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



MEDIA MONITORING

23 June 2015

DRC

Equateur: accalmie à Kota Koli après le soulèvement des ex-combattants

ARTICLE

Source: Radio Okapi

22 Juin 2015 - Un calme précaire s'observe, dimanche 21 juin, à Kota Koli, où les ex-combattants sortis des groupés armés de l'Est, en démobilisation, se sont mutinés samedi. Selon la société civile locale, ces hommes en uniforme ont refusé toute négociation avec les autorités militaires des FARDC arrivées sur place et ont lancé un ultimatum de 3 jours aux autorités pour qu'elles mettent des moyens afin de les aider à rejoindre leurs milieux d'origine.

Regroupés à Kota Koli depuis près de deux ans avec leurs dépendants, ils réclament leur départ immédiat, soit pour la réintégration au sein des FARDC, soit pour leur retours milieux d'origine. La société civile qui rapporte les faits a indiqué que ce mouvement a créé une vive tension dans ce centre.

Selon des sources concordantes, un calme précaire est revenu à Kota Koli samedi vers 18 heures locales.

Toute la journée de samedi, les ex-combattants issus des groupes armés venus du Nord et Sud-Kivu se sont mutinés pour protester contre les mauvaises conditions dans lesquelles ils vivent avec leurs dépendants.

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Après avoir tenté de s'emparer du dépôt d'armement, ils ont pillé systématiquement les résidences des officiers du centre d'instruction commando de Kota Koli. Ordinateurs et autres biens de valeur ont été emportés, affirment des témoins.

Le commandant du 1303e Régiment des FARDC basé à Gbadolite, à 100 km de Kotakoli, arrivé dans la soirée dans cette localité, indiquent nos sources, a tenté de regrouper ces démobilisés pour les moraliser. Ils ont refusé toute négociation. Ils ont plutôt lancé un ultimatum de 3 jours aux autorités pour leur trouver le moyen de regagner leurs milieux d'origine.

C'est depuis 2013 que les FARDC ont regroupé au centre d'instruction de Kota Koli les ex-combattants issus des groupes armés de l'Est du pays dont le M23 qui se sont rendus.

Depuis lors, leur processus de démobilisation n'arrive pas à son terme. La Momusco avait demandé que ces ex-combattants en démobilisation soient intégrés au processus DDR pour qu'ils soient pris en charge par la mission onusienne. Mais cela n'est pas encore fait. ?

Quelques habitants pris de panique se sont même réfugiés dans la forêt pour se mettre à l'abri de menaces de ces ex-combattants.

Des sources locales avaient attribué ce énième soulèvement au centre d'entraînement commando de Kota Koli à une récente affaire de détournement de plus de 29 millions des Francs Congolais (31 589 dollars américains) destinés à la restauration des ex-combattants et leurs dépendants.

Suite à cette rumeur, le commandant intérimaire et du financier du centre de Kotakoli a été interpellé depuis une semaine à l'auditorat militaire de Gbadolite, renseignent ces sources.

“Une porte déjà ouverte”

Pour le gouvernement congolais, ces ex combattants ne font qu'enfoncer une porte qui est déjà ouverte; Kinshasa ayant déjà décidé la délocalisation de ce centre vers Kamina et Kitona.

En février dernier, les ex-combattants de Kota Koli s'étaient également soulevés pour dénoncer leurs mauvaises conditions de vie.

Ces ex-combattants désarmés, environ 830, sont issus de sept groupes armés de l'Est du pays, dont les Mai-Mai Nyatura, le MCC, le M23 et des membres du groupe Alléluia.

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Ils attendent, pour certains, une démobilisation, et pour d'autres, une intégration au sein des forces armées de la RDC.

Unrest Reported at Congo Camp for Ex-militiamen

NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

Goma, 22 June 2015 - A riot has been reported at a military camp holding more than 800 ex-militiamen in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They are demanding to be freed and sent back to their home areas, but the government says the situation is under control.

The ex-militiamen came from various armed groups in the east of the country and have been at the camp at Kotakoli in western DRC since 2013, after surrendering to the army or the U.N. mission.

There was also trouble at the camp last year, in February, and last weekend a violent protest broke out again. The ex-combatants tried to break into an armory and looted the houses of officers in charge of the camp.

U.N. radio describes the riot as an uprising, and reports the ex-militiamen have been refusing to negotiate with a senior army officer sent to the camp. It reports the ex-militiamen have given the government three days to provide them with the means to return to their home areas.

But DRC government spokesman Lambert Mende insists there has been no uprising at the camp. He says they have surrendered and they are not armed. They never posed a threat, he insists, adding that they are under the army's control.

Human Rights Watch reported last October that more than 100 ex-combatants and their dependents had died at Kotakoli during the year, owing to lack of food and health care.

Shortly after that report, the government announced it would close the camp and transfer the inmates to camps in less remote areas. But that has not yet happened.

U.N. radio reports the U.N. mission, MONUSCO, has asked for the ex-combatants to begin a process of demobilization and reintegration in either the army or civilian life. Under this process the United Nations would take charge of them temporarily, but the report says the government has not given the go-ahead.

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Spokesman Mende told VOA the government is ready to send the militiamen for reintegration and is just waiting for MONUSCO's support. He says this is a project which the government has been discussing with MONUSCO for the past eight months. The government is waiting for MONUSCO's help so that the project can materialize.

U.N. radio reports riots broke out after rumors spread that a camp officer had stolen \$30,000 intended for camp rations. The radio reports the officer was held for questioning for a week.

UDPS: Félix Tshisekedi dément tout rapprochement avec Joseph Kabila

ARTICLE

Source: Agence d'Information d'Afrique central

Par Alain Diasso

Au cours d'une conférence de presse tenue tout récemment à Bruxelles, le fils du « lider maximo » a, par ailleurs, clamé sa conviction à l'avènement de l'alternance démocratique en RDC en vue de « permettre au peuple congolais de reprendre son destin en main ».

