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



MEDIA MONITORING

25 August 2015

DRC

The Lord's Resistance Army is alive and well

OPINION

Source: <http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=45384#.VdwFPbKqqko>

By Dorothy Horsfield

25 August 2015 - At Canberra's UNHCR Donor Briefing, there is a map of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on the large screen behind the Congolese social activist Sister Angelique Namaika (pictured, left).

Dozens of small red marks are clustered on it, like flames, indicators of recent attacks by one of the world's oldest guerrilla armies.

For almost twenty years, across the settlements and subsistence farms of Central Africa the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has preyed upon civilian populations with exceptional cruelty, emerging from the bush in small units to commit unspeakable atrocities.

Like Nigeria's Boko Haram, its tactics have focused on the destruction of local villages, abducting and raping woman and young girls, sexual slavery, mutilation and the grooming of child soldiers.

For many outsiders, the LRA's endurance has proved difficult to understand. For Sister Angelique, there can only be a negotiated solution to the ongoing war through the

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bringing together of representatives of the fragmented and traumatised peoples across the region.

Others have pointed out that there is no longer the political will or the consensus about what exactly can or should be achieved by such an initiative. Moreover, there is the common assumption, especially outside the region, that the worst of the emergency has passed; the LRA has been decimated and scattered, its leader, Joseph Kony, in hiding and probably ineffectual.

As Sister Angelique insists, the latter assumption is much mistaken. Beyond the enclaves of Internally Displaced People who are protected by UN peacekeepers, she says, there is no security. Families have been broken apart, community connections are being lost, so that to risk returning to one's village for a funeral or a wedding is impossible. Recent history has shown that the army's sexual violence and other forms of brutality is now more widespread than ever, reaching across porous borders from the DRC into the Central African Republic and South Sudan.

Initially made up primarily of the Acholi people of northern Uganda, the LRA emerged in the late 1980s as an armed reaction to what was seen as political and economic discrimination by the Baganda-dominated central government. Though small in number, it rapidly acquired a cult-like dimension under Kony's charismatic leadership. A self-proclaimed visionary, Kony appeared to convince his followers that his instructions came to him directly from the Lord himself.

Even during that first decade, the LRA targeted its own Acholi villagers, as well as the Ugandan National Army. In March 2014 a United States Congressional Report estimated that the result was that 20,000 children were abducted and almost the entire northern population of two million Acholis was displaced in what the LRA described as a campaign of tribal 'purification'.

In 2008, the failure of the Juba negotiations between the Uganda government and the LRA to create a peaceful settlement was marked by a swift resort to a military offensive aimed at Kony and his leadership group. The government also offered immunity from prosecution for defectors, an initiative that was at least partially successful.

With financial and logistical support from the Bush Administration, Operation Lightning Strike was a combined effort of the Uganda People's Defence Forces and Congolese ground forces. It was poorly coordinated, with disastrous consequences. The LRA responded with massive reprisals against civilians, then reputedly under Kony's guidance formed into small groups and disappeared like shadows into the bush. Last year's Congressional Report described its current area of activity as vast and

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characterised by extremely minimal government influence and a limited humanitarian presence.

These days more emphasis is placed on Kony's highly-sophisticated understanding of the stratagems of guerrilla warfare and his creation of a culture of terror, than on his alleged heavenly guidance. It is also said that the LRA is now in 'survival mode'. In other words, its reduced membership has devolved into dispersed cohorts of men sustained by a warrior culture of sadistic violence, and whose political demands and economic agenda are singularly vague.

Recent reports have also suggested a new dimension of criminality with their involvement in elephant poaching and ivory trading. Above all, as with all highly-effective guerrilla armies, the question remains whether the LRA is experiencing a brief hiatus before its resurgence in the face of the weakening of international and regional efforts to contain it.

Speaking at the UNHCR Donor Briefing, Sister Angelique denies there are any conclusive reasons for yielding to pessimism about her country's future. She describes her community of women and children in her home region of Dungu as 'a village of hope'. Trauma takes a long time to heal, she says, so we needed activities that give these women a sense of self-worth and a means to make a living.

