

**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**

**2 September 2015**

---

### **GENERAL NEWS**

#### **Down but not out for the count: The besieged term limit in Africa is fighting back**

OPINION

Source: Mail & Guardian Africa

**Despite momentum swinging the other way, the debate is not over by a long shot, it seems.**

**2 September 2015** - A few weeks back the term limit in Africa looked to be out for the count - the victim of a barrage of body blows as incumbents either successfully muscled through additional terms, or set the stage for their staying put.

The most stunning appeared to have been landed from Rwanda, where lawmakers said that they could only find 10 people nationally who opposed suggested constitutional changes to allow president Paul Kagame to run for a third term in power when his current second lapses in 2017.

Having steadied the Rwandan ship following the genocide, Kagame went on to pick up a string of accolades for steering the dramatic rebuilding of the country, despite accusations of being authoritarian, he had looked set to ensure his legacy would be spoken of in revered tones had he handed the baton.

**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.

His neighbour, Burundi's Pierre Nkurunziza, in July pushed his way through the criticism into a third term in office, arguing that his first term was not by an election as he had been picked by parliament. He drew sympathy from African Union chair Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's only leader since 1980, who said leaders should be allowed to continue "if people want" as two terms could seem like two weeks.

Botswana's Ian Khama also weighed in: "It doesn't matter how you got there. At the end of the day, once you sit in the office and you assume all the functions and duties of that office, you are serving your term," he said. "In my opinion, he (Nkurunziza) has served two terms", Khama, whose country has term limits and who is serving his own second and last, said as he last month took over the rotating leadership of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The blows have kept coming. In the often obscure Republic of the Congo, president Denis Sassou-Nguesso last month sacked two ministers who opposed plans by the ruling party to change the constitution to allow him run for a third term next year.

In close by Democratic Republic of Congo, the opposition says it fears incumbent Joseph Kabila is planning to run for an illegal third term in elections set for late 2016.

While Kabila has yet to say if he will step down, protests in January claimed more than 30 lives in demonstrations against a law that provided for a census before the November 2016 vote, seeing it as a ploy to extend his term by at least two years. The law was eventually amended by parliament, but has done little to allay concerns of opponents, their sentiment being that it is only a tactical retreat.

Then there are those countries where term limits were long stamped out by veteran incumbents.

Sudan's Omar al Bashir was in April re-elected with nearly 95% of the vote, extending his quarter-century rule, in an election boycotted by the main opposition parties.

Uganda's Yoweri Museveni is up for re-election early 2016, having been in power since 1986, and only a major upset would see him leave office. In Ethiopia, where there is no term limit for the executive prime minister, the ruling party claimed 100% of the parliamentary seats.

And even regional bloc ECOWAS put forth a suggesting for limit caps, which was hastily shot down by Togo and The Gambia.

**Momentum**

**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 momentum of the debate has seemed to be in favour of the “stability” proponents, both the intelligentsia and the ordinary voters, leading to US president Barack Obama to half-jokingly quip that while he felt he would also win a third term, “the law’s the law”.

“When a leader tries to change the rules in the middle of the game just to stay in office, it risks instability and strife, as we’ve seen in Burundi,” Obama said at the AU headquarters in late July.

But despite all arrayed before it, it would appear the term limit has not yet been completely knocked out, as it shows stirrings of something akin to a floored pugilist looking to clamber back up.

And it has come from both likely—and unlikely—sources.

On Sunday, the transitional government in the Central African Republic adopted a new constitution that would limit future presidents to two terms in office as the country seeks to end more than a year of sectarian violence.

The new charter would cap the president’s mandate to five years that can only be renewed once and cannot be prolonged for any reason, and would create a new senate to help govern.

With Tanzania headed for tightly-contested elections next month that incumbent Jakaya Kikwete would leave after the end of his second term mandate was never in doubt.

In Mauritania, despite President Ould Abdel Aziz having come to power through a coup in 2008 and winning re-election in a ballot boycotted by the opposition last year, the ex-general has said he had no intention of modifying the Constitution to remain in power after the end of his second mandate in June 2019.

“I never thought of changing the Constitution”, he told reporters in Nouakchott, the Mauritanian capital in March. The country’s law stipulates non-renewable two presidential mandates of five years.

**Tightened up**

In other countries, the two-term limit, while being upheld, is also being tightened up.

Liberia is set to put to a referendum a proposal to cut the presidential tenure from six to four years as part of a package of constitutional reforms. A national constitutional conference recently voted by a majority to back the shortened limit.

In March, Senegal president Macky Sall says he was proposing a referendum that would cut his presidential term from seven to five years.

**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.

“I was elected for seven years (but) next year, I will propose the organisation of a referendum for the reduction of my mandate,” he told a news conference with foreign media in Dakar.

“Have you ever seen presidents reduce their mandate? Well I’m going to do it,” Sall told the meeting, making good on a pledge which formed part of his election campaign in 2012.

“We have to understand, in Africa too, that we are able to offer an example, and that power is not an end in itself,” he added. Under current law, elections are scheduled for 2019, but Sall wants them held two years earlier, although he has been non-committal on whether he would stand for a second term.

