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



MEDIA MONITORING

21 August 2015

GENERAL NEWS

At Security Council, UN officials spotlight need for effective and accountable security institutions

NEWS STORY

Source: UN News Centre

20 August 2015 - The Security Council today turned its attention to the need to develop effective, affordable and accountable security institutions, with senior United Nations officials representing peacekeeping, development and conflict-related sexual violence outlining concrete steps to lay the foundations for rule of law, peace and sustainable development.

“Only by promoting people’s security and safety, human rights and democratic oversight in the security sector can we lay the foundations for rule of law, peace and sustainable development,” Assistant Administrator for the Crisis Response Unit of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Izumi Nakamitsu told the 15-member Council.

Joining Ms. Nakamitsu at the Council’s special briefing on security sector reform were Dmitry Titov, the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and Zainab Bangura Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Ms. Nakamitsu said security sector reform required both concerted efforts in the lifetime of UN peace operations and longer-term, sustained support. It was critical, therefore, to

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sequence and strategically prioritize various tasks. Addressing the negative power bases in the security services of post-conflict countries is one of the most challenging aspects of post-conflict reconstruction, she said, stressing the need for predictable and reliable funding sources for national capacity-building efforts.

“We must look at security in the broader context of promoting safe and secure environments for communities, especially for women, and in terms of facilitating people's participation in efforts to strengthen security institutions,” she said. “We must also pay more attention to advancing gender equality and security for women.”

“These complex situations require a comprehensive and coordinated response from the UN system and international community,” the UNDP official said.

In her remarks, Ms. Bangura said “a comprehensive response to conflict-related sexual violence must include proactive and purposeful engagement with the security sector, particularly in settings where the security services may have been involved in the commission of sexual violence.”

Citing “the critical nexus between sexual violence crimes and dysfunctional security sector reform processes, or the incomplete disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants,” Ms. Bangura gave “tangible results” from initiatives underway such as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Guinea.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), she said, in the 2014 reporting period, military tribunals convicted 135 individuals, including 76 members of the armed forces, 41 members of the national police and 18 members of armed groups, of sexual violence crimes,” she said.

And in Guinea, Ms. Bangura continued, a team of experts has provided technical support to a domestic panel of judges established to investigate and prosecute crimes committed against opposition supporters, including at least 109 cases of sexual violence, has resulted in 16 indictments, including against high-ranking military officials, and, most recently, former president Dadis Camara.

Moving forward, she stressed that sexual violence prevention should be mainstreamed in all reform processes and be viewed as a fundamental indicator of programme success. Greater representation of women in security institutions at all levels was particularly important to help create forces that respected and protected women and children, in times both of war and peace.

For his part, Mr. Titov stressed that security sector professionalization should be at the core of the mandates and activities of UN peace operations where appropriate. “Well-trained, well-supported and service-oriented police and military professionals are a

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country's best defence against the violence and instability that threaten both lives and livelihoods," he said.

While peace-operation engagement in security sector reform must concentrate on post-conflict situations, it often has a preventive purpose in some circumstances and should be incorporated early in all relevant operations, he said. Special agreements for such engagements could be facilitated by the Security Council, which could also encourage the Peacekeeping Department to provide more details on national and international efforts in that vital area. In any case, all peace operations should "ideally leave behind at least a basic, functioning security and rule of law system", he concluded.

DRC

Les ex-FDLR déplorent leurs conditions de vie dans les camps congolais

REPORTAGE

Source: RFI

En République démocratique du Congo, les Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) se sont plaintes dans une lettre ouverte, adressée à l'envoyé spécial de l'ONU pour les Grands Lacs, Saïd Djinnit, des conditions de cantonnement des quelque 800 membres de leur groupe qui ont choisi de déposer les armes. Ces derniers sont regroupés dans le camp de Kisangani depuis plusieurs mois et ils dénoncent notamment un manque récurrent de nourriture.

20 août 2015 - Distribution de nourriture irrégulière, absence de soins médicaux et conditions sanitaires aléatoires, les signataires de cette lettre dénoncent des conditions de vie « déplorables ». Selon eux, depuis début juillet, les 200 ex-combattants FDLR et les 600 membres de leur famille sont régulièrement privés de nourriture, au point qu'à deux reprises en juillet, il n'y aurait eu aucune distribution alimentaire pendant plusieurs jours d'affilée.

Faux, répondent les autorités congolaises chargées d'administrer ce camp. Elles concèdent néanmoins ne pas être en mesure de toujours assurer trois repas par jour.

De son côté, la mission des Nations unies au Congo est plus nuancée. Elle confirme avoir été alertée à plusieurs reprises sur ce problème et avoir dû elle-même fournir de

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la nourriture au camp. Elle est également venue débloquer les sanitaires, inutilisables pendant trois semaines.

Peu de retours au Rwanda

Les autorités congolaises et Monusco s'accordent sur un point: le vrai problème est ailleurs. « Ces personnes se sont dites prêtes à rendre leurs armes pour rejoindre la vie civile, mais maintenant elles refusent de terminer le processus: quitter le camp et rentrer dans leur pays d'origine le Rwanda », explique la chef du programme de désarmement de la Monusco, Taz Greyling.

Une source congolaise concède que la logistique arrive de moins en moins à suivre, face à ce blocage, sans issue.

Kinshasa to try troops accused of rape in C. Africa

NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

Kinshasa, 20 August 2015 - Three UN soldiers from the Democratic Republic of Congo accused of rape in the neighbouring Central African Republic will be put on trial, the justice minister told AFP on Thursday.

The soldiers are alleged to have raped three young women - the latest in a series of claims against the UN mission in the Central African Republic, known by its acronym MINUSCA.

"I have ordered General (Joseph) Ponde, the prosecutor of the armed forces, to start proceedings (based) on the dossier the UN has put at our disposal," Justice Minister Alexis Thambwe Mwamba said.

He said Kinshasa would not "tolerate" such acts, adding that the accused would be repatriated and judged in a military court.

The rapes allegedly took place in the town of Bambari, northeast of the capital Bangui, in recent weeks. The victims' families notified the mission on August 12. One of the alleged victims is a minor.

UN spokeswoman Vannina Maestracci confirmed the allegations to reporters on Wednesday but declined to name the nationality of the accused troops.

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Sources said they were from DR Congo.

The 12,000-strong MINUSCA force, which took over from an African Union mission nearly a year ago, has been plagued by a series of allegations involving its peacekeeping forces.

There have been at least 61 claims of misconduct against them, 12 of which involve sexual abuse.

That led UN chief Ban Ki-moon to declare "enough is enough" and announced last Thursday he had sacked the mission's chief, Senegalese general Babacar Gaye.

Ban has denounced sexual abuse in UN peacekeeping as a "cancer in our system" and vowed to name and shame countries that fail to take action against their accused soldiers.

UN peacekeeping officials had requested an urgent meeting with DR Congo officials to discuss the latest allegations and gave them 10 days to decide whether to investigate.

Under UN rules, it is up to the troop-contributing country to investigate and prosecute soldiers accused of misconduct while serving under the UN flag.

The Central African Republic is struggling to recover from sectarian violence that exploded after a 2013 coup, pitting mainly Muslim rebels against Christian militias.

La RDC va juger ses soldats accusés de viol en Centrafrique

NOUVELLE

Source: AFP

Le ministre de la Justice a assuré qu'il ne pouvait pas "tolérer" de tels actes et que les militaires seraient jugés devant une cour militaire.

20 août 2015 - La République démocratique du Congo va juger ses trois soldats accusés de viol en Centrafrique, où ils sont déployés dans le cadre d'une mission de paix de l'ONU, a-t-on appris jeudi de source judiciaire congolaise. "J'ai donné injonction aujourd'hui même au général [Joseph] Ponde, auditeur général des forces armées, d'engager des poursuites" sur la base du "dossier que l'ONU mettra à notre disposition", a déclaré à l'AFP Alexis Thambwe Mwamba, ministre congolais de la Justice. Il a ajouté que la RDC ne pouvait pas "tolérer" de tels actes et que les militaires concernés seraient rapatriés et jugés devant une cour militaire.

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"Il a été rapporté que ces trois membres du contingent militaire congolais ont chacun eu des relations sexuelles avec deux jeunes femmes, âgées de 18 et 19 ans, ainsi qu'avec une mineure âgée de 15 ans" et qu'elles auraient subi des pressions pour garder le silence, précise une notification du secrétariat de l'ONU datée du 18 août, que l'AFP a pu consulter. Le document précise que deux Congolais auraient reconnu les faits et payé dans un cas 100 000 francs CFA (environ 152 euros) et dans l'autre 250 000 francs CFA à la mère des deux filles les plus âgées - dont l'une est enceinte, tandis que l'autre a dit avoir eu des "rapports (...) consensuels". Le secrétariat souligne que la présente affaire est la quatrième du genre pour le contingent et avertit que des sanctions pourraient tomber si de tels incidents étaient de nouveau signalés ou si la RDC n'y mettait pas fin.