Since 2008, they have established a bakery, sewing training, a market garden and a school for the children. And the challenges? To obtain funds for a school house, an orphanage, a clinic and for clean drinking water. Nevertheless, with the courage of the women, she says, look at what has already been achieved.

BURUNDI

New Burundian Government Retains Key Ministers

NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

25 August 2015 - Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza Monday announced a new government following his re-election to a controversial third term. Observers note several key ministers from the ruling CNDD-FDD party have been retained.

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They include Foreign Minister Alain Nyamitwe, who told VOA recently Nkurunziza is ready to form a more inclusive unity government.

Innocent Muhozi, general manager of the banned independent Renaissance Radio and Television Network of Burundi, said the return of Alain Guillaume Bunyoni as Public Security minister suggests Nkurunziza wants to continue the crackdown on his critics.

“This new government, for me, is not a surprise because it includes the main figures of the former government, including the foreign affairs minister, the defense minister, and the finance minister. Then, there’s also the comeback of the former security minister, Alain Guillaume Bunyoni, who in the Hutu days was seen as one of the main figures of the ruling party and the government. So, it seems that it is a government of non-inclusion, but may be willing to fight against those they will have to confront,” he said.

The new government includes Emmanuel Ntahomvukiye as Defense Minister, Madame Aimee Laurentine Kanyana as Justice Minister, Tabu Abdallah Manirakiza as Finance Minister and Pascal Barandagiye as Interior Minister.

At his inauguration earlier this month, Nkurunziza promised a more inclusive government of national unity. He also said he would welcome a review of Article 129 of the constitution, which excludes parties with less than five percent of the vote from being part of a national unity government.

Muhozi said there is nothing inclusive about the new government. Instead, he said, the new government has become more repressive.

“I don’t see anything inclusive in this new government. As has been said by many observers, if you look at what is going on every day, people are arrested, people are tortured, people are disappearing and many people believe the police or the intelligence agency are responsible for those things. It is quite clear that what is going on is just a continuation of what has been going on,” Muhozi said.

Muhozi said it would be impossible to have a government of national unity at the moment in Burundi.

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Burundi holds village-based elections amid violence

NEWS STORY

Source: Xinhua

Bujumbura, 24 August 2015 - At least 3.8 million Burundian citizens are Monday going to the polls in village-based elections, the last elections that are concluding the country's 2015 controversial electoral process amid mounting violence in the east African nation.

At least 2,847 chiefs of villages and neighborhoods are to be elected countrywide in the village-based elections that are concluding the country's electoral race whose first elections took place on June 29 with legislative and communal polls.

The spokesman at the Burundian home affairs ministry has invited all Burundian citizens to respond to the elections.

"We take this opportunity to invite all citizens to massively participate in the village-based (elections). All of us Burundians from villages and neighborhoods are appealed to go and elect village leaders, that is, five persons per village or neighborhood that includes the village chief," said Therence Ntahiraja, spokesman at the country's home affairs ministry.

According to Ntahiraja, village or neighborhood chiefs are elected as independent candidates and not as part of their political parties.

According to him, those elections are important for the development of the smallest administration entity.

"Those (village or neighborhood) leaders are very important because they are the ones through whom citizens channel their issues to be taken to the zonal, communal or provincial level because the village or the neighborhood is the root of the administration," said Ntahiraja.

He called on all Burundian citizens to do all they can to support their friends in their native villages so that elections are carried out even better than before.

Meanwhile, the village-based elections are taking place while violence is mounting in the east African nation.

The latest violence case is the assassination on Saturday night of Pontien Barutwanayo, administrator of Isale Commune in Bujumbura Rural Province.

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The opposition boycotted the country's 2015 electoral race, arguing that conditions were not met for credible and inclusive elections due to the third term bid of Burundian president Pierre Nkurunziza that they said was a violation of the national Constitution and the 2000 Arusha Agreement.

Burundi: Tensions grow with government of Rwanda as more arrests are reported

NEWS STORY

By Elsa Buchanan

Source: International Business Times

24 August 2015 - Public tensions between the governments of Burundi and Rwanda have risen after it emerged that many Rwandan nationals are being held by Burundian security agencies. On Saturday 22 August, Rwandan Minister of Foreign Affairs Louise Mushikiwabo posted a message on Twitter in which she said Rwanda's government had "raised the issue with [the] Burundi Government in many ways", including via its ambassador to Rwanda, Rwanda's embassy in Bujumbura and Burundi's foreign minister.