22 Juin 2015 - Secrétaire national de l'Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social (UDPS) chargé des Relations extérieures, Félix Tshisekedi est devenu la cible, depuis plusieurs semaines déjà, des mauvaises langues. À son sujet, il se raconte beaucoup de choses avec toujours cette volonté de nuisance manifeste. Après l'avoir présenté comme le virtuel successeur de son père à la tête du parti alors qu'une telle option est censée être discutée en interne dans le cadre d'un congrès, la folle rumeur lui a également prêté l'intention de vouloir s'accaparer les structures du parti à son bénéfice. En fait, l'homme qui a pris la décision de revigorer le parti en le tirant de sa longue léthargie apparaît comme un éternel incompris au sein de l'UDPS actuellement écartelé entre plusieurs intérêts.

Comme si cela ne suffisait pas, la rumeur publique venait dernièrement de l'enfoncer en confirmant un rapprochement entre lui et Joseph Kabila. Il se susurre dans la ville haute que les deux personnalités se seraient passées un deal qui consistait à faire du rejeton de « lider maximo » le Premier ministre du gouvernement de transition censé sortir au terme du dialogue. Joseph Kabila, à en croire ses détracteurs, chercherait à crédibiliser son fameux schéma de « glissement » en forçant un consensus politique devant inévitablement passer par le débauchage de quelques gros poissons de l'opposition. En cela, Félix Tshisekedi paraît constituer une alternative valable dans le sens de

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crédibiliser un plan qui a véritablement du mal à passer dans l'opinion. Coupant court à la rumeur, Félix est monté au créneau pour démentir cette information qui tient plutôt de l'intox vis-à-vis de sa personne.

C'est à partir de Bruxelles où il séjourne qu'il a démenti, dans le cadre d'un point de presse tenu le 19 juin, le prétendu deal qu'il aurait conclu avec Joseph Kabila. « Je n'ai jamais conclu de pacte avec Joseph Kabila », avait-il martelé tout en précisant qu'il n'a jamais reçu une telle offre de la part de la « kabilie ». Et de poursuivre: « Je tiens à vous assurer que j'entends poursuivre le combat politique jusqu'à la libération effective de notre pays ». Tout en sachant que le chef de l'État reste obsédé à l'idée de demeurer au pouvoir au-delà de 2016, Félix Tshisekedi a laissé entendre qu'il n'est pas disposé à cautionner une telle supercherie qui fâche la Constitution et les lois de la République. « Je ne serai jamais le Premier ministre de Joseph Kabila », avait-il asséné.

Concernant le dialogue qui se profile à l'horizon, il a invité la « communauté internationale » à « prendre ses responsabilités » en le pilotant dans l'unique but de « rassurer les uns et les autres sur la crédibilité des scrutins ». Pour nombre d'observateurs, ce discours acéré de Félix Tshisekedi assorti des préalables tranche avec la modestie et le fair-play ayant caractérisé ses récentes prises de position plutôt favorables au dialogue proposé par le chef de l'État. Relayant la vision de son parti, l'intéressé avait, à maintes occasions, fait savoir qu'il y voyait une meilleure solution pour sortir le pays de la crise politique qu'il traverse.

Congo-Kinshasa: Differences Persist in Elections

NEWS STORY

Source: RFI (<http://allafrica.com/stories/201506221563.html>)

22 June 2015 - In the DRC, there fortnight Congolese President has initiated consultations with all actors of civil society. This week, he received the deputies, senators, media owners and students. Each time, the message is the same: we must go to elections in a peaceful climate and support the peace process initiated by the ruling party. Still, the different personalities that Joseph Kabila met expressed divergent views. The most obvious being those between the lower house and the upper house.

For the president of the National Assembly, Aubin Minaku, no question of touching the electoral calendar. All elections are important and we should all organize.

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But this requirement says nothing about how to proceed to meet that schedule. The government still has not announced how much money will be released to finance the seven ballots. No electoral material was ordered. Finally, the law on the allocation of seats, prior to the organization of local was rejected by MEPs. A special session should be convened shortly to enable the adoption of this famous law.

For its part, the Senate has been much more critical about the current process. Its chairman, Leon Kengo Wa Dondo, proposed revising the timetable to make it feasible, even group a number of polls. He also called for the envelope over a billion dollars to fund the elections is reduced.

Finally, he said, it is essential to integrate new major. These five or ten million young people - nobody knows exactly - come of age after 2011, so they can vote in each election. These rather divergent from those of the majority remind the membership of Senate President for the opposition.

Given these differences, Joseph Kabila has planned to organize a meeting between the two chambers. The aim is to harmonize their positions as these divisions may not be tenable for long. This inter-agency meeting should be organized early next week.

RWANDA

Rwanda says spy chief's arrest in London is "lunacy"

NEWS STORY

Source: AFP World News

Kigali, 23 June 23 2015 - Rwanda's foreign minister on Tuesday slammed the arrest of the country's intelligence chief, held in London by British authorities acting on a Spanish indictment.

"Western solidarity in demeaning Africans is unacceptable!!" Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo said on Twitter, saying the arrest was a conspiracy by those who deny Rwanda's 1994 genocide.

"It is an outrage to arrest Rwandan official based on pro-genocidaires lunacy!" she added.

Rwanda also said it had "sought explanation" from London following the arrest of intelligence Chief Karenzi Karake, according to reports in Kigali.

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"We are handling the matter with the UK Government. They have better details on this evolving situation," Minister for Justice Johnston Busingye said, according to Rwanda's New Times newspaper.

Karenzi had been "on official duty in London for one week", the report added.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said they were informed by London's Metropolitan Police on June 20 "that they had arrested General Emmanuel Karenzi Karake."

