supported by the people and own it themselves,” he said.

The top diplomat in the country said the president declined to sign the peace because he did not want the people to see the agreement as it is the deal between the government and the armed opposition group.

“The president did not sign it because he is answerable to the people because they are the ones who elected him and the people he will have to consult to see their views during the period of 15 days. What the people will say will be basis of the response,” he added.

Following the adoption of a revised version in Kampala by the IGAD leaders last week, Juba expressed its willingness to ink the version of 11 August immediately while the rebels criticized it.

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The concern of the government came back again when the IGAD Plus reverted to the original proposal of 24 July which the two parties were previously given 10 days to consult on with their respective constituencies.

Meanwhile the South Sudanese armed opposition leader, Riek Machar, together with the ruling party (SPLM) reinstated secretary general, Pagan Amum and representatives of the various civil society organizations of youth, women and faith based groups signed the peace agreement on Monday.

Observers say the South Sudanese president was facing threats from army generals who had been against a peace deal, hoping to score military victory instead.

Fighting erupted on 15 December 2013 when president Kiir accused his former deputy, Machar, of allegedly planning a coup against him. The rebel leader dismissed the accusations saying the president wanted to use the allegation against his opponents who were calling for political reforms in the country.

Statement by the National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice on the Peace Agreement in South Sudan

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

18 August 2015 - The United States welcomes the signing yesterday by the opposition and other stakeholders of the South Sudan peace agreement. However, we are deeply disappointed that the Government of South Sudan under President Kiir yet again squandered the opportunity to bring peace to their people by refusing to sign the agreement. The U.S. deplores this failure of leadership.

The U.S. greatly appreciates the critical role that Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) leaders are playing in supporting the talks. Their persistence and united approach has brought the parties closer to an agreement that can lead them down the path to peace. The United States will continue to support IGAD as it strives to secure the full and final agreement of the Government of South Sudan within the agreed 15 days. The U.S. calls upon the Government of South Sudan and President Kiir to sign the agreement before IGAD's deadline without reservation or condition.

Finally, given the high cost of South Sudan's conflict to regional stability and the security and livelihoods of South Sudan's people, the United States insists that there must be consequences for those who continue to stand in the way of peace. Today, we have

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initiated consultations at the United Nations and with our IGAD and other international partners on action in the Security Council to sanction those who undermine the peace process, if an agreement is not signed by the Government within 15 days and a ceasefire is not implemented promptly by all parties.

Les troupes ougandaises au Soudan du Sud ont reçu une date limite de retrait

ARTICLE

Source: <http://fr.starafrika.com/sport/les-troupes-ougandaises-au-soudan-du-sud-ont-recu-une-date-limite-de-retrait.html>

Par: SPOREVER

18 août 2015 - La force d'intervention de l'Ouganda présente au Soudan du Sud voisin a reçu un délai de 90 jours pour se retirer du pays déchiré par la guerre.

L'ultimatum a été arrêté dans un accord conclu dans la capitale éthiopienne Addis-Abeba lundi et élaboré par l'Autorité intergouvernementale pour le développement (IGAD) pour les parties belligérantes au Soudan du Sud plongé dans une guerre civile, suite à un coup d'Etat manqué qui a eu lieu en décembre 2013.

Les Forces de défense du peuple ougandais (UPDF) étaient intervenues dans le conflit aux côtés du gouvernement du Soudan du Sud dirigé par le président Salva Kiir contre les rebelles dirigés par l'ancien vice-président Riek Machar.

En février dernier, Kampala et Juba ont renouvelé l'accord pour le maintien de plus de 3000 soldats de l'Ouganda au Soudan du Sud, une décision qui a connu une opposition violente de la part des rebelles qui voulaient évincer M. Kiir.

Il y a plusieurs mois, les membres de l'opposition du parlement ougandais avaient exigé le retrait immédiat de l'UPDF du Soudan du Sud faisant valoir que leur présence dans le plus jeune pays du monde n'était pas viable en termes budgétaires.

Le chef d'Etat major général de l'UPDF avait rejeté une telle demande qu'il a qualifiée de déraisonnable.

L'accord de paix au Soudan du Sud, signé lundi à Addis Abeba, garantit que les rebelles contrôleront l'Etat du Haut Nil pétrolier et occuperont le poste de vice-président avec des pouvoirs exécutifs et une armée sous leur commandement.

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Malgré la pression d'un ultimatum du 17 août imposé par l'IGAD, le président Kiir s'était abstenu de signer la dernière entente, affirmant que son gouvernement avait besoin d'au moins 15 jours pour examiner les termes de l'accord.

Machar, pour sa part, a signé l'accord après quatre heures de négociations à huis clos, qui ont vu le président ougandais Yoweri Museveni et son homologue soudanais Omar El-Béchir sortir en rage de la réunion à Addis-Abeba.

