

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

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



MEDIA MONITORING

25 June 2015

GENERAL NEWS

At 70th anniversary of UN Charter, ideals are still out of reach

ANALYSIS

Source: Deutsche Presse-Agentur

By Eموke Bebiak

New York, 23 June 2015 - The United Nations is celebrating the 70th anniversary of its inception this year starting with commemorating the signing of its founding document on Friday, however, crises looming around the world are a solemn reminder of the failures of the world body.

Signed on June 26, 1945, in San Francisco, California, the UN Charter set out "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" by making the maintenance of international peace and security its main priority.

However, 70 years after the historic document was signed, the organization has failed to fulfill this mandate on several occasions, most recently in Syria and Ukraine, largely because of political deadlock among the five veto-powers with permanent seats on the UN Security Council.

"I see the problems stemming from the use of the veto or the threat of the veto in the Security Council," said UN Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson in a recent interview with dpa.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

"I think generally the fact that the Security Council has not been able to produce a formula on Syria has already hurt the Security Council and hurt the United Nations."

Paul Kennedy, a history professor at Yale University specializing in international relations, agreed with Eliasson's assessment saying the UN has lived up to its founding ideals "very poorly."

"National governments and national interests are the number one reason why the United Nations has such a limited effectiveness," Kennedy said.

He noted that the veto was meant to be used as a very selective tool by the five world powers - the US, Russia, China, Britain and France - when their vital national interests were threatened, however, it has become a political tool that often prevents the council from acting.

"Disasters occur because big men in big governments didn't see the need to act or were opposed to act," Kennedy said.

"The world organization's security measures have failed precisely because big powers refused to act. So who failed? It was the governments of the big powers who failed."

While the veto is not mentioned explicitly in the UN Charter, the document calls for agreement among the permanent members of the council, which was an innovation over the League of Nations, the predecessor of the UN, which was later disbanded because major powers weren't behind it.

"The UN Charter is a combination of idealism and realism," said Alan Henrikson, a professor of diplomatic history and the director of Diplomatic Studies at Tufts University's The Fletcher School.

"The big change ... was to recognize that great power consensus was indispensable."

While the veto was meant to motivate major powers to use the UN as a platform of dialogue and an instrument to stem conflicts, its repeated use in cases where no vital interests of the permanent members were involved has often rendered the council powerless.

The Israeli-Palestinian question, which has been on the UN's agenda since its inception, exemplifies this paralysis.

The State of Israel was created in 1947 under UN General Assembly resolution 181, which also called for the creation of a Palestinian state.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

However, the Palestinian state never materialized mainly because of vetoes cast by the United States, which is an ally of Israel.

Riyad Mansour, Palestinian ambassador to the UN, said it was "very unique" of the UN to take upon itself the Palestinian question, which was thrust upon the world body by Britain as the country was set to end in 1948 its League of Nations mandate that had formalized its rule in the region.

"It is one of the biggest failures of the United Nations that it took upon itself to resolve a situation that existed in Palestine on the eve of the termination of the British mandate, and after 70 years it is still unable to bring it to a closure," Mansour said.

He noted that the UN should have rejected Britain's request to resolve the issue and should have called on Britain to give independence to Palestinians as it was the case with most territories that gained independence after colonial rule.

Another major failure of the council was the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. Even though a UN observation force was on the ground, the UN troops didn't get the necessary backing from the council to stop the slaughter of an estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

"If 400 French heavily armed troops had gone in, this would have been stopped," Kennedy said. "It was a failure at the very top."

While the UN has not lived up to its mandate on peace and security, UN agencies independent from the council have made strides in global development, aid and creating international guidelines.

The UN's millennial development goals, adopted in 2000, have called on governments to meet global benchmarks on development by 2015. Similar goals for the next 15 years are being formulated.

Guidelines, which Henrikson called "rules of the road," include international standards on aviation, health, refugees and atomic energy.

The UN is also playing a pivotal role in coordinating efforts towards an agreement to mitigate climate change.

"Various agencies deserve quite a good pat on the back, they have come quite a long way since 20 years ago or 70 years ago," Kennedy said.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Africa: Why We Need to Think About Peace and Security

OPINION

Source: The New Times

By Alice Urusaro Karekezi

24 June 2015 - All eyes were on Omar al-Bashir. However, something less dramatic but equally important took place at the recent African Union meeting in South Africa. On the sidelines were discussions on the progress on implementing the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework (PSCF) for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with many observing that the progress has been rather slow and that much still needs to be done to ensure that actions are able to follow agreed commitments.