British police are understood to have been carrying out a European arrest warrant issued by Spain in 2008, but Busingye was dismissive of the legal basis of the warrant.

"I would be surprised if it is one the UK is acting on. We will contest in the courts. We have sought explanation from the UK on this matter as well," Busingye added.

Mushikiwabo called the warrant "preposterous".

Karake, known as KK, is a former deputy chief of the United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force in Sudan's war-torn Darfur region.

Human Rights Watch criticised his appointment in the peacekeeping mission saying Karake was responsible for the killings of civilians in the town of Kisangani, Democratic Republic of Congo, in June 2000.

Karake is part of an exclusive circle of top military officers in the former Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) rebel movement which brought an end to the 1994 genocide.

The RPF ethnic Tutsi rebel force ended the genocide by Hutu extremists that left an estimated 800,000 mostly Tutsis dead.

Like others, Karake's fortunes have risen and fallen under President Paul Kagame's rule. He was a close friend of Patrick Karegaya, a former Rwanda spy chief who became a dissident and was murdered in a South Africa hotel in late 2013.

In 2010 he was placed under house arrest for misconduct but was later released.

The indictments issued in February 2008 by Spanish judge Fernando Andreu have been controversial and criticised as politically-motivated. Andreu accused Karake and 39 others of ordering revenge massacres of ethnic Hutus in the wake of the 1994 genocide as well as the murder of three Spanish aid workers for Medicos del Mundo.

A 2008 diplomatic cable sent from the US embassy in Kigali and released by WikiLeaks dismissed the Spanish indictments as "outrageous and inaccurate".

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"The Spanish indictment of 40 Rwandan military officers offers an unrecognizable version of some of the most painful and violent episodes in Rwanda's history," said the cable which described the allegations as "a bloated political tract, sloppily organized and endlessly repetitive".

BURUNDI

Burundi rivals trade blame over grenade attacks ahead of polls

NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

Bujumbura, 22 June 2015 - Burundi's government and opposition on Monday traded blame for grenade attacks that killed four people and wounded around 30 in ongoing violence a week ahead of key parliamentary elections.

The troubled central African nation has been in crisis since late April over President Pierre Nkurunziza's controversial bid to stand for a third consecutive five-year term, a move branded by opponents as unconstitutional and a violation of a 2006 peace deal that ended 13 years of civil war.

Many fear a repeat of that violence, which split the country along ethnic lines between the majority Hutus and minority Tutsis, as well as between rival factions within those groups.

The European Union on Monday threatened sanctions against those involved in the violence.

Terror campaign

Presidential communications Chief Willy Nyamitwe blamed the opposition for the unrest, saying they wanted a replay of the situation in 2010 when they boycotted polls.

"This terror campaign has a similarity with what happened in the aftermath of 2010," he said, blaming the attacks on "politicians and civil society activists who promised the people that there will be no elections at all in 2015."

Parliamentary elections are planned for June 29, ahead of the presidential vote on July 15.

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The opposition rejected any involvement in violence, condemning the attacks "in the strongest terms" and accusing the government of trying to "exploit" them to get rid of their opponents.

"Our movement is and will remain peaceful," said Jeremiah Minani, spokesman of the Arusha Movement coalition, which includes opposition parties and civil society groups opposed to Nkurunziza's third term.

"We think it could be a plot to sow terror, and to blame that on his opponents in order to stop those who oppose the third term."

'Attacks are related'

Meanwhile, EU foreign ministers threatened to sanction individuals involved in Burundi's political violence.

"The EU is determined to adopt, if necessary, targeted restrictive measures against those whose actions would have led or lead to violence and repression in serious violations of human rights," it said in a statement.

The grenade blasts, which took place overnight Sunday to Monday, were the latest in a string of attacks in recent days. On Friday night, 11 police officers were wounded in a series of explosions.

The most serious attack was in the northern town of Ngozi where a grenade was hurled into a bar, killing four and wounding 25 others, 10 of them seriously, a police officer said, adding that three suspects had been arrested.

In the neighbouring northern Kirundo province, another person was wounded in a blast, while a grenade was also thrown into a bar in the north-eastern Muyinga district, although no one was hurt in that attack. In Bujumbura, two policemen were wounded by a grenade on Monday morning.

"These people want to frighten the population to prevent them from voting," said Muyinga district governor, Aline Manirabarusha.

"It is clear that all these grenade attacks are related to each other, this is a terror campaign organised by opponents of the third term of President Pierre Nkurunziza, to destabilise and try to prevent the elections," a senior police officer said.

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International pressure

Last week, the Burundian human rights group Aprodeh said at least 70 people have been killed, 500 wounded and more than 1 000 jailed since late April, when the opposition took to the streets to protest Nkurunziza's bid to remain in power.

More than 100 000 people have fled the violence to neighbouring countries.

Nkurunziza survived a coup attempt last month and has since faced down international pressure, including aid cuts, aimed at forcing him to reconsider his attempt to stay in power.

EU threatens sanctions against those involved in Burundi violence

NEWS STORY

Source: AFP (<http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/2015/06/eu-threatens-sanctions-against-those-involved-in-burundi-violence/>)

22 June 2015 - European Union foreign ministers on Thursday threatened to sanction individuals involved in Burundi's political violence.

"The EU is determined to adopt, if necessary, targeted restrictive measures against those whose actions would have led or lead to violence and repression in serious violations of human rights," they said in a statement after meeting in Luxembourg.

They called on EU foreign policy Chief Federica Mogherini to "start preparatory work" on possible sanctions against individuals in the troubled central African nation.

The ministers also condemned the "political stalemate" and decline of the security situation in Burundi, saying it had "serious consequences" for the country's inhabitants and for the whole region.

Four people were killed and some 30 wounded in grenade attacks in Burundi a week ahead of key parliamentary elections, police said Monday.