At the World Economic Forum in June, South Africa’s Jacob Zuma and Ghana’s deputy president slammed leaders who broke term limits.

There is still life in the brigade seeking to limit presidential service, it seems.

And while having limit stipulation is different from observing them, the renewed movements around around the continent would suggest that it is a debate that is far from over.

## DRC

### North Kivu militia leader Ngoa Bisire surrenders to UN Mission

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Xinhua

**Kinshasa, 1 September 2015** - The leader of Raia Mutomboki militia Ngoa Bisire and four of his family members over the weekend surrendered to the UN Mission for Stabilization of Congo (MONUSCO) in North Kivu province, an official source said Monday.

"The surrender is the fruit of dialogue on peace and security that was initiated in this part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo)," North Kivu's Deputy Governor Feller Lutaichirwa revealed.

Bisire and four of his family members were transferred to MONUSCO's Demobilization, Disarmament, Reintegration and Repatriation camp in Munigi within the same province.

**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.

Elsewhere, some sources told Xinhua tension was rising in Ntoto locality within the same region where three people were abducted by a group allied to another rebel leader Delphin Mbaenda de Kifuafula who is opposed to militia fighters surrendering to provincial authorities.

The eastern part of DR Congo has been characterized by multiple conflicts between various militia groups who have been fighting over control of villages and territories.

The DR Congo army, supported by the UN forces, have launched numerous operations in the zone to end the attacks carried out by these militia groups against the civilian population.

On Saturday, one of the militia leaders, Bede Rusagara, succumbed to injuries he sustained during clashes with the DR Congo forces in the east of the country.

## **DR Congo ‘terminator’ warlord Ntaganda’s ICC trial to open**

### **NEWS STORY**

Source: AFP

**Former Congolese warlord Bosco “Terminator” Ntaganda goes on trial Wednesday before the International Criminal Court for war crimes including the rape of child soldiers within his own rebel army.**

**1 September 2015** - The former leader of rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo, who turned himself in in 2013, faces 18 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity at his highly-anticipated trial before The Hague-based court.

Prosecutors say Ntaganda played a central role in savage ethnic attacks on civilians in the mineral-rich and restive northeastern Congolese province of Ituri in 2002-2003, in a conflict rights groups believe has left some 60,000 dead since 1999.

Ntaganda “recruited hundreds of children... and used them to kill and to die in the fighting,” ICC chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said.

Girl soldiers were “routinely raped,” the prosecutor added.

But she brushed aside criticism that the court was targeting just one ethnic group for prosecution. “This trial is about Bosco Ntaganda and how he took advantage of the ethnic tensions in Ituri to gain power and money,” she 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.

Prosecutors have collected 8,000 pages of evidence and plan to call some 80 witnesses -- 13 of them experts and the rest victims.

Three of the victims to take the stand will be former child soldiers in Ntaganda's rebel Patriotic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (FPLC), their lawyers said.

**'Innocent'**

Ntaganda's lawyer Stephane Bourgon said his client would seek to prove his innocence before the ICC's judges.

"Mr Ntaganda maintains his innocence in respect of every charge laid against him. He intends to present a thorough defence," Bourgon told a press conference at the ICC's fortress-like headquarters in a suburb outside the city on Wednesday.

Ntaganda is "in good shape, he's doing fine, he is looking forward to having a chance to present his case."

It is the first time since the ICC opened its doors in 2003 that a suspect will be charged with raping and abusing women and children fighting within his own militia.

"Bosco Ntaganda is not only known... in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but also outside the region due to his reputation as a notorious person whose behaviour has raised alarm far beyond the Great Lakes region," Bensouda told journalists.

**'The Terminator'**

Ntaganda, 41, was once one of the most-wanted fugitives in Africa's Great Lakes region until he unexpectedly walked into the US embassy in the Rwandan capital Kigali in March 2013 and asked to be sent to The Hague.

He was the founder of the M23 rebel group that was defeated by the Congolese government in late 2013 after an 18-month insurgency in the vast Democratic Republic of Congo's North Kivu region.

Observers say Ntaganda was most likely fearing for his life as a fugitive from a rival faction within M23, but his motives for surrendering to the ICC remain unclear.

Also nicknamed "The Terminator", the once-feared rebel commander known for his pencil moustaches, cowboy hats and love of fine dining, faces 13 counts of war crimes and five of crimes against humanity. He has already pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The court had issued two arrest warrants against Ntaganda—the first in 2006 and the second with additional charges in 2012.

**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.

He had managed to evade capture mainly because he had remained a powerful commander.

The Rwandan-born Ntaganda is accused over his role in attacks on a number of Ituri towns over a year starting in September 2002.

His former FPLC commander Thomas Lubanga was sentenced to 14 years in jail in 2012 on charges of using child soldiers, one of only two convictions by the court since it was set up 12 years ago.

Born in 1973, Ntaganda is among a dozen Africans who have been in the custody of the ICC, a court criticised for apparently only targeting leaders from the continent. His trial is set to be complex and last several months.