Machar a exprimé sa déception face à la réserve de M. Kiir de signer l'accord qui est élaboré par l'IGAD pour mettre un terme définitif à 19 mois de conflit violent au Soudan du Sud qui a tué des dizaines de milliers de civils et causé plus d'un million de civils déplacés internes et externes.

SUDAN

Sudanese opposition group complains against violations by security services

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

18 August 2015 - The Sudanese Committee for Solidarity (SCS) on Tuesday has complained to the Sudan National Human Rights Commission (SNHRC) against violations of human rights committed by the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS).

SCS delegates including Siddig Youssef, Rahma Atig and Jalal Mustafa have submitted the complaint to the SNHRC against human rights violations committed by the NISS particularly the recent detention campaign carried out against members of the opposition Sudanese Congress Party (SCoP).

Established in 2012, SNHRC is the country's first and only national human rights institution. Its legal basis is found in the National Interim Constitution 2005 and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended the war between the North and South. It is comprised of 15 members and currently headed by Amal al-Tinai.

It is worth noting that SCoP continued to hold speeches in public areas such as the markets and gathering places to urge the citizens to resist the government policies.

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Last week, the SCoP said the NISS detained three of its members including Widad Darwish, Khalid Omer Youssef, and Magdi Okasha.

Also, on Monday it said that NISS detained Wifag Qurashi from the SCoP student chapter at the University of Khartoum besides Mohamed Osman Nugd Allah and al-Bashir Mudawi from the University of Kordofan.

SCoP said they filed a complaint with the Political Parties Affairs Council (PPAC) urging them to interfere to preserve rights of the party members. However, the legal department at the PPAC told them that they would consider the complaint and respond to it in September.

In its memo to the SNHRC, the SCS said that detainees from the rebel groups are facing the death penalty in abnormal conditions, saying that more than 20 political activists are being held in prisons over charges contrary to the constitution and the law.

It called upon the international community to interfere to protect the detainees and convicts particularly those facing the death penalty.

SCS said in a press conference on Tuesday the detention campaign included politicians and students from the various Sudanese colleges, noting the government continues its humiliating arrests against opposing activists and politicians.

NISS enjoys wide-ranging powers of arrest, detention, search and seizure under the country's 2010 National Security Act.

Meanwhile, the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM-MM) led by Minni Minnawi has condemned the arbitrary arrests campaign against SCoP members.

SLM-MM assistant chairman for political affairs, Abu Obieda al-Khalifa, described the arbitrary detention as a "crime", saying it reflects the nature and size of the crisis of the regime.

He wondered how can the regime speak about democratic transformation and dialogue while it doesn't tolerate freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, warning the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) against consequences of this conduct.

Al-Khalifa further reiterated the need for creating conducive climate for dialogue, demanding addressing the miserable humanitarian conditions in the conflicts areas, stopping the war, releasing prisoners and convicts and allowing freedoms.

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Sudan's opposition NCF says it was not invited to Addis Ababa meeting

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

17 August 2015 - Sudan's opposition alliance of the National Consensus Forces (NCF) said it has not received an invitation to attend the upcoming meeting between the political and armed opposition on the one hand and the African Union High Implementation Panel (AUHIP).

On Sunday, the Secretary-General of the Sudan People's Liberation movement -North (SPLM) Yasser Arman, disclosed that the opposition Sudan Call forces have been invited by the head of the AUHIP Thabo Mbeki to participate in a two-day consultations meeting in Addis Ababa on 21-22 August.

He stressed that all opposition factions members of the Sudan Call including political forces and armed groups will be represented in this consultations meeting, adding that it was agreed with the AUHIP team that 15 delegates of the opposition forces will participated in the discussions with the chief mediator.

However, the NCF political committee said in a statement on Monday said the opposition alliance has not received an invitation from the AUHIP.

"We clearly stated the NCF's position towards the dialogue and its requirement to the AUHIP, and we only care about full implementation of the prerequisites which would result in a productive and fruitful dialogue leading up to dismantling the regime", the statements reads.

The statement further said the NCF would consider any invitation given that it is received well ahead of time in order to agree on the agenda of the meeting.

The opposition forces refuse to join the dialogue and demand the implementation of the confidence building measures included in the African Union roadmap as the stopping of the war, release of political detainees, ensuring political and press freedoms and freedom of expression.

But the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and the political forces participating in the dialogue say they wouldn't accept any prerequisites and that all issues must be brought to the negotiating table.

Last March, the government refused to participate in a meeting to discuss the necessary procedures and steps before to hold the dialogue process inside the country.

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Ever since, the opposition forces have demanded that the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) gives a clear mandate for the chief mediator to organize the process and to involve the international community.