The grenade blasts, which took place overnight Sunday to Monday, were the latest in a string of attacks.

Burundi has been in crisis since late April over President Pierre Nkurunziza's controversial bid to stand for a third consecutive five-year term, a move that opponents call unconstitutional and a violation of a 2006 peace deal that ended 13 years of civil war.

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Last week, the Burundian human rights group Aprodeh said at least 70 people have been killed, 500 wounded and more than 1,000 jailed since the opposition protests began.

The EU in May said it was suspending its electoral observer mission to Burundi.

UGANDA

La police ougandaise émet une alerte au terrorisme

ARTICLE

Source: Xinhua

23 Juin 2015 - La police ougandaise a émis lundi une alerte au terrorisme, prévenant que des militants shebabs somaliens prévoyaient de mener une série d'attaques lors de l'actuel mois de jeûne du ramadan.

Fred Enanga, porte-parole de la police, a confié à Xinhua par téléphone que les agences de sécurité avaient reçu des renseignements crédibles indiquant les plans du groupe shebab de mener des attaques en Somalie, en Ouganda, au Kenya et en Ethiopie durant cette période. Cette alerte survient seulement quelques jours après l'explosion d'une voiture piégée et l'attaque d'hommes armés contre le centre d'entraînement de l'Agence nationale de renseignements somalienne dimanche à Mogadiscio, capitale du pays.

"Hier (dimanche), ils ont agi en Somalie. Nous suspectons qu'ils prévoient de faire la même chose ici et dans les autres pays lors de ce mois sacré. Nous appelons le public à rester prudent et vigilant", a déclaré le porte-parole.

L'Ouganda continue d'être en état d'alerte au terrorisme suite aux menaces du groupe shebab, ce dernier visant à se venger de l'envoi de troupes par le pays dans la Corne de l'Afrique, ravagée par la guerre. L'Ouganda a contribué à renforcer les forces présentes en Somalie sous l'AMISOM (Mission de l'Union africaine en Somalie) depuis 2007. Le 11 juillet 2010, le groupe shebab a fait exploser deux bombes dans la capitale ougandaise de Kampala, faisant 76 morts et des dizaines de blessés.

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Uganda, DR Congo to meet over disputed border point

NEWS STORY

Source: New Vision

By Proscovia Acan

23 June 2015 - Ugandan and Congolese authorities are set to meet today Tuesday over the disputed border point at Vurra in Arua district.

The conflict pitting Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo stems from the international boundary drawn during the colonial era.

Last week both parties failed to reach an understanding during a meeting held at Vurra border post.

Historical context

The Anglo- Belgian Agreement which came into force on February 3, 1915, accorded official recognition to the present boundary of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Anglo- Belgian Agreement took effect 21 years after Uganda was declared a British Protectorate on June 18, 1894. West Nile was the second last then district to be added to Uganda.

The Congo and Uganda border in the current disputed area has the Lugbara tribe in both countries.

In 1913, a Sudanese/Uganda Commission delimited the common boundary on the ground between Bahr al Jabal and the Belgian Congo tripoint, near the present Ariwara in Congo.

The new boundaries were officially promulgated on April 21, 1914 by the British Government.

Conflict

Last week's meeting was attended by the governor of Oriental Province, Jean Bamanisa Saidi, the Congolese deputy Ambassador to Uganda, Christian Katoto and several other Congolese officials.

The Ugandan side was represented by Arua Resident District Commissioner Peter Dibebe and security officials.

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After the failed meeting Dibele told the New Vision that as a delegation they demanded their counterparts from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR-C) to remove the barrier in order to pave way for smooth peace talks.

‘Our condition is one and that’s the position of the government. They must take back this barrier because if they don’t take back that means they have claimed our land which we cannot accept, Dibele said.

The Vurra county Member of Parliament, Dr. Sam Okuonzi said the Congolese youth have taken the law into their hands without the Government's understanding.

“What we have learnt is that the youth are acting on their own; the government is not intriquing the movement of the barrier. Their government is finding a problem to calm them down to sort out this problem,” Dr Okuonzi told the New Vision.

Dr Okuonzi called on the two countries to respect the Ngurdoto agreement that was signed in 2007 between Presidents Joseph Kabila and Museveni who agreed to halt any further construction in the disputed area until a joint technical verification is undertaken.

The border conflict flared two weeks ago after some Congolese extended the barrier at Vurra customs border post about 300 meters into the Ugandan territory and erected some structures.

According to some Congolese officials they were opening the land in the area they regarded as no-man’s land for the construction of a parking yard.

Leaders and residents in Vurra expressed alarm at the audacity of the Congolese youth who extended the barrier into Ugandan territory.

On Friday, Ugandan youth who had organized retaliation were dispersed by Ugandan police who fired tear gas at them.

Closure of the border has brought business there to a standstill with several drivers of transit trucks stranded.

Lule Semanda, a driver with Transit Uganda, said they had been harshly treated by the Congolese.

“The Congolese have mistreated us, they don’t allow us to check our vehicles and as I speak one of my colleague's battery and fuel were stolen,” Semanda said.

The leaders from both countries have planned to meet on Tuesday to forge a way forward.

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

L'ONU confie un mandat à la juge Marie Deschamps

ARTICLE

Source: Associated Press

Par Edith M. Lederer

Le secrétaire général des Nations unies, Ban Ki-moon, a désigné un comité indépendant, lundi, pour examiner la gestion par l'ONU des allégations d'agressions sexuelles sur des enfants par des soldats français en République centrafricaine.

22 Juin 2015 - Le porte-parole des Nations unies Stéphane Dujarric a annoncé que le comité serait présidé par l'ancienne juge à la Cour suprême du Canada Marie Deschamps, qui a livré ce printemps un rapport accablant sur l'inconduite sexuelle dans l'armée au Canada.