The minister's tweet came as more than 30 Rwandans travelling to Bujumbura were "disembarked on several occasions, arrested and taken to unknown destinations", according to the New Times. Earlier this month, two Rwandans were held in Bujumbura, Burundi, on allegations of espionage.

Joseph Mbonyinshuti and Aimé Nkundabatware were held at a facility in Kirundo Province for about a week before being transferred to Bujumbura and handed over to the crime investigations department. Rwanda's ambassador to Burundi, Amadin Rugira, insisted the charges were "fake".

In a later tweet, however, Mushikiwabo said that Burundi "has complex difficulties" and that there was "no need to add Rwanda". The minister added that "Burundians are welcome to Rwanda any time". More than 72,000 Burundian refugees currently live in Rwanda.

Widespread use of torture: Amnesty

The news comes as Amnesty International published a damning report on Monday 24 August, in which it reported that Burundi security forces used iron bars and acid to force

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confessions and crush opposition during President Pierre Nkurunziza's successful bid for a third term in office.

The report also accuses both the police and National Intelligence Service (SNR) of carrying out "torture and other ill-treatment" since 26 April 2015 against people suspected of participating in protests against Nkurunziza's controversial bid.

The findings echo similar testimonies gathered by IBTimes UK, including one in which a man said he police officers tortured him with tear gas until he choked.

Analysts: Burundi Crisis Not Over

OPINION

Source: Associated Press

21 August 2015 - Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza was sworn in for a third term last Thursday, as critics continue to accuse him of hijacking democracy by breaking terms limits in the nation's constitution.

In taking the oath of office, Nkurunziza swore to uphold the constitution and defend the best interests of the Burundian nation. But the United States said it was an inauguration without a government that represents the population's many political voices, and won't resolve the political and security crisis in Burundi.

John Mbaku, professor of economics at Weber State University in Utah, a non-resident fellow at the Brookings Institution and author of many books on democracy and political transition in Africa, says Nkurunziza's inauguration for a third term leaves a lot of unanswered questions.

If he wants to rehabilitate himself, Mbaku says, there are a few steps he ought to take.

"Number one, he has to form a government of national unity — some government that represents all the factions within the country, not just members of his political party and ethnic group," he said. "The second thing he has to do is stop demonizing the opposition using his born-again status to condemn anybody who opposes him."

Stephanie Schwartz, a consultant with the U.S. Institute for Peace, says "an inauguration doesn't mean that the crisis is over."

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"The state of affairs in term has not changed. They have been moving toward some sort of mediation process in July, but that has not really gone anywhere," she said. "This crisis will not be resolved without some sort of political dialogue."

Without peace, says Mbaku, Nkurunziza will not be able to move the country forward, and therefore "needs to figure out a way to put together a constitution that's relevant to the country's history, realities and problems so they would have within the country a set of laws and institutions that can help the people of Burundi live together peacefully."

He also needs to provide an environment that is conducive to investment, not only from outside entities but from local people so they can develop the country, Mbaku says.

Burundi has been plagued by violence since Nkurunziza announced his candidacy for a third term that many in Burundi and elsewhere insist is illegal. Burundi's constitutional court ruled he was eligible because he was first elected by parliament, not voters, in 2005.

The U.N. refugee agency says about 180,000 have recently fled the country. Nkurunziza has pleaded for their return. But Schwartz says it won't be easy because migrant repatriation transcends humanitarian and logistical issues.

"Conflict at the local level in Burundi before the crisis has always been about issues between returnees and those who stayed," she said. "That's still going to be a serious issue for Burundi as it continues to look to the future."

A report published by Amnesty International accuses Burundian security agencies of detaining and torturing anti-government protesters.

Mbaku says one way to stop the violence in Burundi is for this president to assume this term in power is an interim government that will reconstruct the state and provide institutions that can move the country forward.

"If he genuinely does it, I think the international community, including the African Union, will support that kind of initiative."