The PSCF is a UN-brokered accord aimed at stabilizing the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region. It was signed in February 2013 by Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania and encompasses commitments at the national, regional and international levels to bring peace and stability to the eastern DRC and the region.

It has been 15 years since this has been agreed upon. As a result, the gathering in South Africa thinks that progress has been rather 'slow.' Why? That is what we hope to find out on June 25 and 26 at an international gathering in Kigali, at Serena Hotel, of policymakers, non-government organizations, civil society, and educators, among other actors. The conference is being organized by the Centre for Conflict Management (CCM) of the University of Rwanda.

Participants will reflect together on what appears like indifference when it comes to implementing agreed principles that make up agreed regional frameworks for peace and security, a reflection on matters that have serious implications for human life.

Africa: UN Deputy Chief Urges Ramped-Up Support for Global Peacebuilding Efforts

NEWS STORY

Source: UN News Service

23 June 2015 - The international community must boost material and financial support for peacebuilding initiatives in order to better help countries emerging from conflict build

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

a sustainable and peaceful future, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson said today.

Addressing the opening of the Second Annual Session of the Peacebuilding Commission at UN Headquarters in New York, the Deputy Secretary-General emphasized the role of peacebuilding at "the core of UN activities in conflict-affected countries" but warned that financing efforts for peacebuilding still remained woefully insufficient.

"We do not know exactly how large the financing gap for peacebuilding is, since there are no global estimates of peacebuilding needs. But there are clear indications that allocations to peacebuilding and to institution-building - which is closely related - in conflict-affected countries are grossly inadequate," Mr. Eliasson confirmed.

The UN deputy head told those gathered that in a group of 31 conflict-affected countries, critical institution-building in the political, security and justice areas received less than 10 per cent of official development assistance (ODA) during the period 2002-2013. For the six countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission Burundi (Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Central African Republic), only 7 per cent of ODA was allocated to these areas.

"This shortfall affects our ability to build and consolidate peace with short term and targeted support to national processes and plans," he continued.

In addition to the funding shortfalls, Mr. Eliasson pointed out that existing funding mechanisms among donors remained "fragmented" as development, security, human rights and humanitarian activities are often funded from different budgets with separate decision-making processes.

On the recipient side, the funding mechanisms remain equally scattered across separate funds and "a multitude of plans and strategies on the part of governments, the UN system and other actors on the ground" which, he added, "do not contribute to coherence and a clear focus."

One option to countering such a piecemeal approach would be to enhance the UN Peacebuilding Fund, Mr. Eliasson said, citing the global pooled fund which had already played "a positive role in breaking down the silos" among UN missions and country teams in areas such as the Central African Republic.

However, compounding the problem related to fragmentation, the Deputy Secretary-General also noted the lack of robust tax and rule of law institutions in many countries emerging from conflict, cautioning that this only added to the burden facing an effective mobilization of domestic resources.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

He suggested that this alone made the need for early and sustained investment in capacity building by the international community "even more critical."

"We need to make sure that the Peacebuilding Fund is placed on a solid footing," Mr. Eliasson concluded. "The Fund has a valuable role to play as a global pooled fund that brings together the political, security and development aspects of peacebuilding."

DRC

Nord-Kivu: les FARDC reprennent trois localités à Rutshuru

ARTICLE

Source: Radio Okapi (RDC)

23 Juin 2015 - Les Forces armées de la RDC (FARDC) ont délogé la coalition FDLR et Maï-Maï, dimanche 21 juin, des localités de Chondo, Kamadi et Charuganda, au bord du Lac Edouard, en territoire de Rutshuru (Nord-Kivu). Ces localités qui étaient occupées durant deux jours par ces assaillants ont été récupérées à la suite d'une attaque des forces loyalistes coalisée aux gardes parc de l'Institut congolais pour la conservation de la nature (ICCN).

Le porte-parole de l'armée congolaise au Nord-Kivu indique qu'une délégation d'officiers supérieurs, dépêchée par le commandant de la 34ème région militaire, se trouve à Vitshumbi pour évaluer la situation et prendre des mesures pour éviter qu'un incident pareil ne se reproduise.

Les ONG locale Virunga Yetu et CIDDHOP demandent au gouvernement d'augmenter la capacité logistique des FARDC dans cette région et d'accélérer le processus de démobilisation des groupes armés locaux et étrangers.

Les autorités administratives locales de Rutshuru renseignent que sept morts et plusieurs blessés ont été enregistrés dans le rang des FARDC et gardes parc lors de l'attaque surprise, vendredi 19 juin, des FDLR et Maï-Maï.