Victimes d'un "montage"

Une source proche du dossier à Kinshasa a déclaré à l'AFP qu'une délégation partirait bientôt en Centrafrique pour enquêter, même si la RDC préférerait des investigations "indépendantes" pour éviter toute contestation. Mais dans un rapport d'enquête daté du 18 août, que l'AFP a pu consulter, le contingent congolais en Centrafrique souligne que ses trois hommes sont victimes d'un "montage" orchestré par l'"oncle" des trois jeunes filles, qui a depuis démenti ses "mensonges".

Une porte-parole de l'ONU a annoncé mercredi que trois Casques bleus de la Mission de l'ONU en Centrafrique (Minusca) ont été mis en cause dans trois nouveaux cas de viol, et ce, une semaine après le renvoi du chef de la mission onusienne dans ce pays pour des faits similaires. D'après plusieurs sources, les faits se sont produits dans la ville de Bambari, au nord-est de Bangui, la capitale centrafricaine. À la suite de cette nouvelle affaire, des responsables onusiens avaient donné dix jours à la RDC pour décider de l'éventuelle ouverture d'une enquête, faute de quoi l'ONU en ouvrirait une.

"Cancer dans notre système"

La Minusca, forte de 12 000 Casques bleus, fait face à au moins 61 accusations de fautes, dont 12 concernant des cas d'abus sexuels. Le général sénégalais Babacar Gaye a été écarté de la tête de la mission après une série d'accusations d'abus sexuels contre des enfants. Il a été remplacé le 13 août par le Gabonais Parfait Onanga-Anyanga. Après le renvoi du général Gaye, le secrétaire général de l'ONU Ban Ki-moon avait qualifié les cas d'agressions sexuelles imputées à des Casques bleus de "cancer dans notre système".

La RDC a été ravagée par deux guerres entre 1996 et 2003 et la moitié du pays reste aujourd'hui déchirée par des conflits armés. L'ONU dénonce régulièrement les viols dont sont victimes chaque année des milliers de femmes, et qui sont commis tant par

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les groupes armés que par les troupes régulières. Le président congolais Joseph Kabila a nommé le 9 juillet 2014 une conseillère spéciale en matière de lutte contre les violences sexuelles et le recrutement d'enfants : Jeannine Mabunda Lioko Mudiayi.

La RDC accusée d'« affamer » les ex-combattants des FDLR

NOUVELLE

Source: Jeune Afrique

Cantonnés à Kisangani, des dizaines d'ex-combattants des FDLR, la rébellion hutue rwandaise, et leurs familles ont accusé la RDC de les affamer et de les priver de soins afin de les "forcer" à retourner au Rwanda voisin.

20 août 2015 - Selon la Mission de l'ONU (Monusco), 193 ex-rebelles des Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) et 601 de leurs proches sont réunis à Kisangani, capitale de la Province-Orientale, dans un camp géré par l'État congolais, avec l'appui de la Monusco.

« Les cantonnés sont régulièrement affamés et privés de médicaments. (...) C'est une façon de les forcer à rentrer au Rwanda », a lancé La Forge Fils Bazeye, porte-parole des FDLR. Certains chefs de la rébellion sont accusés d'avoir participé au génocide des Tutsis au Rwanda en 1994.

« Une semaine sans manger »

« On a passé presque une semaine sans manger. Les enfants ont faim, les femmes allaitantes n'ont pas de lait maternel (...) Presque tout le monde est au lit à cause de la faim », a raconté à l'AFP Immaculée, femme d'un ex-combattant, signalant de graves cas de malnutrition.

Selon un haut-responsable spécialiste des questions militaires, ces ex-combattants « commencent à quitter le camp » pour exercer à Kisangani « des prestations rémunérées comme la maçonnerie, la menuiserie, la soudure ». « D'autres demandent à manger à la population », a-t-il ajouté.

L'armée pourrait ouvrir une enquête

L'Association congolaise pour le respect des droits humains (ACRDH), basée à Kisangani, a rencontré un ex-combattant qui a recensé « trois morts depuis juillet » suite aux mauvaises conditions de vie du camp. Cette situation « dramatique » résulte

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du « détournement » des vivres et médicaments par les « responsables commis au dispatch (la distribution) », a déclaré le directeur exécutif de l'ACRDH.

Un officier a indiqué que l'armée, informée de ces allégations persistantes, prévoit d'enquêter.

Un millier de combattants FDLR actifs

Les rebelles des FDLR, actifs dans l'est congolais, sont accusés de meurtres, viols, pillages, enrôlement d'enfants... et de se livrer à un juteux trafic d'or et de charbon.

En avril 2014, ils ont annoncé leur volonté de faire reddition pour « se consacrer à la lutte politique » au Rwanda, qui refuse tout dialogue avec eux. Au final, quelques centaines de combattants se sont rendus et une partie d'entre eux transite à Kisangani avant un départ pour le Rwanda ou un autre pays.

En janvier, l'armée a lancé une opération contre les FDLR. Le gouvernement estime qu'il reste « moins de 400" FDLR à neutraliser, sur environ 1 500 combattants actifs avant l'offensive. La Monusco, elle, évoque le chiffre d'un millier.

RDC: le professeur Wafula dément l'imminence d'une réplique du séisme du 7 août

NOUVELLE

Source: Radio Okapi

20 août 2015 - Le Professeur Dieudonné Wafula, enseignant à l'Université de Kinshasa et chercheur au Centre de recherche en sciences naturelles (CRSN), a démenti mercredi 19 août la rumeur faisant état de l'imminence d'une réplique du séisme qui a frappé l'Est de la RDC le 7 août dernier.

Professeur Wafula affirme que la réplique d'un séisme ne peut pas avoir une magnitude supérieure au choc principal.

« Des fausses informations circulent selon lesquelles il y aura un séisme de magnitude 7 entre le 19 et le 24. Quand on a un séisme de magnitudes 5,8 ou 5,9 comme choc principal, la réplique ne peut pas dépasser le choc principal. La magnitude de la réplique la plus importante doit être 10% moins que la magnitude du choc principal », affirme le chercheur, invalidant ainsi l'hypothèse d'une nouvelle réplique.

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« Je me demande où est-ce qu'ils ont trouvé ce genre d'informations », s'étonne le scientifique.

Un séisme d'une magnitude d'au moins 5,6 degrés sur l'échelle de Richter a frappé l'est de la République démocratique du Congo dans la nuit du 6 au 7 août dernier, faisant trois morts au Sud-Kivu, province où se situait l'épicentre du séisme. Des centaines de maisons construites sans tenir compte de la zone sismographique ont subi des dégâts.

Le 3 février 2008, un tremblement de terre dans l'est de la RDC avait fait 45 morts – sept au Sud-Kivu et 38 au Rwanda, pays voisin. Des centaines de personnes avaient été blessées dans les deux pays, où le séisme avait surpris les fidèles dans les églises, en pleine prière dominicale.

Situation confuse au poste frontalier de Lufu: Matata en route pour le Kongo Central

NOUVELLE

Source: Le Potentiel via Digitalcongo.net (<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/109421>)

Lundi dernier, la question a été débattue à la Troïka stratégique autour du Premier ministre, Matata Ponyo qui prévoit une descente en début du week-end à Lufu pour s'imprégner de la situation et aussi mobiliser les services publics commis à ce poste.

Kinshasa, 20 août 2015 - Depuis quelques années, le secteur de Lufu, territoire de Songololo, dans la province du Kongo Central, frontalier à l'Angola, connaît, en chaque début de week-end un engouement de part et d'autre de la frontière. Compte tenu du volume des échanges, le gouvernement y trouve une bonne source des recettes publiques. Lundi dernier, le dossier a été traité au niveau de la Troïka stratégique. Sauf imprévu, le Premier ministre, Matata Ponyo Mapon, prévoit une descente en début du week-end à Lufu pour s'imprégner de la situation et aussi mobiliser les services publics commis à ce poste.

Le poste frontalier de Lufu dans le Kongo Central commence à prendre de l'importance par le volume des biens et services échangés entre la RDC et l'Angola. Au gouvernement, l'on réfléchit déjà pour mobiliser davantage des recettes impôts, droits et taxes au niveau de Lufu. Il s'agit de mettre fin à la fraude et à la contrebande qui font perdre à l'Etat des ressources substantielles.

Clin d'œil de la Troïka stratégique

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Lundi dernier, la question a été débattue à la Troïka stratégique autour du Premier ministre, Matata Ponyo Mapon. La Troïka stratégique est revenue sur les fraudes massives et les contrebandes organisées au poste frontalier de Lufu, avec des effets pervers aussi bien sur les recettes publiques que sur les industries locales, qui pâtissent du fait de la concurrence déloyale des produits ainsi importés. Après avoir examiné toute la problématique y afférente, il a été décidé de dépêcher une mission du gouvernement sur le lieu en vue de prendre des mesures appropriées.