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SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudanese rebels say happy with the peace deal

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

24 August 2015 - The armed opposition faction of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM-IO) said they are happy with the peace agreement their leadership signed on 17 August in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, to end the 20-month long civil war in the country.

The rebel group under the leadership of former vice president, Riek Machar, have been at war with President Salva Kiir's government since 15 December 2013, when internal political debates over reforms within the ruling SPLM party turned violent.

East African regional bloc, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), has been mediating between the two rival factions since January 2014. However, a recent IGAD-Plus peace proposal made it possible to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Machar inked the deal but president Kiir has been reluctant to sign it with observers however saying he will have no other option but to follow suit under regional and international pressure.

Rebels said although they had some reservations in the document, it was worth it to end the suffering of the people.

"Of course the IGAD-Plus peace document has not addressed all our concerns. It is however a bitter pill we have decided to swallow in order to end the suffering of our people," Machar's press secretary, James Gatdet Dak, told Sudan Tribune on Monday.

He said there are many positive aspects in the document which will change the country, saying their leader was put in charge of the reforms agenda they had been yearning for.

"As the saying goes, South Sudan will never be the same again. The fact that the peace agreement has given the responsibility to the office of the First Vice President to ensure the implementation of the agreement, and to initiate reforms in the government, is something we really like," he said.

He also said the rebel leader will oversee preparation and consideration of government business and programmes as well as ensure implementation of the Council of Ministers' resolutions and laws passed by the national parliament.

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Machar, he added, will also chair cabinet clusters which will be responsible for initiating policies in various ministries that will be tabled to cabinet meetings for approval.

Dak added that this is besides the fact that the opposition leader will remain the commander-in-chief of his forces for a period of one and a half years with his separate chief of general staff for the SPLA-IO and the rest of military leadership as well as areas of control.

“This is to say there are many positive aspects in the peace deal as there are also some negative aspects,” he said.

He revealed that one of the provisions that the rebel supporters did not like most was maintaining president Kiir, whom they accused of genocide, as the president of the country for the period of transitional government, but added that this was the cost of ending the war so that the issue of leadership will be tackled through elections.

He however said the “collegial decision-making process” in the top executive leadership per the peace deal has arrested president Kiir’s powers not to unilaterally make decisions as he will have to first consult and agree with the first vice president and cabinet, on major matters in implementing the agreement and administering the would-be cabinet.

Official sources who attended an expanded consultative meeting in Juba on Monday by the collective leadership of the government which was chaired by president Kiir revealed to Sudan Tribune that Kiir will lead a delegation to Addis Ababa by the end of the week and sign the peace deal.

South Sudan cabinet still debating peace deal

NEWS STORY

Source: Radio Tamazuj

25 August 2015 - South Sudan’s cabinet minister has hinted that President Salva Kiir is seriously considering signing the outstanding IGAD-Plus peace proposal.

The document was already signed last week by Riek Machar, who heads the SPLA-IO, and Pagan Amum on behalf of a group of former political detainees. Kiir requested an additional 15 days to consult on the deal.

In a press statement following an expanded cabinet meeting Monday in Juba, Cabinet Minister Martin Elia Lomuro said peace is paramount in South Sudan. He also said the

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meeting focused on specific reservation points in the agreement, including security issues and power-sharing arrangements in Upper Nile state.

He said further discussion on those points was still needed before Kiir would sign and predicted a final decision will be reached during the next cabinet meeting, though he did not say when that would take place.

The expanded meeting, which Kiir chairs, includes national ministers, state governors, heads of commissions, some political parties and the chairs of the parliament's specialized committees.

AU Consults Kagame on S. Sudan Debacle

NEWS STORY

Source: KT Press (Rwanda)

25 August 2015 - The African Union envoy to South Sudan met President Paul Kagame on Monday seeking advice on the best approach to end violence in the oil-rich nation.

Former Mali President, Alpha Oumar Konaré, who serves as the AU's Representative to Africa's youngest nation, met president Kagame and discussed useful ideas how reverse the a failed truce last week.

"We have come here to seek President Kagame's analysis and consultations on what he thinks should be the solution to ending violence in S. Sudan," Konaré told journalists.