## **Congolese child soldiers to give evidence against ‘warlord’ Bosco Ntaganda at The Hague**

### **NEWS STORY**

Source: The Telegraph (UK)

### **Children allegedly co-opted to fighting over mineral wealth in the Democratic Republic of Congo among witnesses lined up in bid by International Criminal Court to secure rare conviction**

**1 September 2015** - Scores of Congolese child soldiers are due to give evidence at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the coming weeks against a man nicknamed The Terminator and held up as one of Africa's most brutal and feared warlords.

Bosco Ntaganda, 41, a former rebel commander in the mineral-rich and restive northeastern province of Ituri in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, faces 18 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity including the rape and abuse of women and child soldiers by his troops.

He was accused of presiding over abuses over a year between 2002 and 2003 but remained at large for a decade when he unexpectedly walked into the US embassy in Rwanda after the collapse of then rebel group, the M23.

As chief of military operations for the Union of Congolese Patriots, he is said by former child soldiers to have “led from the front” in a series of ethnic massacres, torture, rape, and the recruitment of children, some as young as seven, during a conflict linked to control for lucrative gold mines in the area that claimed an estimated 60,000 lives.

**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 ICC issued its first arrest warrant for him in 2006 but he was absorbed into the Congolese army in 2009 as part of the peace process and made general.

For years, the mustachioed, cowboy-hatted commander enraged foreign diplomats and rights groups with frequent appearances on tennis courts and at the top restaurants in the regional capital, Goma.

However, the ICC trial and conviction of his former UPC commander, Thomas Lubanga, embarrassed the Congolese government and paved the way for his detention.

Mr Ntaganda's trial, which begins at The Hague-based ICC on Wednesday, is a major test for the 12-year-old tribunal which has been severely criticised by African leaders for unfairly focusing its efforts on the continent.

All nine of its investigations to date, resulting in the indictment of 36 people, have involved African countries, although it has also opened "preliminary" probes into countries elsewhere.

The ICC has also drawn criticism more widely for its poor conviction rate – only two people since it was established 12 years ago, one of whom was Lubanga.

At the same time, ten individuals, including Sudan's president Omar al-Bashir, remain at large and others, such as Kenya's president Uhuru Kenyatta, have had charges against them dropped on technicalities. Several countries including South Africa, an influential signatory to the statute that created the court, have signalled they intend to withdraw their support for the court.

Fatou Bensouda, the ICC's chief prosecutor, told a press conference on Tuesday that Mr Ntaganda's detention alone sent a powerful message to his victims as well as other warlords in the region.

"He is not only known in the DRC but also outside the region due to his reputation as a notorious person whose behaviour has raised alarm far beyond the Great Lakes region," she said.

Human Rights Watch said Mr Ntaganda's trial concerned a small window of time but alleged that M23 continued to perpetrate rights abuses right up until its dissolution in 2013.

The group's Géraldine Mattioli-Zeltner said she was confident he would be the court's third successful conviction.



**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.

“Bosco Ntaganda evaded an ICC arrest warrant for seven years while his forces continued to commit horrific abuses,” she said. “His trial shows that justice will catch up eventually with those wanted for the most serious crimes.”

Mr Ntaganda’s lawyer told the same press conference her client was “in good shape” and looking forward to clearing his name.

"Mr Ntaganda maintains his innocence in respect of every charge laid against him. He intends to present a thorough defence," Stephane Bourgon said.

## **Ntaganda trial 'sends signal that justice will catch up'**

### OPINION

Source: Deutsche Welle

**1 September 2015** - The trial of Congolese warlord Bosco Ntaganda starts on Wednesday at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. He faces charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Former child soldiers will give evidence.

Geraldine Mattioli-Zeltner is the International Justice Advocacy Director at Human Rights Watch (HRW). DW spoke to her on the eve of the long-awaited trial in The Hague of Bosco Ntaganda. He faces 18 charges, including the rape of child soldiers by his rebel army. Ntaganda turned himself in in March 2013. Prosecutors say he played a central role in ethnic attacks on civilians in 2002 - 2003, in a conflict which civil rights groups believe cost some 60,000 lives since 1999.

### **DW: Why is this trial so important?**

Geraldine Mattioli Zeltner: I think this trial is very significant because it has taken a very long time for Bosco Ntaganda to arrive in The Hague, actually more than 10 years. Human Rights Watch documented very serious crimes committed by the troops under Ntaganda's orders since the beginning of the year 2000 in eastern Congo, first in Ituri and then in the Kivu provinces. So it has taken a long time but we hope that the opening of this trial on Wednesday and seeing him in The Hague facing justice will send a signal to others involved in serious crimes in Congo that justice will catch up with them one day.

There have been claims that DRC neighbors, especially Uganda and Rwanda, have been fuelling the conflict in eastern DRC. How true is this and, if so, how come no one from these countries has been implicated?

**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.

It's a reality that in eastern Congo many rebel groups have received support - arms and training - from military and political officials in Rwanda and Uganda but also in the capital of Congo, Kinshasa. There has been a lot of interest of course in the wealth of the country, in eastern Congo, in the minerals that are there. And that has led these officials to support the militias battling in eastern Congo. At Human Rights Watch we have documented such support, both in Ituri and Kivu, and we believe that, to stop the cycle of violence in eastern Congo, it is very important that the ICC prosecutor investigates the role of those who support, arm and train the militias there.