Le comité inclura aussi Hassan Jallow, de la Gambie, le procureur en exercice du Tribunal pénal international pour le Rwanda, et Yasmin Sooka, directrice générale de la Fondation pour les droits de l'homme en Afrique du Sud.

M. Dujarric a indiqué que le comité amorcerait ses travaux en juillet et livrerait son rapport, qui sera rendu public, dans un échéancier de dix semaines.

Des documents confidentiels ont montré que les plus hauts responsables des droits humains aux Nations unies n'avaient pas agi avant plus de six mois concernant les allégations d'agressions recueillies par le personnel de l'ONU, alors que les autorités françaises réclamaient plus d'information. La France a ouvert, le mois dernier, une enquête judiciaire formelle.

Les forces françaises sont arrivées en République centrafricaine à la fin 2013, et avaient un mandat des Nations unies de soutenir une opération de maintien de la paix de l'Union africaine qui a été remplacée par une mission onusienne en septembre dernier. Les soldats français n'ont jamais été sous un commandement des Nations unies.

L'ONU a été mise au fait, il y a un an, d'allégations de la part d'enfants, certains âgés de seulement neuf ans, d'agressions sexuelles contre eux par des soldats français, parfois

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en échange de produits alimentaires. Depuis ce temps, la seule personne ayant été sanctionnée est l'employé des Nations unies ayant averti les autorités françaises, Anders Kompass.

M. Dujarric a affirmé que le comité examinerait la justesse des procédures des Nations unies, incluant «toute allégation d'abus d'autorité ou de représailles par des hauts responsables».

Central African Republic: Ban appoints panel to investigate UN response to sexual abuse allegations

NEWS STORY

Source: UN News Centre

22 June 2015 - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed a panel to investigate the response of the United Nations to allegations of sexual abuse surrounding a deployment of foreign military forces in the Central African Republic (CAR), a spokesperson for the Organization has announced.

In a statement issued earlier this afternoon, the UN spokesperson confirmed that the Secretary-General remains “deeply concerned” by the allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse of children committed by foreign military forces not under UN command, as well as the Organization’s own response to the allegations.

The three-member panel – which will include Marie Deschamps of Canada; Hassan Bubacar Jallow of Gambia; and Yasmin Louise Sooka of South Africa – will aim to review both the allegations and the UN response and any shortcomings in existing procedures covering serious crimes by the Organization and related personnel, host State forces and non-State actors that it may become aware of during its review.

The panel will also conduct its work independently and will receive unrestricted access to all UN records and full access to staff members and other UN personnel, the statement added.

“The UN will make its best efforts to facilitate the access of the panel to non-UN personnel,” the spokesperson’s statement continued. “In addition to those that the panel may reach out to, any person who wishes to provide information relevant to the External Independent Review is encouraged to contact the panel directly through an external email address that will be announced shortly.”

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The three panel members will begin their work in July and aim to submit a report within ten weeks and will operate with the mandate to make recommendations on how the UN should respond to similar allegations in the future.

Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General on the appointment of a Panel on the External Independent Review of the United Nations response to allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse and other serious crimes by members of foreign military forces not under United Nations command in the Central African Republic

22 June 2015

The Secretary-General remains deeply concerned by the allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse of children by foreign military forces not under the command of the United Nations in the Central African Republic, and the United Nations system's response to these allegations.

The Secretary-General had previously announced his intention to set up a panel to conduct an External Independent Review into this matter.

He has, today, appointed the panel, which will be chaired by Ms. Marie Deschamps of Canada, a former Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. The other two members will be Mr. Hassan Jallow of the Gambia, the Prosecutor of the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), and Ms. Yasmin Sooka of South Africa, the Executive Director of the Foundation for Human Rights in South Africa.

The panel will review the United Nations response to the allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse of children by foreign military forces not under United Nations command and assess the adequacy of the procedures in place. This will include any allegations of abuse of authority or retaliation by senior officials. The panel may also look at any shortcomings in existing procedures covering serious crimes by United Nations and related personnel, host State forces and non-State actors that it may become aware of during its review.

The panel will conduct its work independently and will receive unrestricted access to all UN records and full access to staff members and other UN personnel. The UN will make its best efforts to facilitate the access of the panel to non-UN personnel. In addition to those that the panel may reach out to, any person who wishes to provide information relevant to the External Independent Review is encouraged to contact the panel directly through an external email address that will be announced shortly.

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The panel will begin its work in July and aim to submit its report within ten weeks. The panel is also mandated to make recommendations on how the UN should respond to similar allegations in the future and on any shortcomings in existing procedures. The Secretary-General will make this report public, subject to due process and confidentiality considerations.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE PANEL MEMBERS

Marie Deschamps (Canada) was called to the Quebec Bar in 1975 and subsequently practiced as a litigator at in family, civil, commercial law, criminal law at several law firms. She was appointed judge to the Quebec Superior Court in 1990, to the Court of Appeal in 1992, and to the Supreme Court in 2002. She retired from the judiciary in August 2012 and re-joined the Quebec Bar in 2013. She also sat on the 1986 advisory committee on reform of the Bankruptcy Act and on the Competition Tribunal advisory council. She serves as member of a number of committees and boards of directors. She has been an adjunct professor at the law schools of University of Sherbrooke since 2006 and McGill University since 2012. She served as the External Review Authority of the External Review into Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Harassment in the Canadian Armed Forces. She earned a licentiate in laws from the Université de Montréal in 1974 and an LLM from McGill University in 1983. The Université de Montréal and the University of Sherbrooke awarded her an honorary doctorate in 2008 and 2014, respectively. She was inducted as a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 2005. The Law School of McGill University bestowed the F. R. Scott award for distinguished service upon her in 2013, the same year that she was appointed Companion of the Order of Canada. She received the distinction of lawyer emeritus from the Quebec Bar in 2014.