Compte tenu de l'ampleur que prend ce poste frontalier et pour se rendre compte des réalités sur le terrain, le Premier ministre Matata a décidé de faire, probablement demain vendredi, rapportent des sources internes de la Primature, le déplacement de Lufu dans le Kongo Central.

Le marché du week-end qui se développe hebdomadairement à ce poste ayant pris sérieusement de l'ampleur, le gouvernement y voit désormais une source importante des recettes publiques en ce temps de reconstruction. Un coup de balai s'impose. Cependant, il peut arrêter l'hémorragie financière due à la fraude et à la contrebande. Ce qui explique la descente imminente à Lufu du Premier ministre Matata.

La Fédération des entreprises du Congo qui a, pendant longtemps, crié à une concurrence déloyale venant de Lufu n'a trouvé gain de cause. « La réglementation en vigueur en matière de commerce stipule notamment que toute importation de plus au moins 2500 USD doit être déclarée à la douane. On ne peut pas voir un camion remorque dans un marché frontalier », a fait observer un membre du patronat congolais, relevant, par la même occasion, « des importations irrégulières qui mettent en mal les opérateurs économiques congolais ».

Outre des échanges commerciaux transfrontaliers en toute illégalité, Lufu excelle aussi dans la circulation des devises où le franc congolais se retrouve en concurrence avec le Kwanza de l'Angola. Un dysfonctionnement qui se fait au mépris de la réglementation des changes édictée par la Banque centrale du Congo. Selon les témoignages recueillis sur place, l'absence de structures bancaires bien organisées est à la base du désordre qui a élu domicile à Lufu. Ce qui fait le lit de la contrebande ainsi que de l'invasion fiscale et douanière.

Dans les couloirs de la Primature, l'on annonce qu'une fois à Lufu, Matata Ponyo ne manquera pas de donner des instructions précises aux responsables de services habilités à opérer aux frontières, à savoir la DGDA, l'OCC, la Quarantaine et la DGM.

Selon le protocole de la Primature, relayé par son service, de communication, outre des entretiens directs avec le gouverneur du Kongo Central, le Premier ministre prévoit une séance, de travail avec tous les services commis aux frontières au niveau de Lufu.

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Un marché du week-end en plein essor

A noter que le poste frontalier de Lufu est un marché frontalier entre la RDC et l'Angola. Ce poste a pris de l'ampleur avec des marchés hebdomadaires organisés chaque week-end de part et d'autre de la frontière. Entre 15 000 et 16 000 commerçants, trafiquants, intermédiaires et autres négociants fréquentent chaque fin de semaine ce poste frontalier, rapportent des sources locales.

Ce marché frontalier qui se tient tous les samedis alternativement à Lufu, du côté congolais, et à Luvu, du côté angolais, s'est considérablement développé depuis l'année dernière, si bien que les populations de deux pays ont trouvé là une belle opportunité pour des échanges commerciaux intéressants et profitables.

C'est ainsi que tous les vendredis en fin d'après-midi, il se remarque dans certains carrefours de Kinshasa, notamment au rond-point Ngaba, à l'UPN, à N'Djili Sainte Thérèse, à Masina Pascal, des parkings occasionnels des bus et minibus la destination de Songololo-Lufu.

Les commerçants de Kinshasa, qui se rendent à Lufu, reviennent souvent en fin de week-end, avec des marchandises exotiques, en provenance de Luanda, très prisées des Kinois. Du côté angolais, les objets en plastique produits à Kinshasa (chaise, tablette, assiette, gobelet ...) ainsi que les produits vivriers du Bus-Congo (fruits et autres denrées alimentaires) intéressent les commerçants de Luanda qui avouent en tirer des bénéfices.

Compte tenu de l'ampleur de ce marché frontalier de Lufu, les gouvernements de la RDC et de l'Angola n'ont pas tardé à y installer, de part et d'autre, des services de sécurité, de l'immigration, de la douane, du contrôle et de la Quarantaine. Cependant, comme qui dirait trop d'impôt tue l'impôt, du côté congolais, la présence de la panoplie de services à pied d'œuvre à Lufu et la tracasserie qui s'en est suivi, poussent les commerçants à la fraude, favorisée aussi par la porosité de la frontière entre les deux secteurs de Lufu et Luvu. C'est à quoi Matata devait s'attaquer lors de son prochain séjour à Lufu dans le Kongo Central.

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RWANDA

Rwanda: President Kagame Calls on African Security Organs to Work Together to End GBV on the Continent

NEWS STORY

Source: Government of Rwanda

Kigali, 20 August 2015 - President Paul Kagame has called on African security forces to invest more efforts in curbing Gender Based Violence (GBV) crimes. The President was, on Tuesday 18 August 2015, officially opening three-day training - the Kigali International Conference Declaration Command Post Exercise - to empower delegates from across the continent with skills needed to prevent GBV and help its victims.

President Kagame reiterated that men should not be bystanders in continental efforts to fight GBV, adding that ending such kind of violence is an essential part of entrenching good governance and development.

"If we don't work together to end these crimes, we risk undermining our work to entrench good governance and development. When GBV is left unchallenged, it diminishes the nation as a whole. Men must not be bystanders in efforts to end violence against women and children. Let's work together. Being there for women is being there for yourselves," the President said.

He further added that it is in security organs' rightful responsibility to hold GBV perpetrators to account:

"Women are our mothers, our daughters, our wives; what debate is there in treating them as decently as we have to? Violence against women and girls is a violation of rights, a crime and a threat to progress in Africa and around the world. Perpetrators must be held accountable and those who protect them must be shamed."

The Head of State stressed that the right mindset and values must be inculcated within the ranks and file of all our forces. Governments and security forces should have the will to make the fight against GBV their top priority.

Dubbed 'Africa Unite II', the Kigali International Conference Declaration Command Post Exercise brings together officers of the army, police and correctional services from 30 African countries.

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In 2010, Africa security organs (Police, Military and Correctional Service) from 14 countries in partnership with One-UN, made a commitment to prevent and respond to GBV, by adopting the 2010 Kigali International Conference Declaration (KICD) on the "Role of Security Organs in ending Violence against Women and Girls". It was decided that the KICD secretariat be based in Kigali.

BURUNDI

Burundi President Ready to Form More Inclusive Government

NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

21 August 2015 - Burundi's foreign minister said President Pierre Nkurunziza is ready to form a more inclusive unity government now that he has been inaugurated for a third term. The opposition has condemned the third term as unconstitutional.

At his unannounced inauguration Thursday, President Nkurunziza said he would review Article 129 of the constitution, which excludes political parties with less than five percent of the national vote in an election from being part of a national unity government.

"The current constitution does not allow parties that have less than five percent to be part of the cabinet. But with that revision, those that have less than five percent will be able to be part of the cabinet, which means basically that after a few months from now there will be a reshuffle of cabinet to incorporate those people," said Foreign Minister Alain Nyamitwe.

Nyamitwe said the revision would give representation to all Burundians. He also said President Nkurunziza pledged in his inaugural speech to unite all Burundians while at the same time vowing to protect the nation with the help of God.

"The president made a speech today as he was accepting the office of president for the 2015-2020 term in which he also pledged to unite all Burundians but also insisting on issues of security for all as well reconciliation," he said.

In his inaugural speech, President Nkurunziza described his win in the July 21 election as a victory for all Burundians, even though his controversial third term bid was condemned by the opposition as a violation of the constitution.

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Nyamtwe said while those who opposed the election are entitled to their opinions, they cannot impose their views on what he called the “majority of the people” who voted for President Nkurunziza.

Nkurunziza warned his critics, especially those who he said use violence against their own country that God will scatter them “like flour thrown into the air.”

Foreign Minister Nyamtwe discussed President Nkurunziza's belief in God.

“Our president is a believer, a strong Christian believer, and so am I by the way. So there’s nothing wrong in believing that God will protect our nation. Your nation, the United States of America has as its creed that it is a nation under God. In God We Trust. What’s wrong with us believing that God will protect our nation which is actually true?” Nyamtwe said.

The 2000 Arusha Accord, which ended Burundi’s ethnic civil war, stipulates that 60 percent of members of parliament be from the majority Hutu ethnic group and 40 percent from the minority Tutsis.

Three seats are designated to members of the Twa ethnic group. Women must occupy at least 30 percent of the seats in the National Assembly.

Nyamtwe down played the fact that there were no foreign heads of state at the inauguration. Many African countries were reportedly represented by their ambassadors.

He said the absence of foreign leaders did not take away President Nkurunziza’s legitimacy as the elected leader of Burundi.