Mr Ntaganda is being prosecuted for alleged crimes committed between 2002 and 2003 when he was a member of the Union of Congolese Patriots. What about other crimes committed by the M23 under his supervision?

This is a regret we have, that he is not being prosecuted for more alleged crimes committed by his troops. As I said, HRW has documented crimes since the beginning of the year 2000, throughout 2003, when he was involved with his latest armed group, the M23. When he left Ituri in 2006, he became involved with another rebel group, the National Congress for the Defense of the People, and after that he was integrated into the Congolese army. Throughout that entire time, Human Rights Watch documented very serious crimes against civilians committed by his troops and we have called on the ICC prosecutor to add charges. In 2012 and 2013 the ICC prosecutor added charges for other crimes committed in Ituri because he was initially only prosecuted for the recruitment of child soldiers and he is now prosecuted for a wider range of crimes. But it has not been possible for the ICC prosecutor to add crimes committed in the Kivus. So we hope that other commanders of the M23 will be prosecuted, maybe in Congo or maybe in neighboring countries where they find refuge.

**What does this trial mean for the victims back in Congo?**

Bosco Ntaganda used to roam the streets of Goma enjoying impunity, despite the ICC arrest warrant against him. I think for the victims it will be the signal that justice will be done for their suffering.

**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

### Besigye or Muntu? Who will carry the Opposition's flag?

#### NEWS STORY

Source: The East African

By Gaaki Kigambo

**29 August 2015** - The eventual single presidential candidate for the Democratic Alliance (TDA) in next year's General Election could be whoever carries the flag of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) in a contest that has pitted Mugisha Muntu — the current president of Uganda's largest opposition party — against his predecessor Dr Kizza Besigye.

Their two-month campaigns end on September 2, when the party's delegates will choose one of them. Mr Muntu has lost this contest to Dr Besigye before.

It is not yet clear how either man's win is likely to impact the joint ticket of TDA, a collection of major political parties and groups. Its goal is to wrest state power from the ruling NRM, who have held it for 29 years to date.

Muntu, analysts say, brings to the opposition a calm, cautious and rational approach, which they say could help him make inroads into the NRM.

Ironically, it is because of these very advantages that he has been shadowed by claims that he has never completely severed his relations with the ruling party.

Besigye, on the other hand, has charisma, which some think is still needed to take on President Yoweri Museveni. That, and an estimated 2.5 million voter following. However, he has lost to Museveni all three times he has competed against him — two of them as head of an opposition coalition.

His surprise decision to run for the party's candidacy in spite of stating several times his lack of interest in the 2016 election that, in his view, will not be credible, has appeared to compromise his longstanding position as a man of principle.

The narrowing down of the TDA joint ticket to these two is a result of internal squabbling and a hedging of bets among the seven other principal signatories to the Alliance besides FDC.

**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 Conservative Party (CP), the Uganda Federal Alliance (UFA) and the Justice Forum (JEEMA) have not only waived their candidacy for the presidential slot, their respective presidents have expressed interest in parliamentary positions for which they will seek TDA's full backing in exchange for their unequivocal support, say sources familiar with the Alliance's operations.

Former vice president Gilbert Bukenya, for example, has picked up nomination forms to run as an independent candidate.

The Uganda People's Congress (UPC) and the Democratic Party (DP) are caught up in internal leadership wrangles that are unlikely to be resolved by September 5, when the door closes on submissions of interest in the joint presidential ticket.

Although CP, UFA, and JEEMA are essentially small parties, should their leaders not get what they want a falling out is not only inevitable but it will also stretch TDA's fledgling unity, expose subterranean tensions between the civil society actors that anchor the Alliance and the politicians who are its face, and dampen the Alliance's momentum at a critical time in the electioneering process.

Such is the intricacy internal disagreements within these two oldest political parties in Uganda that even senior officials in TDA charged with mediation admit reconciling them is a herculean task.

"We are doing our very best to ensure that with these two members of the Alliance, issues relating to their intra conflicts are resolved in a way in which they are present in TDA in their full strength...It is going to be tough but it must be done," said Dr Zac Niringiye, who directs the Alliance's operations.

**Not everyone wants a single candidate.**

WHILE THE idea of a joint candidate is a commonly agreed TDA position, not everyone is sold on it.

"The most unfortunate misunderstanding by Uganda's opposition is to consider Yoweri Museveni a single candidate ... whoever stands against Museveni is standing against the state with all its agencies," argued Omar Kalinge-Nnyago, who until recently sat on TDA's topmost organ as the secretary general of the Justice Forum.

"What we need is an array of opposition candidates belonging to TDA, which operates as the command communications and control centre. Its main aim would be to rally everyone behind these strategically agreed sets of candidates who reinforce each other's strengths. Imagine what a Besigye/Muntu, Mbabazi and maybe Mao formation can achieve.

**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.

”Only then can the opposition ‘stretch’ the state machinery to its fullest before, during and after the election. This will reduce the impact of any of the agencies we are up against disguised as the NRM sole candidate,” added Mr Kalinge-Nnyago.