Hassan Bubacar Jallow (Gambia) is currently the Prosecutor of the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), established by the United Nations Security Council with responsibility for investigating and prosecuting the principal perpetrators of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. He is concurrently the Prosecutor of the UN Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT) established in 2012 by the United Nations Security Council to take over the functions of the ICTR and the ICTY after their closure. Justice Jallow has served his country The Gambia as Solicitor General, Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, and as Justice of the Supreme Court of The Gambia. He was elected by the UN General Assembly as an ad litem Judge of the ICTY, and has served as a Judge of the Appeals Chamber of the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone as well as a member of the Commonwealth Arbitral Tribunal. He has also served the Commonwealth, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the African Union (AU) on human rights and governance issues. Justice Jallow is the author of several books and

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articles. He was awarded the honour of Commander of the National Order of the Republic of the Gambia (CRG).

Yasmin Louise Sooka (South Africa) is the Executive Director of the Foundation for Human Rights in South Africa. In 2010 and 2011 she was as a member of an Expert Advisory Panel on Sri Lanka to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. She was appointed by President Mandela to the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1995, where she served until the report was delivered in March 2003. In 2002 she was appointed by Mary Robinson, then High Commissioner for Human Rights, as an International Commissioner to the Truth Commission in Sierra Leone in 2002. She is widely regarded as an expert on Transitional Justice as well as gender and reparations. She has also worked extensively on Disappearances and Victims' Claims. She has served on a number of expert missions and regularly acts as consultant to several governments and civil society organizations.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN EXTERNAL INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE UNITED NATIONS RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE AND OTHER SERIOUS CRIMES BY MEMBERS OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES NOT UNDER UNITED NATIONAL COMMAND IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Background

1. The Secretary-General is deeply concerned by the serious allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse and other serious crimes in the Central African Republic ("CAR") by members of foreign military forces not under the command of the United Nations (the "Allegations") and the United Nations system's own response to the Allegations. Without prejudice to the primary responsibility of Governments concerned to ensure criminal accountability of their military personnel who are under their exclusive criminal jurisdiction, the Secretary-General has decided to appoint an external independent panel to review how the United Nations, including its separately administered funds and programmes and other subsidiary organs, responded to such Allegations and to make recommendations concerning how the United Nations should respond to allegations in the future that may raise similar issues, including allegations involving United Nations and related personnel, host State forces or non-State actors in the CAR (the "External Review").

Composition of the Panel

2. The External Review shall be conducted by a panel composed of three members, one of them appointed as Chair. Should the panel require external

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consultants to assist it with its work, the United Nations shall promptly engage such consultants in accordance with United Nations regulations and rules. The consultants shall be under the substantive authority of the panel.

Scope of the External Review

3. The panel shall gather, review and assess the facts and circumstances regarding the manner in which the United Nations responded to the Allegations, including any action taken or that should have been taken, bearing in mind the interests of the alleged victims and due process rights of those against whom allegations are made. The External Review shall include:
 - (i) A description of the procedures in place at the time in the CAR and in the United Nations generally to respond to the Allegations, including but not limited to, procedures relating to prevention, investigation, victim protection, and informing appropriate authorities of States or regional organizations for judicial or other responses;
 - (ii) An assessment of the adequacy of such procedures in the CAR and in the United Nations generally under the various mandates, including those of peacekeeping missions, special political missions, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant human rights entities;
 - (iii) An assessment of the actions taken, including whether such actions were in accordance with applicable procedures;
 - (iv) An assessment as to whether, at any stage, there was any incident of abuse of authority by senior officials, in connection with the Allegations, including in connection with the communication of the Allegations to one or more third parties, taking into account the procedures applicable to protection from retaliation and abuses of authority;
 - (v) Recommendations as to what steps can be taken to ensure that the Organization deals effectively and efficiently with future allegations that may raise similar issues. These recommendations shall take into account, as appropriate, considerations of capacity, resources, and other constraints.
4. The Allegations arise in the context of the conduct of members of foreign military forces not under the command of the United Nations. Allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse and other serious crimes by United Nations and related personnel, including military personnel under the unified command and operational control of the United Nations are addressed through separate procedures. These procedures are subject to ongoing review, including the

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Secretary-General's recent report "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse" dated 13 February 2015 which sets out proposals that build on the findings and recommendations of a report issued by a panel of experts. These procedures include but are not limited to: (i) the Staff Regulations and Rules, and administrative issuances, such as ST/SGB/2003/13 on "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse"; (ii) the Regulations Governing the Status, Basic Rights and Duties of Officials other than Secretariat Officials, and Experts on Mission; and (iii) the Model Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations and Troop Contributing Countries, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/267B, together with the "DPKO/DFS Standard Operating Procedures on Implementation of the amendments relating to conduct and discipline in the Model Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations and Troop Contributing Countries". If the panel, in the course of the External Review, becomes aware of shortcomings in the content or the implementation of existing procedures to address allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse and other serious crimes against United Nations and related personnel, including military personnel under the unified command and operational control of the United Nations, it shall make any recommendations it deems appropriate. Similarly, if the panel, in the course of the External Review, becomes aware of shortcomings in the content or the implementation of existing procedures to address allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse and other serious crimes against host State forces or non-State actors in the CAR, it shall make any recommendations it deems appropriate.

Cooperation of the United Nations, including its separately administered funds and programmes and other subsidiary organs

5. For the purpose of the External Review, the panel shall have unrestricted access to any United Nations records and information, written or otherwise, including any documents and other information collected or created by the Office of Internal Oversight Service (OIOS) in connection with the Allegations and any of its related investigations, to the extent consistent with OIOS' mandate.
6. For the purpose of the External Review, the panel shall have access to all United Nations staff members and other personnel, regardless of their seniority, who the panel considers to have pertinent information. In accordance with United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules, and administrative issuances, staff members shall cooperate with the panel and shall be accorded protection from retaliation resulting from such cooperation. The United Nations shall use its best efforts to facilitate the access of the panel to non-UN personnel.