Konaré told KT Press that the situation in South Sudan is going volatile, and "needs every African leader's voice in stopping the violence."

The African Union Commission established an ad-hoc committee of five member states including Rwanda, Chad, Nigeria and South Africa, to help mediate and provide lasting solutions.

Rwanda has deployed over 800 troops serving under the UN Mission in S. Sudan (UNMISS) and helped provide security to civilians. The AU believes President Kagame understands the state of affairs in S. Sudan and might offer suggestions.

"Kagame's analysis and consultations have a big influence among the remaining four countries," he told KT Press.

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Sudan's President Salva Kiir declined to sign the peace deal with rebels led by his ex-deputy, Riek Machar that 'would end the three-year violence, prompting the US and UK to announce possible sanctions if President Kiir stood his ground.

However, Konaré defended President Kiir that he did not internationally refused to sign the peace deal as a sign of delaying the process, but because "there was miscommunication and he had to review the draft paper first."

Konaré said all African leaders should help S. Sudan get out of the violent mess. "The issue of South Sudan is a continental one...I call upon African leaders to make it their own," he said.

South Sudan admits killing civilians in Unity state

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

23 August 2015 - A senior government official from South Sudan's oil-rich Unity state has admitted civilians were killed by government forces in an operation against rebels led by former vice president Riek Machar, but blamed the latter for starting the war which resulted to the massacre of the civilians in the area controlled by the rebels.

Commissioner of Mayom county, Colonel Bol Mayak, in an exclusive interview with Sudan Tribune on Sunday said "yes civilians were killed by government forces" between May and July in the southern part of the state capital, Bentiu, when government forces launched military offensive in the area.

Earlier last month, the United Nations mission in South Sudan and Human Right Watch (HRW) accused government forces of carrying out deadly attack on civilians, killing hundreds and displacing hundreds of thousands of people during a village to village hunting of the civilians in Rubkotni, Guit, Koch, Leer and Mayiandit counties in the state. Government officials however denied the accusations at the time.

However, commissioner Mayak of Mayom county confirmed to Sudan Tribune that civilians were truly massacred in the aforementioned areas but blamed the whole crime on rebel leader, Machar, for allegedly starting the war over "greed for power" and to deny sons of Bul-Nuer power in the state.

"We know why Riek Machar took up arms; the reason was he does not want a son from Mayom County to lead this state. When Dr. Joseph Nguen Monytil [current governor]

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was appointed by president he was the first person who condemned and referred to it as an unconstitutional,” he said.

Mayak added that the rebel leader did not want anyone from Mayom to enjoy the seat of governorship in Unity state, accusing him for using former governor Taban Deng Gai as a tool of political interest during his regime when he was vice president to President Salva Kiir.

CALL FOR BREAKAWAY STATE

The commissioner of Mayom, home to Bul-Nuer allied to president Kiir from Warrap state of Dinka ethnic group, also said it was better for the Bul-Nuer to split from the rest of the Nuer communities and former their own state curved from Unity state, claiming their community was being hated by the rest of the Nuer for siding with the Dinka.

He directly appealed to president Kiir to save the Bul-Nuer by taking them away from the rest of the Nuer because of the hatred generated over their support to him during the crisis, saying the IGAD-Plus peace deal will trigger a revenge on Bul-Nuer from the other Nuer communities.

“Already every Nuer from Unity state hates us [Bul-Nuer] because we have stood with you as president of republic of South Sudan. And again you want to hand us [over] to our enemies, this is unacceptable. You should have separated us from the rest,” he said.

“We citizen of Mayom say yes we want peace, but it shouldn’t be in favor of Riek Machar rebels. We have done a lot to protect Salva Kiir led government, but not to extend of selling us away,” he lamented.

He urged president Kiir to declare Mayom County a separate state from the rest of Unity state before signing and implementing the IGAD-Plus peace agreement.

“The life of these citizens will be in great risk once more when we are brought together in one state. The rebels will play their dirty game against us, so we fear for our lives,” he added.

NO SEPARATE STATE

Buay Keke, a deputy principal for Kampala rebel based representative, rubbished partition of Unity state, referring to the commissioner’s claim as lacking basis. He told Sudan Tribune in a separate phone interview that Mayom county commissioner should not think forming another state would make him run away from the crimes he and his colleagues committed against civilians in defending president Kiir.