“He was sworn in as president of the Republic of Burundi. He will govern over the people of Burundi. The elections were held in Burundi by Burundians for Burundi. Now there might be many reasons why we didn’t have any foreign leaders one of which being the change of the inauguration date,” Nyamtwe said.

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UN chief urges Burundian President to ‘pursue path of inclusivity and reconciliation’

NEWS STORY

Source: UN News Centre

20 August 2015 - Noting the inauguration today of Pierre Nkurunziza for his third term as President of Burundi, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged him to “pursue a path of inclusivity and reconciliation,” and reiterated his call on all Burundian stakeholders to undertake a broad and transparent political dialogue.

In a statement issued by his spokesperson in New York, Mr. Ban took note of President Nkurunziza’s inauguration and reiterated his call for all Burundian stakeholders to undertake an inclusive and transparent political dialogue under the leadership of the East African Community (EAC) Facilitator, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda.

“He reiterates the readiness of the United Nations to support such a dialogue,” the statement continued, adding that the creation of a government of national unity, as called for in the 6 July EAC summit communiqué, needs to derive from “such a genuine and open dialogue, which is necessary to overcome existing deep political divisions.”

The Secretary-General also noted President Nkurunziza’s stated intention to serve as President of all Burundians and “he urges the President to pursue a path of inclusivity and reconciliation in this spirit,” the statement concluded.

Burundi has been in the grips of a political crisis since late April, when Mr. Nkurunziza was put on the ballot for a controversial third term. Tensions intensified when he won the July 21 election. More than 100,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries in the weeks ahead of and following the polls.

Tensions remain high – just last week, the UN human rights office warned that the situation is spiralling out of control amid a spate of deadly election related violence – and Mr. Ban has repeatedly appealed for an end to politically – motivated violence and urged all Burundians to peacefully settle their differences without delay.

During a phone call with Mr. Nkurunziza on 6 August, the Secretary-General urged him to resume the political dialogue, which had been suspended since 19 July. He also encouraged the Burundian authorities to work closely with the Ugandan-led facilitation on behalf of the East African Community.

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Urgent Need for Political Dialogue in Burundi

PRESS STATEMENT

John Kirby

Department Spokesperson, Washington, DC

20 August 2015 - Today's inauguration in Burundi demonstrates the ruling party's intent to ignore the voices of its people in pursuit of its own political agenda. An inauguration - without a government that represents the population's many political voices and without a comprehensive and inclusive dialogue - will not resolve the political and security crisis in Burundi.

The crisis in Burundi, sparked by President Nkurunziza's decision to pursue a third term in violation of the Arusha Agreement, is not over. The situation is increasingly volatile and President Nkurunziza's ability to effectively govern the country remains in peril as Burundi struggles with the continued aftermath of a deeply flawed electoral process, the closure of democratic space, a declining economy, and increasing violence.

An inclusive and comprehensive political dialogue is the only credible route to reestablish stability in Burundi and forge a peaceful and consensus path forward for the Burundian people. Such a dialogue could begin to restore democratic credibility to the country by reaffirming the Arusha Agreement, reopening press outlets, releasing political prisoners, and reaching agreement on an electoral process going forward. Recent violence and targeted killings highlight the urgency in restarting this dialogue and providing all stakeholders with a peaceful path forward.

The United States supports the efforts of Uganda, on behalf of the East African Community, to mediate this dialogue and believes that continued attention and support from the African Union, United Nations, and all states in the region will be critical to help bring Burundi back from the precipice.

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Burundi's Nkurunziza sworn in, urges refugees who fled violence to return

NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

By Patrick Nduwimana

20 August 2015 - Pierre Nkurunziza was sworn in as Burundi's president on Thursday and urged tens of thousands of people who fled political violence, sparked by his disputed decision to run for a third term, to return home.

Nkurunziza also urged armed rebels who have vowed to use force to remove him from office, to end violence which has continued since he was declared the winner of July's vote.

Burundi's opposition boycotted the poll, arguing, along with Western powers, that Nkurunziza was violating the constitution and provisions of a peace deal that ended a 1993-2005 civil war between the Hutu majority and Tutsi minority.

Although months of protests and an attempted coup in May were quelled, sporadic violence and killings continue to take place in the capital and some rural districts.

"We call on our fellow Burundians to return and join other Burundians in building their nation," he said in a speech after the swearing in ceremony in parliament.

The United Nations' Human Rights office said last week at least 96 people had been killed since the start of election-related violence in April. The U.N. refugee agency says more than 181,000 people fled Burundi due to the violence.

General Leonard Ngendakumana, a deputy to the leader of the aborted coup, said in July they were prepared to use force to oust the president.

"We recommend they give it up or else they will face God's judgement," Nkurunziza said. He did not elaborate.

Adolphe Nshimirimana, the head of the president's security, was gunned down earlier this month and a former head of the army Jean Bikomagu was killed two weeks later, showing the violence was not yet over.

Residents of the capital said gunshots and the sound of explosions was heard the night before Nkurunziza's inauguration.

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Some of Nkurunziza's exiled opponents dismissed his call for refugees to return home, saying the newly sworn in head of state lacked legitimacy.

"We now consider that Burundi has no president," said Deogratias Ndayishimiye, an opposition politician living outside the country. He did not wish his location to be disclosed for security reasons.

"Politicians, civil society groups and other stakeholders need to sit down and form a transitional government which will prepare credible and democratic elections," he added.

Burundi president says God will defeat rebels as he starts third term

NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

20 August 2015 - Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza warned rebels Thursday that they would be crushed by God after being sworn in for a controversial third term following weeks of protests and a failed coup against him.

Nkurunziza thanked God for his win in elections last month -- polls the United Nations say were not free or fair -- after taking the oath of office in a surprise ceremony in the capital Bujumbura announced only hours before.

"The victory we have achieved is a victory of all Burundians, those who elected us, and those who did not," Nkurunziza said.

The United States sharply criticised the inauguration, warning that political dialogue and international efforts to mediate it were key to bringing Burundi "back from the precipice."

"Today's inauguration in Burundi demonstrates the ruling party's intent to ignore the voices of its people in pursuit of its own political agenda," State Department spokesman John Kirby said.

Nkurunziza's third term has been condemned as unconstitutional by the opposition and provoked months of protests. There has been a string of killings since his re-election, including of his top security chief, assassinated in a rocket attack last month.

But Nkurunziza, an ex-rebel turned born-again Christian who believes he is in power by divine choice, warned those who have chosen "the path that leads nowhere, who attack and fight their country" will be stopped by the hand of God.

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"They will be scattered like flour thrown into the air -- as the God of heaven is a witness, the Burundians will be at peace," he said.

- Constitutional changes? -

No foreign head of state was present, but several African countries, as well as China and Russia, sent their ambassadors. European Union nations and the United States sent lower ranking officials.

In his oath, Nkurunziza swore loyalty to the constitution and "to dedicate all my forces to the defence of the best interests of the nation, to assure national unity and the cohesion of the Burundian people, social peace and justice."

But Nkurunziza also said he would review possible changes to a key clause in the constitution -- which requires ministers to come from a party with at least five percent of the national vote -- to allow the formation of a unity government.

Amid opposition boycotts, some lawmakers are technically on independent lists, making them ineligible to join the government.

But the same constitutional article also enshrines a fundamental block of the deal that ended the 1993-2006 civil war, the strict ethnic quotas in power between the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi.

Nkurunziza won over 69 percent of the vote in the disputed presidential poll last month, giving him a landslide first round victory.

But the United Nations observer mission said the vote last month was not "inclusive, free and credible" and was held "in an environment of profound mistrust" between political rivals.

- Refugees urged to return -

Over 180,000 Burundians have fled the country fearing further violence, according to the UN refugee agency, but Nkurunziza called for them to return.

"Those who have fled the country have done so because of rumours," he said. "We call upon all Burundian refugees to return to their homeland to participate in building their country."

Burundi's constitution only allows a president to be elected twice -- for a total of 10 years in power -- but before these polls Nkurunziza argued he had only been directly elected by the people once.

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In power since 2005, when he was selected by parliament, he was re-elected in 2010.

Nkurunziza, a 51-year-old former sports teacher, was a Hutu rebel leader during the central African country's 13-year civil war, when at least 300,000 people were killed.

The opposition and international community claimed a third term violated the Arusha accords that paved the way to end the war in 2006.

Top international envoys from the UN African Union, EU and US have called on all sides to "recommit to a transparent, inclusive, and comprehensive political dialogue".

AU chief Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma on Sunday called for "utmost restraint" by all sides, warning of potential "catastrophic consequences" for troubled Burundi and the wider region if rivals do not resolve political differences peacefully.

The army has been hugely divided by the crisis, with the leaders of the failed July coup having gone into hiding.