### **What the public wants**

But according to Wafula Oguttu, TDA’s chief spokesperson, it is the public that wants a single TDA candidate.

“The voters have told us they want one joint candidate. A survey was done recently, in which majority of people said the opposition should have joint candidates. So is that tenable or untenable? The people think it is tenable and they are the ones who vote. So who is right? The people who vote or the ones who think it can’t work but do not decide what happens?” asked Mr Wafula, who also leads the opposition in parliament.

According to an opinion poll Research World International released in August 2015, 1,000 out of 2,320 respondents (or 67 per cent) said they would vote for a joint opposition candidate if one were presented in next year’s elections.

## **ANGOLA**

### **Angola: Parliament Speaker Highlights Efforts towards Peace Preservation**

#### **NEWS STORY**

Source: Angola Press

**1 September 2015** - The Speaker of the National Assembly (Angolan Parliament), Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos, said last Monday in New York, USA, that in Angola there is a general commitment to the preservation of peace through permanent, trustworthy dialogue and institutional co-operation.

Speaking at the 4th World Conference of Parliament Speakers, Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos stated that this effort aims to consolidate democracy, economic growth, prosperity and common good, with the Parliament taking a determining position in such dynamics.

Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos said also that the main responsibility in terms of the preservation of peace lies on the state and parliaments, so they must really work closely with the citizens.

**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.

He went on to say that parliaments must be, above all, more productive and innovators, making laws that can be more easily understood by the common citizen, thus contributing to the improvement of social welfare.

At this point, he highlighted the progresses being made in Angola, at parliamentary level, considering that the holding of monthly debates on important issues like national reconciliation, training of staffs, economy diversification, among others, have contributed to a broader political openness and dialogue.

To him, the unanimous approval of the plan of fundamental tasks to prepare and hold the general and local elections is a reflection of the existing plurality of ideas and consolidation of multi-party democracy in Angola.

As regards peace and security, he said Angola is committed at all levels, contributing to peace in the African continent and the world.

He then clarified that the culture of peace, forgiveness and reconciliation has been seen as a pillar in the young democracy of Angola.

The Fourth World Conference of Parliament Speakers is set to end on September 02 and it is being attended by representatives from all over the world.

The Angolan delegation, led by Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos, also include the MPs Carolina Cerqueira, Exalgina Gamboa and Ernesto Mulato, as well as the secretary-general of the National Assembly, Pedro Agostinho de Neri.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### CAR unlikely to hold vote on time – official

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

**1 September 2015** - Central African Republic is falling behind with preparations for October 18 elections and will probably have to delay them, the head of the transitional government said on Tuesday.

The legislative and presidential elections are meant to help the country move on from more than two years of inter-ethnic violence, but Alexandre-Ferdinand Nguendet, the head of the National Transitional Council (CNT), said the vote was nowhere near ready.

**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 registration of voters is floundering in the interior of the country and we don't yet have a voter list," Nguendet told Reuters. "Without a voter list, by what miracle can we organise an election?"

The former French colony descended into chaos in March 2013 when predominantly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power, triggering reprisals by "anti-balaka" Christian militias who drove tens of thousands of Muslims from the south in a de facto partition.

Violence eased after a UN-brokered peace deal in May, but clashes resumed again in August.

Elections were originally due in February, but have already been postponed several times. The United Nations, which has a 12 000-strong peacekeeping mission in the country working alongside French soldiers, has warned that significant delays could worsen security.

One reason for delays is that an electoral census due to be completed by July 27 is still ongoing in some regions.

Before the elections can be held, the public also has to vote on a new constitution designed to form the base of the next government. The referendum is scheduled for October 5.

"There might be some slippage," said Walidou Bachir, minister in charge of territorial administration.

"The dates are not set in stone and we have said that the whole procedure from the referendum to the elections needs to be completed by December 30 2015."

## **Cameroon involved in Central Africa 'blood diamond' trade - U.N. experts**

### NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

By Louis Charbonneau

**1 September 2015** - Illicit trafficking of diamonds from Central African Republic into neighbouring Cameroon is helping finance the continuation of a nearly three-year conflict, an expert panel that monitors U.N. sanctions said in a confidential report.

**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.

Central African Republic (CAR) descended into chaos in March 2013 when predominantly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power, triggering reprisals by "anti-balaka" Christian militias who drove tens of thousands of Muslims from the south in a de facto partition of the landlocked country.

Although rival armed groups agreed to a peace accord in May, the conflict has continued at a lower intensity, and a transitional government has been unable to assert its authority over all of the vast, mineral-rich territory.

The export of diamonds from CAR was banned in May 2013 by the Kimberley Process, which represents 81 countries, including the United States, the European Union, Russia, China and all major diamond-producing nations. The group was formed to prevent so-called blood diamonds from funding conflicts.

In its interim report to the CAR sanctions committee, the U.N. Security Council's panel of experts said the illicit trade in diamonds is still funding major players in the conflict and increasingly involves neighbouring countries such as Cameroon and Chad.

The panel has not previously highlighted the role of Cameroon in the conflict diamond trade. But the report does not directly implicate Cameroon authorities in the trade.