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But he said although elements from the Bul-Nuer community have been known for betraying the Nuer community and selling it to president Kiir, yet there was no hatred in the movement against the Bul-Nuer community.

“The movement we are fighting for has nothing to do with hatred. We have people from Greater Bhar-el-Gazal, greater Equatoria and greater Upper Nile states. We have full evident that crimes committed by pro-government [forces] in southern part of the state were not from Mayom citizens, but the leaders who have ordered and instructed the army against civilians,” he said.

He also dismissed that call that Mayom County should be created as a separate state for the purposes of running away from the crimes, adding that there is also a process in creation of new states.

“It is not a word of mouth to divide a state, it needs a lot of work. First you need to consult the people, know the population and territorial boundaries,” he added.

The rebel representative said the war has people who support either sides, but warned such claims by individuals is a big threat to the country unity.

“You cannot rush to wrong decision when people are trying to bring peace. The people in Unity state have no problem among themselves, they are brothers and sisters who use to eat in the same plates and has nothing to do with politics of killing,” he said.

Bul-Nuer community has been largely disguised by the rest of the Nuer as a “sell-out” community which has sided with the enemy that massacred tens of thousands of member so the Nuer community in Juba, including members from the Bul-Nuer who died from 15 December 2013.

The current government appointed governor of Unity state, Joseph Nguen Monytil and his brother, General Bapiny Monytil and General Puljang, who have been fighting against the Nuer-led rebellion in Unity state are all from the Bul-Nuer community.

Two rationales for imposing sanctions on South Sudan

OPINION

Source: <http://africanarguments.org/2015/08/24/two-rationales-for-imposing-sanctions-on-south-sudan/>

By: Alex de Waal

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24 August 2015 - The UN Security Council is currently debating a proposed resolution, drafted by the US, that would impose an arms embargo and targeted sanctions on South Sudan in the event that President Salva Kiir fails to sign the new peace agreement by 2 September.

The rationale for an arms embargo is clear. The only question is: why was this not imposed 20 months ago, in December 2013, when the conflict broke out?

Enforcement of an arms embargo will require the cooperation of neighbouring countries – notably Uganda and Sudan – which will require additional measures if it is to work. But in principle it is the right thing to do.

Sanctions against members of the South Sudanese political and military leadership can serve either or both of two purposes. One is an anti-corruption measure. This would be tracking the illicit capital flight of South Sudan's kleptocrats, with the intent of confiscating their ill-gotten gains and using the funds to benefit the South Sudanese people.

This should be done anyway and is not a political measure as such. Furthermore, it should be simpler to track the illicit wealth of South Sudan's thieving class than many others, because those individuals long enjoyed the confidence of Western countries and solidarity groups, and never considered that they might be targeted in this way. This means that South Sudan's kleptocrats have invested in countries that are relatively accessible and transparent, and have taken few precautions to hide their assets.

An international commission of inquiry into the theft of South Sudanese wealth might be able to locate billions of dollars of stolen wealth. But the track records of such efforts in other countries suggest this isn't likely to solve the South Sudan's financial crisis.

The second function of individual sanctions would be to punish South Sudanese leaders for failing to take steps to end the war or promote appropriate reform. Given the moral culpability of those who began this war, perpetrated mass killing, and failed to stop the fighting, targeting them in this way is a deserved first step.

But we should not imagine that punishment of this kind is the same as addressing South Sudan's political economy of warlordism. The two are different.

South Sudan's politics operates on market principles, not essentially dissimilar to northern Sudan, but perhaps rather cruder. Political survival is determined by the iron laws of the marketplace: the politician needs a political budget sufficient to secure the loyalty of subordinates and to compete with rivals. Sanctions and other coercive financial measures squeeze politicians' political budgets, but they don't reduce the

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demands that they face from rivals and clients. They simply make political business management more difficult.

The major reason for South Sudan's current political crisis is that the financial collapse following the shutdown in oil production in 2012 made the country's patronage system unworkable. The war worsened the financial vice on the government but did not change the character of the system. Targeted sanctions would further reduce the availability of political finance, and as a result make South Sudan's system even less governable.