Many people are worried at rising tensions in Bujumbura, where gunfire has been regularly heard at night.

ANGOLA

Angola: Le Caucus africain se réunit à Luanda du 27 au 28 août

NOUVELLE

Source: koaci.com (<http://koaci.com/angola-caucus-africain-reunit-luanda-aout-90588.html>)

20 août 2015 - KOACI apprend d'un communiqué du gouvernement angolais transmis que le pays abritera du 27 au 28 août, la réunion des ministres des Finances et des gouverneurs des banques centrales africaines, le Caucus Search Caucus africain.

Objectif affiché, renforcer la voix des représentants du continent africain sur des questions importantes relatives au développement socio-économique des Institutions de Bretton Woods (IBW) comme relevé.

L'Angola souhaite renforcer par ce biais ses relations avec les institutions financières internationales telles que le Fonds monétaire international, la Banque mondiale et la

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Banque africaine de développement, en vue de mobiliser un soutien en faveur des besoins financiers nécessaires pour le développement du pays.

Six tables rondes seront organisées autour de thème tel que la Vision générale de l'économie régionale, la Transformation et la diversification économiques, la Discussion sur le Mémorandum du Caucus Search Caucus africain 2015 et le Financement de projets régionaux liés à l'infrastructure.

Y sont déjà annoncés, l'ancien président d'Afrique du Sud, Thabo Mbeki, et d'autres personnes associées au Nouveau Partenariat pour le Développement de l'Afrique (NEPAD), à la Banque mondiale (BM) et à la Banque africaine de développement (BAD).

L'Angola a été officiellement désigné comme chef de file du Groupe Caucus Search Caucus africain en 2015, lors de l'événement qui a eu lieu au Friendship Hall Conference Centre à Khartoum, République du Soudan, les 3 et 4 septembre 2014.

Fondé en 1963 en tant que Groupe africain des gouverneurs du Groupe de la Banque mondiale et du FMI, le Caucus Search Caucus a pour objectif de renforcer la voix des gouverneurs du continent africain sur des questions importantes relatives au développement socio-économique de la région africaine, au sein des Institutions de Bretton Woods (Banque mondiale et Fonds monétaire international).

Angola to Limit the Amount of Money Leaving the Country

NEWS STORY

Source: <http://afkinsider.com/102332/angola-to-limit-the-amount-of-money-leaving-the-country/>

20 August 2015 - Foreign investors in Angola face new restrictions on the amount of hard currency they can repatriate, the central bank governor said, as regulators seek to prop up an economy weakened by a sharp drop in crude prices.

Under new laws made public late Monday, foreign firms investing in strategic sectors, which exclude the country's dominant oil industry, will also have to sign up a local partner.

Africa's second-largest crude producer is struggling to prop up its economy after a halving of oil prices last year sapped dollar inflows, dented the local currency, hammered public finances and prompted huge government borrowing.

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Angola's central bank devalued the kwanza by 6 percent in June, taking the currency's losses against the dollar to about 23 percent this year. Economists believe currency weakness will trigger another devaluation in coming months.

The new Private Investment Law was passed by Angola's parliament Aug. 11 but details were previously not made public.

"A significant part of private investment has become a major drain, with foreign currency going abroad," Gov. Jose Pedro de Morais told reporters late on Monday. "This new law will correct this."

De Morais earlier on Monday told state TV that companies operating in Angola and citizens should reduce their "foreign currency needs" by 50 percent. It was not clear if this was part of the new investment law.

The new law would require foreign companies to run operations from an Angolan bank, de Morais said, a measure experts believe is aimed at monitoring firms that regularly report losses, meaning they do not have to pay taxes.

Investors in "strategic sectors" including telecoms, electricity, construction, water, technology and transportation, will need to give a local partner at least a 35-percent share in the business, the legislation also states.

Foreign oil majors, including Exxon Mobil, Chevron, BP, Total and Eni, all have large operations in Angola. Portugal, once the colonial ruler in Angola, also plays a major role in the economy.

Standard & Poor's lowered its credit outlook on Angola to negative last week, indicating it may cut its credit rating on sub-Saharan Africa's third-largest economy if things do not improve.

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Central African Republic: UN mission determined to ‘stamp out’ sexual exploitation by peacekeepers

NEWS STORY

Source: UN News Centre

20 August 2015 - Condemning all cases of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by its personnel, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) today said that it is determined to “stamp out” this “extremely seriously problem.”

“It is a blight on the Mission and on the extremely good work that the overwhelming majority of MINUSCA personnel are doing. We are determined to solve this problem, and ensure that the UN Mission fulfills its mandate, serves the people of the Central African Republic (CAR), and that includes in particular the victims of these types of abuses,” Deputy Special Representative in CAR, Diane Corner, said today during a videoconference from the capital, Bangui.

She told journalists in New York that 13 cases of sexual abuse allegedly involving uniformed personnel of MINUSCA have been recorded since the re-hatting of the Mission on 15 September 2014. “Of these cases, 9 involve alleged attacks on minors,” Mrs. Corner pointed out.

These allegations come on the heels of a case reported on 11 August by the human rights group Amnesty International, also regarding MINUSCA “blue helmets.” The day after the incident was revealed, MINUSCA chief General Babacar Gaye, resigned at the request of the Secretary-General.

“The sharp rise in cases reported in the last 3 months is of concern. However, I believe that this is at least in part due to the rollout across CAR of MINUSCA’s network of field offices,” explained the Deputy Secretary-General, adding that 11 of those offices cover all regions of the country, are staffed by political, civil affairs, human rights, child and women protection officers, to whom such cases can be reported.

Some of the sexual exploitation cases have been reported to the Mission by local journalists and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and in some cases the families involved. “This shows a level of trust on the part of the population in MINUSCA

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personnel. We are seeking to do all we can to build this level of trust, by providing an account of our actions,” stressed the UN official.

The Mission’s response to these reports has been to establish quickly whether the allegations are credible, and then to look after the welfare of the victims, who receive medical and psychosocial care.

In cases involving MINUSCA’s troops, it is the responsibility of the troop contributing countries to investigate, while the Mission must preserve the evidence, which provides the basis for convictions, punishment to the perpetrators, Mrs. Corner continued.

“In all cases involving troops serving with a UN peacekeeping operation, the UN has to depend on [these countries] and their justice system to deliver accountability,” she underlined, noting that today, the Minister of justice of the Democratic Republic of Congo gave instructions to the military prosecutor to take action on the dossier presented by the Organization.

Devoting significant efforts to prevention, MINUSCA is making sure that its troops undergo training, including on sexual exploitation and abuse, prior to their deployment in country, and once on the field. Certain designated locations are out of bounds, and curfews apply to both civilian and military personnel, underscored Mrs. Corner.

“Protection of civilians is the first priority of our mandate, and we take this task extremely seriously.”

UN blacklists C. Africa diamond firm, three militia leaders

NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

21 August 2015 - The United Nations slapped sanctions on a diamond firm from the Central African Republic and three militia leaders for undermining security in the troubled country.

A UN sanctions committee imposed an assets freeze on the Badica/Kardiam firm for providing support to armed groups in the Central African Republic through illegal trading in diamonds and gold.

The action followed the seizure by Belgian authorities in May 2014 of diamond parcels sent to Badica/Kardiam's representative in Antwerp in violation of a 2013 ban on diamond trading, the committee said.

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The Central African Republic descended into bloodshed after a 2013 coup against longtime leader Francois Bozize that unleashed a wave of violence, pitting Christian anti-balaka militias against Muslim Seleka rebels.

The sanctions committee slapped a global travel ban and an assets freeze on anti-balaka militia leader Alfred Yekatom, known as Colonel Rambo, who operated in Bangui and several other towns.

Yekatom commanded a "large group of armed militiamen present in the PK9 neighborhood of Bangui" who controlled a dozen checkpoints, collecting "unauthorized taxes" from vehicles and trucks exporting lumber to Cameroon and Chad, according to documents released by the committee.

An anti-balaka commander for the province of Lobaye, Habib Soussou, was added to the sanctions blacklist as was a former Seleka general, Oumar Younous, described as a diamond smuggler close to former president Michel Djotodia.

Under Soussou's command, targeted killings, clashes and attacks on aid workers have taken place in Lobaye province, the committee said.

Younous, who has a Sudanese passport, is cited for his role in the illegal diamond trade from the Central African Republic to Sudan.

A first wave of UN sanctions were imposed in May 2014, targeting Bozize, Seleka leader Nourredine Adam and anti-balaka political coordinator Levy Yakete.

The sanctions were announced as the Central African Republic prepares for key parliamentary and presidential elections in October, seen as a test of the country's progress in its political transition.