"Despite a decline in violence by anti-balaka elements in the southwest, some anti-balaka continue to be involved in the illicit exploitation of diamonds," the panel said in the report, seen by Reuters.

"Diamond mines in the (sub-prefecture) of Amada Gaza (Mambere-Kadei province) are violently contested between anti-balaka and armed Peul," the experts said.

Many Muslims from the Peul ethnic group were displaced by the war.

The panel has said that all sides in the conflict profit from the trade in diamonds. It estimates that some 140,000 carats of diamonds, valued at \$24 million, have been smuggled out of the country since the 2013 ban on the export of CAR's rough diamonds.

Its latest report said that diamonds from Amada Gaza were suspected to have been trafficked through Gbiti, a Cameroon border town. Other examples of cases the panel is investigating include diamond trafficking through the Cameroonian town of Kenzou, including a large, 40-carat stone.

Another involves the seizure of 160 carats of undocumented diamonds worth around \$28,000 in Yaounde, Cameroon in April. These diamonds, the panel said, had been carried from Kenzou by two Indian nationals who recently visited Bangui, CAR's capital.



**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.

Cameroon's U.N. Mission did not respond to a request for comment.

Armed anti-balaka elements, the panel said, are involved in illicit diamond exploitation at a number of mining sites.

The panel of experts recommended that the Security Council urge transitional CAR authorities to suspend diamond-trading houses that purchase the gems from areas "under direct or indirect control of armed groups." It also said the council should urge neighbouring countries not to violate CAR's borders.

MINUSCA, the U.N. peacekeeping force in CAR, was deployed in 2014 to shore up the precarious stability established under the transitional government. A U.N. sanctions regime for Central African Republic, which includes an arms embargo, was set up in December 2013.

In May 2014, the Security Council blacklisted former President Francois Bozize and two other men, one of whom has since died. Last month it blacklisted the Belgian branch of CAR's diamond-trading company and three individuals linked to the conflict.

CAR presidential and legislative elections are scheduled for Oct. 18. They have already been postponed several times, however, and the transitional government said on Tuesday the vote was unlikely to take place on time.'

## SOUTH SUDAN

### US warns South Sudan warring parties on ceasefire

#### NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

**1 September 2015** - The United States on Tuesday warned both sides fighting in South Sudan to down arms or face sanctions that have already been authorized by the UN Security Council.

A truce aimed at ending the brutal civil war between government and rebel forces in South Sudan, the world's newest nation and one of its most troubled, came into effect on Saturday.

**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 rebel leader Riek Machar has already accused President Salva Kiir's forces of breaking the ceasefire and the peace process is in danger, while 200,000 civilians are sheltering in UN bases.

The US State Department did not attribute blame for the latest fighting but demanded that it cease and reminded the warring parties that the Security Council has already approved sanctions.

"The United States condemns the recent fighting in Jonglei State and Upper Nile State in South Sudan," deputy spokesman Mark Toner said.

"Anyone acting to spoil the peace agreement implementation will face consequences." A UN Security Council resolution has authorized targeted sanctions and an arms embargo if fighting continues.

Fighting erupted in December 2013 -- two years after South Sudan's hard-won independence -- when Kiir accused Machar of planning a coup.

This unleashed a wave of killings that has split the young country along ethnic lines and embarrassed the United States, which pushed hard for its international recognition.

At least seven ceasefires have already been agreed and then shattered within days or even hours, while 2.2 million people have been driven from their homes.

## **S. Sudan Hints at Keeping Ugandan Troops despite Peace Deal**

### NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Vision

**Juba, 1 September 2015** - South Sudanese government said on Monday that Uganda will not withdraw all its troops from the country as stated in the recently signed peace agreement with armed opposition, claiming the former was in the country at the behest of the latter on bilateral arrangement between two sovereign states.

In some of the security provisions under transitional security arrangements of the new compromise peace deal signed between President Salva Kiir and armed opposition leader, Riek Machar, all foreign forces are required to leave the country within 45 days from signing of the agreement.

But Mawien Makol, South Sudanese spokesperson for the ministry of foreign affairs and international cooperation confirmed reports attributed to senior officials in the Ugandan

**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.

government as saying their government and the country will instead continue to support and maintain some of its troops in the country as part of a bilateral agreement between the two countries.

“Of course in the agreement Ugandan People Defence Forces (UPDF) are supposed to leave after 45 days but before that, there was a bilateral agreement between Uganda and South Sudan. This agreement allows UPDF to come here and do the other works which is to pursue and cut down the activities of Lord Resistance Army (LRA). That thing stands there. It is not going anywhere,” Makol told reporters on Monday reiterating earlier comments asking when the Ugandan troops would withdraw.

The diplomat confirmed that reports quoting officials at the Ugandan ministry of foreign affairs were correct.

“If they leave within 45 days given in the agreement still we have to hold on [to] some of them. Not all of them will go. Some forces will have to remain in the country in accordance with the bilateral agreement. So the Ugandan officials are correct, their troops will be here to do the things that they have been doing before the war,” he said.