The reason President Kiir is reluctant to sign the new peace agreement in Addis Ababa is not because he is evil or irrational. It is because he has a limited and shrinking political budget, the price of loyalty has not decreased, and the number of claimants on those funds is increasing. In the current political marketplace system, he cannot make peace without more money. And as the central political budget shrinks, the degree of political-military fragmentation increases.

On 17 August, the original deadline for signing the peace deal set by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) mediators, Kiir dismissed a number of governors, replacing them with his own loyalists – a simple and classic means of reducing political financial outlay. However, without an increase in oil revenues or an inflow of political-financial support from a foreign sponsor, the president is still stuck.

Political accommodation on a dwindling political budget is political suicide. His best bet is prevarication: to manage the crisis from week to week in the hope that an unanticipated turn of events will work in his favour. Meanwhile, he will assess whether the threatened sanctions will be worse for his political survival than the IGAD agreement.

Sanctions aren't necessarily the wrong step, but they're a tool, not a strategy. The threat of sanctions might bring Kiir back to the negotiating table to sign. And, threatened or imposed, they might also accelerate the political management crisis in Juba. Individually-targeted sanctions strike at the personalised political business management that form the sinews of South Sudan's governance.

The deeper problem, however, is that the IGAD agreement will not, of course, resolve any of South Sudan's systemic problems in of itself. If peace is to come to South Sudan, the marketised political system needs to be transformed. This means democratisation, but the international coercive toolkit doesn't have the instruments for this task. It is unfortunate that peace in South Sudan is defined in terms of what the US and other external players can do, rather than what South Sudanese people need.

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SUDAN

S Sudan 'keen' on mending Sudan ties

NEWS STORY

Source: Xinhua

25 August 2015 - Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on Monday received a written message from his South Sudanese counterpart Salva Kiir Mayardit dealing with the realisation of peace in the South Sudan and the bilateral ties.

The message was delivered to al-Bashir by South Sudan's Presidential Adviser Tot Galwak who arrived in Khartoum on Monday.

"The message deals with the realisation of peace in South Sudan and the bilateral relations," Galwak told reporters after meeting President al-Bashir on Monday.

"The message reiterated South Sudan's readiness to communicate with Sudan with regard to the outstanding files between Khartoum and Juba," he noted.

He reiterated his country's keenness to sustain the good neighbourliness with Sudan to enable the two countries to live side by side in peace.

He further commended President al-Bashir's supportive stances to the peace process in his country.

South Sudan has been witnessing a civil war since December 2013 when fighting erupted between troops loyal to President Kiir and defectors led by his former deputy Riek Machar.

Last week, leader of South Sudan's major rebel group Machar signed a peace deal proposed by the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development in Africa with the Secretary General of the ruling party Pagan Amum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

However, South Sudan's President Salva Kiir Mayardit refused to sign the deal and asked for a two-week extension

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Sudanese youth leader accused UN mission of bias

NEWS STORY

Source: Radio Tamazuj

Khartoum, 24 August 2015 - The head of Sudan's National Youths & Students Authority to Advocate for Abyei has accused the United Nations mission there of preventing Ngok Dinka and Misseriya tribes from entering the area.

Mahmud Ibrahim Abdel-Karim, the leader of the Authority called on the UN Interim Security Forces for Abyei (UNISFA) to operate in accordance with their mandate, which requires to allow people from both groups to return to their areas of origin.

In a press statement, Abdel-Karim said the voluntary return of the Dinka and Misseriya tribes to Abyei will bring about stability, development and peace in the contested region. Both South Sudan and Sudan claim the territory. He also said their return would boost agricultural production in the area.

State-run media reported that UNISFA prevented 5,000 Dinka and Misseriya families from entering the area.'

TANZANIA

Tanzania Ruling Party Suffers Yet another Defection as Campaigning Begins

NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

By James Butty

24 August 2015 - Campaigning for Tanzania's October 25th presidential elections began Sunday. The ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party has dominated Tanzanian politics since independence in 1964. This time, observers say, the race promises to be the closest in that country's history.