Centrafrique: l'ONU sanctionne un marchand de diamants et trois chefs miliciens

NEWS STORY

Source: Voix de l'Amérique avec l'AFP

L'ONU a pris jeudi des sanctions contre un bureau d'achat de diamants centrafricain et trois leaders miliciens pour leur rôle dans l'instabilité du petit pays enclavé d'Afrique centrale.

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21 août 2015 - Le comité des sanctions de l'ONU a ordonné le gel des avoirs de la société Badica et de sa filiale belge Kardiam, pour avoir soutenu les groupes armés en République centrafricaine à travers le commerce illégal d'or et de diamants.

Ces sanctions font suite à la saisie par les autorités belges en mai 2014 de colis de diamants envoyés au représentant de Badica/Kardiam à Anvers, en violation d'une interdiction de 2013 sur le commerce des diamants, a indiqué le comité.

Le renversement en mars 2013 du président François Bozizé par une rébellion à dominante musulmane, la Séléka, a plongé la Centrafrique, ex-colonie française, dans la plus grave crise de son histoire depuis son indépendance en 1960, déclenchant des tueries de masse entre communautés musulmanes et chrétiennes.

Le comité des sanctions de l'ONU a également émis une interdiction de voyager et un gel des avoirs à l'encontre du chef de la milice antibalaka Alfred Yekatom, alias Colonel Rambo, actif à Bangui et dans plusieurs autres villes.

Alfred Yekatom commandait un "important groupe de miliciens armés présents dans le quartier PK9 de Bangui", qui contrôlait une douzaine de barrages de contrôle, collectait des "taxes non autorisées" sur des véhicules et camions exportant du bois au Cameroun et au Tchad, selon des documents rendus publics par le comité.

Un commandant antibalaka de la province de Lobaye (sud), Habib Soussou, a été ajouté à la liste noire, ainsi que l'ancien général Séléka, Oumar Younous, présenté comme un trafiquant de diamants proche de l'ancien président Michel Djotodia.

Sous le commandement de Habib Soussou, des assassinats ciblés, des combats et des attaques contre des travailleurs humanitaires ont eu lieu dans la province de Lobaye, a indiqué le comité.

Oumar Younous, détenteur d'un passeport soudanais, est cité pour son rôle dans le commerce illégal de diamants de la République centrafricaine vers le Soudan.

Le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU avait décrété en mai 2014 des sanctions similaires contre trois responsables centrafricains: l'ex-président François Bozizé, le coordinateur des milices antibalaka Levy Yakété et le numéro deux de l'ex-coalition rebelle Séléka, Nourredine Adam.

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Countries Delay UN Plan to Name Those Accused of Sex Abuse

NEWS STORY

Source: Associated Press

By Cara Anna

20 August 2015 - The United Nations is rejecting growing pressure to name countries whose peacekeepers face sexual abuse accusations in Central African Republic against children as young as 11, keeping silent because member states have delayed the U.N. chief's plan to identify alleged perpetrators.

The U.N. General Assembly in June adopted a resolution that in part singled out Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's intention to name countries when sexual abuse allegations are credible. The resolution asked Ban to "engage in consultations with member states, in particular troop-contributing countries" over reporting such cases.

Peacekeepers in Central African Republic have been hit by more than a dozen allegations of sexual abuse, and Ban last week took the unprecedented step of firing the mission's leader, saying "enough is enough." The issue has haunted the world body for years.

Ban also repeated his intention to start naming countries. But a spokeswoman for him this week said the initiative needs the 193-member General Assembly's approval.

Of the 13 sexual abuse allegations received since peacekeepers started arriving in Central African Republic nearly a year ago to calm sectarian violence, "nine involve alleged attacks on minors," the mission's deputy head, Diane Corner, said Thursday.

No one has been convicted, she said.

The latest accusations, announced Wednesday, were brought by the families of three young females, including one minor, against three members of Congo's military. Half of that country's troops, and all of its police officers, are now expected to leave the mission by October instead of December.

The U.N. has been urged to name names. In June, a high-level panel led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jose Ramos-Horta recommended a major overhaul of peacekeeping operations that would include naming countries whose troops commit acts of sexual abuse.

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Countries have the sole responsibility to prosecute their troops, but the U.N.'s internal oversight office this summer reported that many countries don't even tell the U.N. whether they intend to investigate alleged sexual misconduct.

The U.N. relies on member states to contribute troops and police to put peacekeepers in some of the world's most vulnerable areas. Most of the top troop contributors are largely developing countries from Africa and South Asia, who are paid a little over \$1,000 per person per month in return.

Angering the countries by naming them in sexual misconduct cases could shrink an already stretched pool of available troops and police.

Congo's military, which has nearly 900 personnel in Central African Republic, has been called out by the U.N. in the past for conflict-related sexual violence, including against children.

Dragica Mikavica, advocacy officer for the New York-based Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, told The Associated Press that when the group asked why Congo was allowed to send peacekeepers when it serves in no other U.N. mission, the peacekeeping office replied, "They have the troops."

In April, the now-fired peacekeeping mission chief, Babacar Gaye, addressed the group's concerns during a talk at the International Peace Institute, saying of Congo's troops: "You may be disappointed, but they are behaving."

Les réfugiés centrafricains autorisés à voter à partir des pays voisins

REPORTAGE

Source: Voix de l'Amérique avec l'AFP

"Nous voulons à travers ce vote, une transition apaisée et transparente", a déclaré Alexandre-Ferdinand Nguendet, président du CNT à l'issue du vote. La vice-présidente du CNT, Léa Mboa Koyassoum Doumta, a abondé dans le même sens:

20 août 2015 - Le Conseil national de transition (CNT) a approuvé jeudi le droit de voter aux élections d'octobre pour les centaines de milliers de Centrafricains réfugiés dans les pays voisins.

La Cour constitutionnelle centrafricaine avait estimé le 24 juillet que "la non prise en compte du droit de vote des Centrafricains déplacés et réfugiés" était une "violation" de

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la Charte constitutionnelle, après le rejet par le CNT de cette disposition contenue dans le projet de loi électorale, lors d'un premier vote en juin.

Les difficultés liées à l'organisation technique et matérielle ne permet(tent) pas de dénier aux citoyens centrafricains qui ont craint pour leur vie, leur droit de vote", selon la juridiction suprême, dont les décisions s'imposent à toutes les autorités administratives et juridictionnelles.

Le Haut-Commissariat de l'ONU pour les réfugiés (HCR) avait également exprimé mi-juillet son inquiétude face à cette décision.

Il y a actuellement 460.000 réfugiés centrafricains (un dixième de la population), installés principalement au Cameroun, au Tchad, en République démocratique du Congo (RDC) et au Congo.

Les autorités de transition en Centrafrique, pays qui peine à se relever de décennies de troubles incessants ayant abouti en 2013-2014 à des violences intercommunautaires massives, ont fixé la tenue des élections présidentielle et législatives au 18 octobre. Un éventuel second tour est prévu le 22 novembre.

Il s'agissait du troisième report de ce scrutin, initialement prévu en novembre 2014 dans l'ex-colonie française, plongée dans la plus grave crise de son histoire depuis son accession à l'indépendance en 1960.

KENYA

Kenya: Bensouda Gets Her Way over Witnesses in Ruto's ICC Case

NEWS STORY

Source: Capital FM (Kenya)

By Olive Burrows

20 August 2015 - The International Criminal Court's Trial Chamber V(A) has admitted into evidence prior recorded statements of five 'hostile' prosecution witnesses in the case against Deputy President William Ruto and journalist Joshua arap Sang.

The Trial Chamber, by majority, found that the amendment to Rule 68 of the court's rules and procedures on which ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda based her application, could be applied in the Ruto-Sang case.

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Ruto and Sang's defence had argued that amendment to the rule allowing for prior recorded statements to be admitted into evidence shouldn't apply in the case as its passage by the Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute in November of 2013 was impinged on it not being applied retrospectively.

But the chamber found that it was a matter of interpretation and that by allowing this argument, they would be hindered in carrying out of their function.

In April, Bensouda applied to have the prior recorded statements of six of her witnesses admitted into evidence after one 'disappeared' and five others recanted testimony on the stand.

The chamber has however declined to admit into evidence the prior recorded statement of one of the six witnesses on the grounds, "the Prosecution accepts in its request that there is little direct evidence of improper interference with this witness."

The chamber found that it was not necessary, as the defence argued, to tie the alleged witness tampering directly to the accused as it was allegedly carried out for their benefit.

It also found that it was necessary for the prosecutor "to prove beyond a reasonable doubt" the allegations of witness tampering.

It agreed with the Prosecutor that, "that for procedural filings, such as this one, the existence of facts should be established by the relevant party on the basis of a balance of probabilities."

"The chamber notes the element of systematicity of the interference of several witnesses in this case which gives rise to the impression of an attempt to methodically target witnesses of this case in order to hamper the proceedings. The chamber will not allow such hindrance and will safeguard the integrity of the Proceedings," it made clear.