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Report of the Panel

7. The panel shall use its best efforts to submit a report to the Secretary-General within ten weeks after the commencement of its work. If the panel foresees a delay beyond ten weeks, a notice of at least three weeks before the target date will be given to the Secretary-General setting forth the grounds for the extension.
8. The report shall include a chronology of the facts, an assessment of such facts, a description of existing procedures as well as an assessment of such procedures. The report shall also include recommendations as to action to be taken to address any violations of United Nations regulations, rules or administrative issuances as well as recommendations to improve the manner in which allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse and other serious crimes are addressed in the future.
9. The report and related documents shall be the property of the United Nations. The Secretary-General will make the report public, subject to due process and confidentiality considerations. In addition, the Secretary-General may use the report, parts thereof or any information collected by the panel in any manner the Secretary-General considers to be in the interests of the United Nations.

Conduct of the External Review

10. The panel shall carry out its work impartially, objectively and without influence by any internal or external authority, regardless of their status.
11. The panel shall ensure that its External Review is conducted with strict regard for confidentiality, fairness and due process of all concerned, and, in respect of United Nations personnel, in accordance with applicable United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules and administrative issuances. All information collected during the course of the External Review shall be handled with confidentiality by the panel. Exceptions to confidentiality are made for exigent circumstances including safety and security, the proper administration of justice and to preserve the Secretary-General's discretion as set forth in paragraph 9. Moreover, any individual named in the report of the panel shall, wherever practicable, have been interviewed by the panel and been provided with an opportunity to provide information. Any individual against whom an adverse observation has been made shall have an opportunity to submit written comments, wherever practicable, to the panel, which shall be annexed to the panel's report.

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KENYA

Visite de Barack Obama en Ethiopie et au Kenya en juillet prochain

ARTICLE

Source: Agence d'Information d'Afrique central

Par Noël Ndong

Le premier américain Barack Obama se rendra en Ethiopie en juillet prochain. À cette occasion, il s'entretiendra avec les responsables de l'Union africaine (UA), à Addis-Abeba

22 Juin 2015 - Cette visite s'inscrit « dans la continuité du sommet de Washington où plus de 40 pays africains s'étaient réunis en août 2014 », selon la Maison Blanche.

Barack Obama se rendra après au Kenya, terre natale de son père, où il prendra part au GlobalEntrepreneurship Summit qui se déroulera pour la première fois sur le continent africain.

Plus de 1000 chefs d'entreprises sont attendus à l'événement co-organisé par le Kenya et destiné à mettre en valeur la capacité d'innovation des entreprises africaines.

SOUTH AFRICA

S.Africa denies it hatched plan to protect Sudan's Bashir

NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

South Africa's government on Monday denied secretly plotting a safe exit from the country for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, despite an international arrest warrant on war crimes charges.

22 June 2015 - Bashir, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity over the conflict in Darfur, flew out of Pretoria last Monday despite a court order that barred his departure.

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South Africa's Sunday Times reported a secret meeting of top ministers that mapped a deal to protect Bashir. It alleged that Bashir was escorted from Johannesburg, where he attended an African Union summit, to his plane in Pretoria by President Jacob Zuma's personal security detail.

But the authorities said no such meeting took place.

"Government categorically denies that there was a secret meeting held by the security cluster ministers," government spokeswoman Phumla Williams said in a statement.

The government has come under fire from the ICC, rights groups, several other governments and by the opposition at home, over its failure to detain Bashir.

The High Court in Pretoria ordered the government to explain this week why it defied the order that barred Bashir from leaving.

Williams said the government is "expected to provide the court with a report that explains how President al-Bashir left the country".

Meanwhile, parliament will on Tuesday debate the issues surrounding Bashir's departure, the main opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) party said Monday.

The DA will also ask South Africa's ombudsman to investigate whether any public officials abused their powers to facilitate Bashir's departure from the country.

"It's clear that a number of individuals including the president, ministers ... have abused their powers, firstly by ignoring the court order and secondly by ignoring the constitutional obligation to detain him," DA spokesman Marius Redelinghuys told AFP.

Bashir has evaded justice since his indictment in 2009 for alleged serious abuses in the western Sudanese region of Darfur. The conflict began in 2003 when black insurgents rose up against his Arab-dominated government, protesting they were marginalised.

SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudanese rebel leader meets Kenyan president in Nairobi

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

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22 June 2015 - South Sudan's former vice-president, turned armed opposition leader, Riek Machar, has arrived in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, and held talks with President Uhuru Kenyatta at the State House on Monday.

The leader of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM-IO), according to his officials, arrived in Nairobi on Saturday from Johannesburg, South Africa, where he also held talks with a number of African and world leaders on the sidelines of the last week's African Union's summit of heads of state and government.

"He arrived in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, on Saturday. On Monday he met with President Uhuru Kenyatta of the Republic of Kenya. The discussions centred on the South Sudan's peace process and how best to achieve it," Machar's spokesman, James Gatdet Dak, told Sudan Tribune when contacted on Monday evening.

President Kenyatta is the rapporteur in the East African regional bloc, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which is chaired by the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn.

Dak said the top armed opposition leader on Monday also had consultative meetings with senior officials of the movement in Nairobi on issues of concern in promoting the peace process.

Back in Johannesburg, he said the armed opposition leader had fruitful engagement with African leaders, adding that he also distributed to the African Union's heads of state and government the movement's position paper on the peace process.

The rebel leader's spokesman added that their movement was committed to the IGAD-led peace process that would now involve a number of countries and bodies beyond the African continent.

He also said there was need to address the root causes of the conflict in order to achieve a negotiated meaningful peace agreement that will ensure no future return to similar differences and crisis in the country.