He explained Ugandan troops were in the country way back before the country descended into civil war, but many believe more troops were deployed in the country following the events of the December 2013 when political debates within the ruling Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) turned violent.

Ugandan senior officials made contradicting statements when their deputy foreign minister, Okello Oryem, reportedly said UPDF will not withdraw from South Sudan as it had no part in the agreement, but later on an explaining statement from the Ugandan ministry of defence said the deputy minister was misquoted and that UPDF will leave South Sudan within 45 days with exception AU contingent in Western Equatoria state.

The Ugandan contingent deployed to Western Equatoria state before the war broke out in December 2013 will remain per a previous arrangement under the African Union to hunt for the LRA.

**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 Sudan's ruling SPLM makes unity top priority

### NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

**1 September 2015** - South Sudan's governing Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) would make reconciliation, unity and forgiveness a top priority during the transitional period of the government of national unity, a leading official said on Tuesday.

Former South Sudanese cabinet affairs minister, Deng Alor Kuol, said Tuesday the work of the secretary general of the SPLM, Pagan Amum, as chief administrator in the party, would be dedicated to organising the party.

"The launch of the national reconciliation would be the priority of the SPLM leadership during the transitional period. This work will be spearheaded and supported by the entire secretariat and the leadership of the SPLM to achieve peace, unity, reconciliation and forgiveness," Kuol told Sudan Tribune in an exclusive interview on Tuesday.

"I am sure comrade Pagan Amum in his capacity as the secretary general will devote time and energy to overseeing any initiative aimed at uniting the party, uniting the ranks of the leadership and our people," he said.

The leading official underscored that the recently signed peace should not be read as a reward or return to the status quo but rather an opportunity to allow the ruling party to correct itself and accept their actions.

"There can be no agreement with provisions satisfying the wants and desires of all the parties. Agreement world over are means of resolving problems. They are not the end to the problem. We all have to talk about peace and always nurture it for us to success as a nation. We should not let revenge rule our lives," he added.

While stressing on the significance of the plan for national reconciliation, he left details vague on precise timetable for foreign troops to withdraw from the country, and laws disqualifying former members of the party who may be found to have masterminded and played an important role in fermenting the conflict from important jobs.

He also failed to offer a clear view on any strategy for disarming the militias, which are currently seen as the greatest security threat.

Observers are keen to note that any amnesty for militants will not apply to people who have perpetrated violent acts but would not be possible without mutually transformative

**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.

engagement with partner organizations and leaders who provide various gifts and resources to the initiative.

He urged state residents to prioritise peace and provide support in the implementation of the peace deal which President Salva Kiir has signed, saying it provides an opportunity to resolving the differences and putting the country on the right path instead of putting personal ambition and interests to jeopardise efforts to bring peace to the country, following the signing of regional backed peace deal.

Kuol was one of former detainees who were detained for months by president Kiir's government following eruption of violence in Juba in December 2013.

He was also dismissed by president Kiir before violence after he was accused of involvement in corruption involving millions of dollars while a cabinet minister.

## SUDAN

### Signs of Tension Easing between Sudan and US

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Vision

**1 September 2015** - There are signs of tension easing between the US government and Sudan, in the wake of the two-day visit by America's Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan, Donald Booth, which ended on Friday. Booth's visit included an announcement of the lifting of American sanctions, which have been in place since 1997, on a few key agricultural products, including sesame and guar gum.

Although other sanctions were lifted to provide Internet access to some Google apps earlier this year, most are still in place. They were imposed for Khartoum's alleged support for terrorism. Booth discussed lifting the sanctions with the minister of foreign affairs, minister of finance, the governor of the central bank and the Sudanese first Vice President, Bakri Hassan Salih. He did not, however, meet with President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, who has stood accused of war crimes in the conflict in Darfur since 2008.

After meeting with government officials, Booth held talks with the Sudanese Gum Arabic Company on Thursday. Company President Abdelmajid Abdelgader said that the US envoy was interested in whether exports of gum Arabic to the American market could be increased.

**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.

Gum Arabic is an emulsifier and stabiliser made from the branches of the Senegalese acacia tree. Sudanese gum Arabic was the only item exempted from sanctions so as not to deprive the US food industry of access to a key ingredient for its products.

Nevertheless, Abdelgader told the media that he had explained to Booth that gum Arabic production was being held up by US sanctions, such as the ban on international banking and other financial issues.

Booth made no press statement, but US embassy spokesperson Caroline Schneider said, "The visit comes within the framework of our diplomatic efforts to develop ties with the Sudanese and to discuss all issues framing relations between the two nations."

The deputy chairman of the Sudanese Union of Business, Youssef Ahmed, told Anadolu news agency that he discussed the consequences of sanctions on the Sudanese economy with the American envoy. "We told the delegation how much the sanctions are damaging the Sudanese economy and affect the life of the Sudanese people," he explained. "Some fields, such as transportation, banking, quality control, oil, construction and communications, have been affected badly by these sanctions."

According to a spokesman for the Sudanese ministry of foreign affairs, Ali Alsadig, it is possible that more sanctions may be lifted shortly. "We are in a period of testing the American promises to lift the sanctions; so far, we have received some positive indications on that."