The defence had argued that the prior recorded statements shouldn't be admitted into evidence as they were not taken under oath nor was there the threat of liability for false statements.

But the chamber found that the fact that the witnesses appended their signatures to the statements "to the best of their knowledge" the statements could in fact be admitted into evidence.

The defence also challenged the reliability of the statements on the grounds that they were written in English but when those who'd recanted their statements took the stand, it was clear that they were not fluent in the language "and (testimony) ended up being in Swahili with English interpretation."

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The motivation for making the prior recorded statements, the defence also argued, was suspect as a number of witnesses, when they took the stand, testified that they were motivated by the promise of an easier life in the West in exchange for their testimony.

But the chamber stated that it would exercise its discretion in determining the truth of the statements.

SOUTH SUDAN

Le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU divisé sur la gestion de la crise au Soudan du Sud

NOUVELLE

Source: Le Monde.fr

By Jason Patinikin

21 août 2015 - Nouvel obstacle sur la voie de la résolution diplomatique du terrible conflit au Soudan du Sud. La Russie a indiqué jeudi 20 août avoir besoin de « temps » pour étudier un projet de résolution de l'ONU visant à sanctionner le pays si son président refusait de signer un accord de paix. Le projet de résolution a été présenté mercredi soir au Conseil de sécurité par les Etats-Unis, parrains de l'indépendance du pays, qui espéraient un vote rapide.

« C'est un projet complexe. Nous avons besoin de temps pour y réfléchir », a réagi le représentant permanent adjoint russe à l'ONU Petr Iliichev.

Le président du Soudan du Sud, Salva Kiir, a refusé lundi de signer l'accord visant à mettre fin à une guerre qui a fait des dizaines de milliers de morts et plus de deux millions de déplacés, demandant un délai supplémentaire de quinze jours pour « mener des consultations ». Le chef de la rébellion, Riek Machar, a, pour sa part, ratifié l'accord.

Selon le département d'Etat américain, le président sud-soudanais aurait confié mercredi au chef de la diplomatie américaine, John Kerry, vouloir signer le texte.

Embargo sur les armes et sanctions ciblées

Le projet de résolution prévoit notamment d'imposer un embargo sur les armes et des sanctions ciblées pour les personnes jugées responsables d'avoir fait échouer les

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tentatives de paix. Il prévoit également des interdictions de voyager et le gel d'avoirs, le tout à partir du 6 septembre.

M. Iliichev dit douter de l'efficacité de cette méthode, estimant que des sanctions imposées à six généraux le mois précédent n'avaient fait que compliquer la situation sur le terrain. « Au lieu d'aider le processus de paix, nous avons un nouvel obstacle. », « Nous devrions faire très attention aux [plus] radicaux qui entourent [Salva] Kiir et [Riek] Machar et à comment ils vont réagir ».

Le Soudan du Sud a proclamé son indépendance en juillet 2011, après trente ans de conflit avec le Soudan. Mais le pays a replongé dans la guerre en décembre 2013, quand des combats ont éclaté à Juba entre le camp de l'ancien vice-président Riek Machar et celui du président Salva Kiir, avant de se propager au reste du pays.

Des pourparlers de paix ont été engagés dès janvier 2014, mais n'ont jusqu'ici abouti qu'à des cessez-le-feu jamais respectés. Les discussions engagées dimanche à Addis-Abeba, la capitale éthiopienne, ont donné lieu à un accord qui comporte plusieurs points litigieux, notamment les modalités d'un mécanisme de partage du pouvoir qui verrait le chef des rebelles Riek Machar redevenir vice-président – un poste dont il avait été limogé avant le début de la guerre – ou encore la démilitarisation de Juba, la capitale.

Journalist Killed in S.Sudan After President Threatens Media

NEWS STORY

Source: Associated Press

By Jason Patinikin

20 August 2015 - A South Sudanese journalist was shot dead by unknown gunmen in the outskirts of the country's capital, his father said Thursday, in an attack that came days after President Salva Kiir was reported to have threatened to kill reporters "working against the country."

Peter Julius Moi, a reporter for Corporate Weekly, was shot twice in the back Wednesday night, Moi's father, Julius Kilong Ramoi said.

The international journalists' rights group, the Committee to Project Journalists, quoted Kiir as threatening journalists on Sunday.

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"If anybody among (journalists) does not know that this country has killed people, we will demonstrate it one day, one time. Freedom of the press does not mean you work against the country," Kiir was reported telling journalists.

Earlier this month, two newspapers said the government stopped their operations in an apparent crackdown on the independent media.

Moi was shot dead in the Jebel area of the capital, Juba. Otieno Ogeda, chief executive officer of Corporate Weekly, said the media house had not received threats over recent articles Moi wrote, including two that focused on the scaling back of operations of South Sudan's only brewery. The body was found near the brewery, but Moi also lived in the same area.

Nothing was stolen from Moi during the attack, Ogeda said.

"Everything was intact, even the money in his pocket was never stolen, even his phone was not taken away," he said.

Moi is the seventh journalist to be killed in South Sudan this year.

In December 2013, troops loyal to Kiir clashed with those loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar. Machar signed a peace deal on Monday to end the continued fighting while Kiir has promised to sign in coming days.

Soudan du Sud: un journaliste assassiné à Juba après des menaces de Salva Kiir

NOUVELLE

Source: Jeune Afrique

Peter Moi, reporter sud-soudanais du quotidien indépendant New Nation, a été abattu mercredi soir à Juba par des inconnus, après avoir quitté son travail.

21 août 2015 - La police n'a fait aucun commentaire dans l'immédiat concernant ce meurtre. En revanche à Washington, le porte-parole du département d'État, John Kirby, s'est déclaré « très préoccupé » et a réclamé aux « autorités sud-soudanaises une enquête rapide et minutieuse ».

Ce meurtre intervient quelques jours après que le président sud-soudanais Salva Kiir eut publiquement menacé de « tuer » les journalistes « travaillant contre le pays ».

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« La liberté de la presse ne signifie pas que vous pouvez travailler contre le pays », avait-il lancé à des journalistes à l'aéroport de Juba, où il embarquait à destination de la capitale éthiopienne Addis Abeba pour d'ultimes pourparlers en vue de mettre fin à la guerre civile qui ravage le Soudan du Sud depuis 20 mois.

« Si certains d'entre vous (journalistes) ne savent pas que ce pays a déjà tué des gens, nous allons le démontrer un jour », avait menacé le chef de l'État, des propos rapportés par le Comité de Protection des journalistes (CPJ).

Climat d'intimidation

Selon le CPJ, citant des journalistes locaux, ces menaces répondaient à des critiques sur le caractère stérile et interminable des négociations d'Addis Abeba.

Les organisations de défense de la liberté de la presse ont mis en garde à plusieurs reprises contre le climat d'intimidation qui règne au Soudan du Sud et la volonté de tuer dans l'œuf tout débat sur les moyens de mettre fin à la guerre civile, marquée par de nombreux massacres et atrocités, qui a fait des dizaines de milliers de morts.

Début août, les forces de sécurité avaient fait fermer deux journaux et une radio, leur reprochant selon des journalistes, d'avoir fait campagne pour l'accord de paix, signé lundi à Addis Abeba par les rebelles mais pas par M. Kiir et que le gouvernement a depuis qualifié de « capitulation » inacceptable.

SOUDAN DU SUD: Quand le président du Soudan du Sud donne le permis de tuer les journalistes**NOUVELLE**

Source: RSF via Al Wihda (http://www.alwihdainfo.com/SOUDAN-DU-SUD-Quand-le-president-du-Soudan-du-Sud-donne-le-permis-de-tuer-les-journalistes_a22156.html)

Le 16 août, le président du Soudan du Sud, Salva Kiir, menaçait de tuer des journalistes. Trois jours plus tard, le reporter Peter Moi a été abattu dans la capitale, Juba. La situation au Soudan du Sud est terrible.

16 août 2015 - Lors d'une conférence de presse dimanche 16 août, le président Salva Kiir menaçait de faire assassiner les journalistes qui « travaillent contre leur pays ». Écartant les récriminations sur l'état de la liberté de la presse dans le pays, il déclarait : « Mais la liberté d'expression ne veut pas dire que vous pouvez travailler contre votre

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pays. Et si l'un d'eux ne sait pas que ce pays a tué des gens, nous le démontrerons sur leur dos un jour. ». En matière de menaces de mort, on ne peut pas faire plus clair.

Trois jours plus tard, mercredi 19 août, le collaborateur du média numérique New Nation et de The Cooperate Newspaper, Peter Moi, a été abattu par des hommes armés non identifiés alors qu'il sortait du travail pour rentrer chez lui. Les agresseurs n'ont dérobé ni l'argent ni le téléphone du journaliste. Selon le syndicat des journalistes du Soudan du Sud, il s'agirait d'un assassinat. L'homicide, s'il ne peut pour l'heure être directement relié à sa profession ni directement au discours de Salva Kiir, s'inscrit dans un climat d'extrême insécurité pour les journalistes du pays.