UN condemns shooting at IDPs in Juba

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

New York, 22 June 2015 - United Nations (UN) has condemned a Saturday shooting at the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) sheltered in the United Nations protection site in

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the South Sudanese capital, Juba, and vowed to investigate and find those responsible for the crime.

The United Nations headquarters in New York has issued a statement about the incident in which at least four IDPs women and one man were targeted and shot in a market near UN site in the capital on Saturday.

"From our colleagues at the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) – they report that five internally displaced persons (IDPs) – four women and one man — were shot during an incident early Saturday evening at a market area adjacent to the protection-of-civilians site in Juba," said UN's spokesman, Dujarric, in a released statement.

He said four of the wounded people were taken to a clinic inside the UN site for medical treatment and their conditions were serious. Other two displaced people were injured as they fled the scene of the shooting.

"And UNMISS is investigating the incident," he said.

However, IDPs sources contacted by Sudan Tribune alleged that security forces were responsible for the Saturday's shooting, saying they saw soldiers in uniform shooting at the IDPs women who went to the nearby market.

"They were soldiers of Salva Kiir who shot at the women in the market. They hate us to death. They believe everybody protected by the UN here is a supporter of Dr. Riek Machar," said Thomas Gatwech, referring to the armed opposition leader.

There are over 100,000 IDPs sheltered in many UN civilian protection sites scattered across the country since the war began in December 2013 and the number has been increasing. Majority of them are from Machar's Nuer ethnic group, who the arch political rival threatening president Kiir's leadership.

Meanwhile, Dujarric also accused the armed opposition faction led by Machar of denying permission to UN aircrafts to land in a government controlled town of Nasir which the rebels have allegedly besieged.

"UN aircrafts have been denied permission to land at the Mission's county support base in the Upper Nile State town of Nassir by armed opposition forces – this is for the 6th consecutive day," the UN statement further says.

"The amount of supplies for the UNMISS personnel stationed at the Nassir base is reaching critically low levels as a result of the inability to operate flights into Nassir," he said.

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The world body is concerned that as the rainy season begins, movement may be more difficult in a country which only has less than 200km tarmacked road out of over 7,000km roads network the government identified and earmarked to be tarmacked.

SUDAN

Sudan denies plan to assassinate President Salva Kiir

NEWS STORY

Source: Radio Tamazuj

Khartoum, 22 June 2015 - Sudan's Foreign Affairs Ministry has questioned the authenticity of documents released by WikiLeaks showing that Egypt sent agents to Sudan to plot the assassination of South Sudanese President Salva Kiir.

Ambassador Ali Al Sadiq, spokesman for the Sudanese ministry of foreign affairs, said in a press statement on Sunday that the document is untrue. He said the document aimed at spoiling diplomatic ties between the countries mentioned.

Meanwhile, the South Sudanese government confirmed that it obtained the document, but it expressed reservations about it.

"Thank God because we obtained the document, but we don't have anything to say," Ateny Wek Ateny, presidential spokesman, told Radio Tamazuj Sunday.

According to a document allegedly leaked from Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt and Sudan collaborated in a plot to assassinate South Sudan President Salva Kiir after independence in 2011.

The leaked document released on Friday by WikiLeaks, part of the first batch of 500,000 set to be published in the coming weeks, appears to show that the Saudi Foreign Minister, Saud al-Faisal, wrote to the Saudi King, who also serves as the Prime Minister, about the plan to kill Salva Kiir.

According to the document text, Egypt's intelligence apparatus sent "three of its most dangerous agents" to stay in Garden City area in Khartoum.

"The aim of sending them to Khartoum is to formulate a joint plan with the Sudanese intelligence for the elimination and assassination of Kiir and some of his aides," Faisal allegedly wrote.

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Sudan violence: Do not abandon people in Darfur urges US envoy to UN

NEWS STORY

Source: International Business Times

22 June 2015 - The US envoy to the UN has argued that peacekeepers must be retained in the region of Darfur, western Sudan, where thousands have been killed and displaced in rampant violence.

The request came after Sudan called for the Unamid mission - composed of UN and African Union (AU) forces - to leave the region.

Unamid has been attacked by rebel groups while Western countries accused the mission of not doing enough to protect civilians.

"The takeaways from today's meeting are clear - now is not the time to give up on Darfur," US Ambassador Samantha Power said in a statement after a UN Security Council meeting held on Friday (19 June).

"Now is not the time to withdraw UN peacekeepers, and now is not the time to abandon the people of Darfur."

Power also urged states with influence on Sudan to pressurise the country to allow greater humanitarian access and let Unamid carry out its mandate and protect civilians. She also called for UN sanctions and arms embargoes to be enforced.

Darfur conflict

The war in Darfur started in February 2003 when the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) rebel groups attacked the Sudanese government.

The government, accused of marginalising the non-Arab population in Darfur, retaliated to the attacks by carrying out the ethnic cleansing of non-Arabs.

Tens of thousands were killed during the genocide and Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir is wanted by the International Criminal Court, accused of crimes against humanity.

A ceasefire was signed seven years later, in February 2010. However, reports have warned that people are still being tortured, raped, persecuted and killed.

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In March 2014, a report by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said 55,000 people had been left displaced from Saraf Omra, West Darfur, following fighting between "paramilitary troops and government forces".

More than 50 villages were burned and 45,000 people displaced around Darfur.

Russia and China were accused by Amnesty International of supplying arms to Sudan and therefore contributing to the massacre.

Earlier in June, a high court in South Africa, where Bashir had flown to attend an AU summit, issued an arrest warrant for Bashir. However, he left South Africa before the warrant was enacted, sparking international outrage.

A hearing at Pretoria high court was scheduled for 15 June after a civil society organisation filed an application to change a government decision to grant diplomatic immunity to delegates attending the African Union (AU) summit.

The court was to decide whether Bashir had to be handed over to the ICC.