## **China, Sudan to establish strategic partnership**

### NEWS STORY

Source: Xinhua

**1 September 2015** - Chinese President Xi Jinping said Tuesday that China and Sudan will issue a joint statement on the establishment of a strategic partnership between the two countries.

Xi made the remarks during a meeting with his Sudanese counterpart, Omar al-Bashir, who is in Beijing to attend commemorations marking the 70th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and World War II.

**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.

China and Sudan have always understood and supported each other since they established diplomatic ties 56 years ago, with fruitful achievements in their pragmatic cooperation, he said.

He described the countries' joint statement on the strategic partnership as another milestone in the history of their bilateral relations.

China values its friendship with Sudan and is willing to make concerted efforts with the African nation to continue promoting the strategic partnership, Xi said.

The Chinese president called on the two sides to consolidate mutual strategic trust and continue to firmly support each other on issues of major concern.

China and Sudan should deepen cooperation in such areas as petroleum, infrastructure construction, agriculture, renewable energy, and technology, he said.

The two countries should also strengthen exchanges in culture, education, health, tourism and other fields, he said, adding that China is ready to continue to offer intellectual support for Sudan's economic and social development.

## **Security committees in South Darfur develop measures to stop tribal clashes**

### NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

**31 August 2015** - Security committee at three localities in South Darfur state met on Monday to assess the security situation against the backdrop of the ongoing tribal clashes between Salamat and Falata tribes.

Members of security committees of Tulus, Buram and Damso localities met in the headquarters of Tulus locality, 90 kilometer south of South Darfur capital, Nyala to evaluate the security danger posed by conflict between the two tribes.

The commissioner of Tulus locality, Ibrahim Abakar Shamna, told Sudan Tribune that security committees of the three localities besides the local administration discussed in an expanded meeting ways for achieving lasting solution to prevent renewal of clashes between Falata and Salamat.

He pointed that the security committees developed strict security measures to arrest any individuals or groups seeking to wreak havoc particularly robbers and looters who

**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.

drag tribes to bloody clashes, noting that specific groups became known for stealing cattle.

Shamna stressed that security organs are now equipped more than ever with military gears which allow them to curb any security threat in the area.

The commissioner emphasized that security organs wouldn't hesitate to arrest anyone who seeks to create tensions among tribes residing in the three localities, pointing to coordination among security committees, local administration and ordinary citizens to clamp down on the outlaws.

He noted that a mechanism to heal the rift between the two tribes has been developed, saying it would tackle issues of blood money and reparations in a way that preserves the rights of the victims.

Clashes between the two Salamat and Falata erupted last March following theft of cows in Rajaj area. At the time 67 people were killed. Also, seven people were killed in renewed clashes between the two tribes last month.

The central government admitted the failure of traditional reconciliation approach and decided stop these bloody tribal conflicts by bringing to justice the perpetrators of the attacks and through the massive deployment of troops.

## TANZANIA

### The Zanzibar factor: October poll will be a referendum on state of the Union

#### NEWS STORY

Source: The East African

**30 August 2015** - The collapse of the constitutional review process ahead of elections in Tanzania means that the October 25 poll will also be a referendum on the status of semi-autonomous Zanzibar, a factor which adds an extra layer of complexity to what is already the tightest contest in the country's history.

The draft constitution produced by the review commission had proposed a three-tier system, which would have seen both mainland Tanganyika and Zanzibar have their own governments falling under the authority of a federal authority. This was aimed at addressing the long-standing complaints of neglect of the island.



**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 the draft met strong opposition from ruling Chama cha Mapinduzi figures and was dropped before it could go to a referendum.

The failure of the constitution review process directly led to the formation of the opposition alliance Umoja wa Katiba ya Wananchi (Ukawa), which includes CCM's fierce opponent in Zanzibar, Civic United Front (CUF).

The question of the state of the Union will be a major factor in the campaigns, particularly in Zanzibar.

In interviews with The EastAfrican, senior CUF leaders said they were determined to wrest power from CCM in the semi-autonomous archipelago.

“The economy of the mainland is resource-based while the one on the island is service-based,” said Ismail Jussa, a member of the Zanzibar House of Representatives and one of the CUF point-men in the region.

“It's just very hard to match the priorities of both entities and we are determined that we should get autonomy under the authority of the federal government of Tanzania to enable us to put in place measures that will help us follow the path to progress taken by countries like Singapore, Hong Kong and Mauritius.”

However, the ruling CCM has predicted victory and castigated CUF leaders for consistently claiming that the results of the election on the island will be rigged in favour of CCM.

Speaking after picking his nomination forms, Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein told supporters his party would win fairly.

“It is very sad that already some candidates are saying that the elections will be manipulated, how? Elections are always transparent, with both party agents and police present. Why do you start complaining of rigging elections now? This is political immaturity.”

**Robust opponent**

Dr Shein's opponent will be the veteran CUF chief Seif Sharif Hamad, better known by the name Maalim Seif.

Since 1995, Seif has repeatedly come to within one percentage point of leading CUF to the presidency and, in a rally at the Kibanda Maiti grounds in Zanzibar on August 17, he told locals the momentum was clearly on his side.