« Qu'un chef d'Etat menace de mort les journalistes de son pays est proprement criminel, déclare Christophe Deloire, secrétaire général de RSF. Certaines paroles peuvent tuer, surtout quand elles émanent d'un président de la République. Nous appelons Salva Kiir à retirer ses propos au plus vite et lancer un message fort pour condamner les crimes commis contre les journalistes. S'agissant de la dégradation de la situation sécuritaire générale des journalistes, sa responsabilité est clairement engagée. Concernant Peter Moi, les autorités sud-soudanaises doivent garantir que l'enquête sur ce crime sera indépendante, impartiale et approfondie, afin d'apporter au plus vite des réponses à ses proches. »

Ce crime porte à sept le nombre de journalistes assassinés depuis le début de l'année au Soudan du Sud. L'enquête sur le meurtre du journaliste de radio Tamazuj James Raeth le 20 mai, dernier en date de cette liste, n'a toujours pas été résolue. Depuis le début de la guerre civile en décembre 2013, le gouvernement de Salva Kiir s'est montré résolu à laisser la liberté d'information de côté dans la voie du « tout sécuritaire ». Le Soudan du Sud est situé à la 125e place sur 180 pays au Classement mondial de la liberté de la presse publié par RSF en février 2015.

Soudan: le président se dit prêt à une trêve de deux mois avec les rebelles

NOUVELLE

Source: Agence Belga

20 août 2015 - Le président soudanais Omar el-Béchir a affirmé jeudi qu'il était prêt à une trêve de deux mois avec les rebelles pour permettre l'ouverture d'un dialogue national appelé à régler les multiples crises dans le pays, offrant de nouveau une amnistie aux insurgés.

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M. Béchir, recherché depuis 2009 par la Cour pénale internationale pour crimes de guerre dans la région du Darfour en conflit, appelle depuis plusieurs mois à un dialogue avec les rebelles qui refusent de venir à la table de négociations à Khartoum. "Nous sommes disposés à un cessez-le-feu global pour une période de deux mois, jusqu'à ce que ce dialogue soit achevé dans un climat sain", a dit le président devant des membres de "l'Assemblée générale pour le dialogue national". Il a annoncé la date du 10 octobre pour le début des discussions. "Nous renouvelons notre offre d'amnistie à ceux ayant porté les armes mais qui voudraient prendre part au dialogue", a-t-il ajouté, tout en soulignant que "ceux qui sont coupables de meurtre ne seront pas libérés". "Nous appelons à un arrêt de la guerre. Notre position n'est pas un signe de faiblesse (mais) nous sommes des partisans de la paix, et le plus grand obstacle à celle-ci est le refus par les autres parties d'engager un dialogue libre", a poursuivi le président soudanais. Des rebelles du Darfour et du Mouvement de libération du Soudan (SPLM-N) du Nil-Bleu et du Kordofan-Sud devaient rencontrer vendredi le chef de l'Union africaine, Thabo Mbeki, à Addis Abeba pour discuter du dialogue. Les rebelles n'ont pas commenté dans l'immédiat cette annonce, mais tout comme la majorité de l'opposition ils avaient indiqué précédemment qu'ils ne prendraient pas part au dialogue si l'atmosphère n'était pas propice à des négociations.

S. Sudanese rebels accuse government force of renewed fighting

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

19 August 2015 - South Sudanese rebels have accused forces loyal to president Salva Kiir of renewing violence by carrying out major offensives in the oil-rich Upper Nile state two days after the partial signing of a peace deal to end the 20-month long conflict in the country.

Captain Paul Malieth Koang, a spokesman for rebels special division one in Upper Nile, has told Sudan Tribune over phone interviews earlier on Wednesday that pro-government forces attacked their position in Manyo county (Thor athoi) area on Wednesday at 4:30 am local time.

"This morning our forces were under heavy attacks by pro-government [troops] at dawn, but we have repulsed them and still our forces are still holding their full control of territory," Koang said.

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He claimed the opposition forces managed to repulse the attacks at 5:00 am, adding another attempt by the government forces at around 10:30 am on their territory were repulsed with heavy casualties claiming around 20 soldiers from government side were left dead.

He also said that 32 AK-47 rifles, 2 PKM, 1 RPG and numerous ammunitions were seized from the government forces.

Koang urged the Intergovernmental Authorities on Development (IGAD), which has been mediating the talks for 20 months, to condemn the government action in strongest term possible. He accused Juba government of not interested to bring peace in the country.

“The IGAD and international communities must be aware that the government of South Sudan is not in position to peace talks, they are hoping for militarily solution which may not be an option for hundred years to come,” he added.

This alleged attack comes barely two days after President Kiir declined to sign IGAD’s compromise peace proposal, which was inked by the armed opposition leader, Riek Machar and Pagan Amum, a representative of the country’s former political detainees.

Several world leaders have urged President Kiir, who asked for 15 more days to make consultations, to sign the agreement seeking to end the 20-month old conflict, which has killed tens of thousands of people in the nation and displaced nearly two million of them.

South Sudan: Border Issues with Uganda Be Left to the National Govt - Foreign Affairs

PRESS RELEASE

Source: Government of South Sudan

19 August 2015 - The minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, Dr Barnaba Marial Benjamin has urged the communities in Magwi county eastern equatoria to remain where they were and leave the issue of border with Uganda to the national government.

Dr Benjamin says maps were brought from both Turkey, Egypt and London and a committee is already on the ground working on this matter.

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Speaking Thursday after arrival from Kenya where he was there for pan-African summit, minister said it's not about Magwi alone but there are 40 places that need to be identified whether belongs to Uganda or South Sudan.

The minister also met the Japanese state minister for cabinet affairs Ryosei Akazawa and discussed peace and security in south Sudan.

The Japanese minister said japan has extended the period of its peace keeping contingent in UNMISS for another six months saying Japan is ready to build country's infrastructure once peace is achieved.

However, Dr Benjamin told the Japanese minister that, the government is ready and committed to peace but do not know who to sign peace with since rebels are divided, urging Japan to continue with developmental projects saying most of the states are peaceful.

SUDAN

Turabi urges Bashir to translate into action his pledges for Sudanese rebels

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

20 August 2015 - The leader of the opposition Popular Congress Party (PCP), Hassan al-Turabi, called on President Omer al-Bashir to create a conducive environment before the national dialogue by translating into action his pledge for a ceasefire and to allow humanitarian assistance.

In his remarks at the third meeting of the national dialogue general assembly in Khartoum on Thursday, Bashir vowed to declare a ceasefire for two months and to amnesty rebels. He made his declaration 24 hours before a meeting the chief mediator Thabo Mbeki organize with the rebel groups in Addis Ababa.

Commenting on the presidential pledges after the dialogue meeting, al-Turabi told reporters that rebel groups do not entirely reject the dialogue. He revealed that the opposition parties in the dialogue mechanism have reached a number of understandings with some armed groups that he did not identify.

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"When they reach an agreement over ways to stop war, humanitarian access and guarantees for those who would come for the dialogue inside the country, they (the rebels) cannot implement this agreement but the government can do that," he said.

Turbai further pointed that the government should accept the demands of the armed opposition groups saying "We need to take (concrete) steps to reassure them. When there is a war between you and me the word alone is not enough to build confidence," he stressed.

President al-Bashir already pledged in the past to give the necessary guarantees to ensure the participation of rebel groups in the dialogue process inside the country.

Sudanese courts sentenced to death several rebel leaders from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) and armed groups in Darfur after convicting them of committing crimes.

Last month, PCP officials who are part of the dialogue mechanism repeated they are in touch with the holdout rebels to persuade them to join the internal process.

Turabi who is hostile to hold the political process outside the country said the genuine dialogue will be at the level of different subcommittees that would be formed by the dialogue coordination mechanism.

He added that these panels will do the most important part of the required work, stressing that its membership is limited and "can talk in everything," as he said.

He further expected that the holdout rebel groups join the dialogue process when the activities of the subcommittees be translated into decisions and measures.

But the Islamist leader showed indifference about the absence of some opposition political forces from the table of dialogue saying: "societies in the world are not compatible, but they agree on the systems."

On the other hand, he pointed that the participation of fifty national figures in the dialogue "a very important step".

Officials at the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) say they are keen to involve the leader of the opposition National Umma Party Sadiq al-Mahdi who demands to partially hold the process outside Sudan.

Also the internal process is boycotted by the opposition alliance of the National Consensus Forces and Reform Now Movement of Ghazi Salah Eddin Attabani, a NCP splinter and former presidential adviser.