The CCM has suffered two major defections to the opposition. First, former Prime Minister Edward Lowassa, once seen as a possible ruling party nominee, left and became the presidential candidate for a coalition of four major opposition parties.

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On Saturday Frederick Sumaye, who was Prime Minister from November 1995 to December 2005 under President Benjamin Mkapa, also left the ruling party, to join the opposition CHADEMA party.

Freeman Mbowe, chairman of CHADEMA, said the two former Prime Ministers left CCM because they are convinced the party has failed to bring meaningful development to Tanzania.

“Apparently Mr. Sumaye has left CCM because he’s convinced that CCM is not the party that will be able to really steer Tanzania into fundamental development that is desperately needed in this country. And in this case he has decided to join forces with other former Prime Minister who is our presidential candidate in the general elections in October,” he said.

There have been reports that Ibrahim Lipumba, chairman of the Civic United Front party, Tanzania’s second-biggest opposition party, had resigned in protest over Lowassa becoming the presidential candidate of the opposition.

Mbowe said Sumaye had said he left the ruling CCM party to strengthen the opposition, and not to seek any leadership position.

“According to the press conference that took place in Dar es Salaam, where he announced his departure from CCM to the opposition, he (Sumaye) did mention that he’s not coming into the opposition because he is seeking any particular post. But he thinks it is high time that Tanzania strengthens the opposition so we will have two main political parties like the way it is in the U.S., where you have Democrats and Republicans or the way it is in the U.K. where they have the Labour Party and the Conservatives,” Mbowe said.

He said the opposition welcomes the defection of other experienced ruling CCM supporters because the opposition wants to form the next Tanzanian government.

Mbowe said both Sumaye and Lowassa have said they left the ruling party because it was corrupt and also because it failed to bring meaningful development to Tanzania.

“They both confessed that the government of the day in Tanzania under the CCM party is a very corrupt government. They also claimed that the government has mismanaged the economy lost mandate to lead the development of this country,” Mbowe said.

He also said the two defecting former Prime Ministers blamed the CCM for the way the party handled the nomination process of John Magufuli as the CCM’s presidential candidate.

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“They think the process was not democratic. They were kind of sidelined in the process; they felt justice was not done to all the candidates the way it’s supposed to be according to the regulations and the constitution of the CCM party,” Mbowe said.

Addressing supporters Sunday when the CCM launched its campaign for the October election, CCM candidate Magufuli promised to end “corruption, embezzlement, theft and abuse of office” if elected Tanzania’s next president.

Magufuli also promised to set up a “special court to deal with the corrupt, economic saboteurs and embezzlers”.

Tanzania: United Nations Impressed By Development, Turns 70

NEWS STORY

Source: Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

By Deus Ngowi

23 August 2015 - The 70th anniversary of the United Nations (UN) was commemorated at the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro, with the UN hailing Tanzania for significant positive developments.

Speaking during the event marked by tree-planting at Maruwa Village, Kirua Vunjo, Moshi Rural District, the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr Alvaro Rodriguez noted that the 70th anniversary gives the UN an opportunity to reflect on their achievements, take stock of where they are and how they wish to continue to partner with Tanzania.

"Since the independence of Tanzania, the UN has worked with the government to ensure that Tanzania and its people can enjoy the benefits of peace and development.

Throughout the years we have witnessed significant positive developments, even though there are of course still challenges to be addressed," he said.

He cautioned that the world is changing fast and not Tanzania or the UN is immune to the changes, meaning that UN needs to adapt to new challenges. In that regard, he said, they have embarked on a process of significant change with a business plan in which all UN agencies work under single umbrella.

Traditionally, the UN Day would be celebrated on October 24th every year, but since the country is scheduled to hold its general election on October 25th, this year, it was

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decided that the ceremony, which is more special as the UN attains 70 years, be held this month.

He said the UN tries to focus attention on new and emerging priorities as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) come to an end this year and shifts it to the Sustainable Development Goals and the post - 2015 development agenda.

Areas covered are people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. Expounding on the MDGs, Mr Rodriguez noted that significant progress has been achieved, although as they come to an end there are some unfinished business.

He said the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would stimulate action over the next 15 years in areas of critical importance for both humanity and the planet.