Selon les mêmes sources, les FARDC auraient perdu deux pirogues motorisées et une quantité importante des munitions au cours de cette attaque. Le commandant de la force navale blessé est admis aux soins dans une structure sanitaire de Rutshuru.

Selon les mêmes sources, le bilan du côté assaillants n'a pas été avancé.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Dans un communiqué parvenu mercredi 20 mai à Radio Okapi, les notables de l'intercommunautaire du Nord-Kivu avaient exprimé leur profonde inquiétude face à la dégradation de la situation sécuritaire dans leur province. Ils dénonçaient notamment les tueries des populations et les kidnappings à répétition à Rutshuru et Lubero.

RDC: les ex-combattants de Kota Koli bientôt dans les centres de formation, assure Aimé Ngoy

ARTICLE

Source: Radio Okapi (RDC)

23 Juin 2015 - Les ex-combattants regroupés au centre d'entraînement militaire de Kota Koli en Equateur rejoindront « dans moins d'une semaine » les centres d'apprentissage des métiers pour faciliter leur réinsertion dans la vie civile. Le ministre congolais de la Défense, Aimé Ngoy Mukena l'a dit lundi 22 juin à Radio Okapi. Cette mesure est une réponse du gouvernement au récent soulèvement de ces ex-combattants contre leurs mauvaises conditions de vie.

Huit cent vingt ex-combattants regroupés depuis deux ans au camp d'entraînement commando de Kota Koli en Équateur se sont révoltés samedi dernier. Ils dénoncent les mauvaises conditions de leur hébergement et réclament soit leur retour immédiat dans leurs milieux d'origine, soit leur réintégration au sein des FARDC.

«Leur solution [ex-combattants], c'est d'être insérés dans les groupes de formation qui vient de commencer. C'était déjà prévu comme ça. Avec ou sans révolte, dans moins d'une semaine. C'était prévu avant le 30 juin... Le DDR a commencé. Vous allez voir bientôt des menuisiers formés par le DDR3, vous allez voir des tailleurs avec leurs kits formés par le DDR3. Nous on ne joue pas, on est un gouvernement responsable», a déclaré Aimé Ngoy Mukena.

D'après lui, ce processus a pris du temps parce qu'il fallait réunir les moyens pour ce programme. Maintenant que c'est fait, selon le ministre de la Défense, les ex-combattants seront formés comme prévu dans le DDR3 (Troisième phase de Démobilisation, désarmement et réinsertion).

Après leur soulèvement, les ex-combattants avaient donné au gouvernement jusqu'à mardi 23 juin pour répondre à leurs revendications.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

« Ils savent que pour prendre quelqu'un de Kota Koli et l'amener à Kamina en deux ou trois jours, il faut réunir des moyens, et ce sont ces moyens que j'étais en train de réunir », a expliqué Aimé Ngoy.

D'après lui, le programme DDR3 bénéficie du soutien des observateurs internationaux et de la Monusco, la Mission des Nations unies pour la stabilisation en RDC.

« Nous avons la Monusco qui nous trouve des moyens supplémentaires pour apporter l'appui nécessaire. Donc, c'est quelque chose de très sérieux », a-t-il souligné.

Samedi 20 juin dernier, plus de 820 ex-combattants issus de mouvements armés de l'Est de la RDC, dont le M23 munis d'armes blanches ont protesté contre les mauvaises conditions dans lesquelles ils se retrouvent. Après avoir tenté de s'emparer du dépôt d'armes, 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. Quelques habitants pris de panique se sont même réfugiés dans la forêt pour se mettre à l'abri de menaces de ces ex-combattants. Le porte-parole de l'armée congolaise au Nord-Kivu indique qu'une délégation d'officiers supérieurs, dépêchée par le commandant de la 34ème région militaire, se trouve à Vitshumbi pour évaluer la situation et prendre des mesures pour éviter qu'un incident pareil ne se reproduise.

Les ONG locale Virunga Yetu et CIDDHOP demandent au gouvernement d'augmenter la capacité logistique des FARDC dans cette région et d'accélérer le processus de démobilisation des groupes armés locaux et étrangers.

Les autorités administratives locales de Rutshuru renseignent que sept morts et plusieurs blessés ont été enregistrés dans le rang des FARDC et gardes parc lors de l'attaque surprise, vendredi 19 juin, des FDLR et Maï-Maï.

Selon les mêmes sources, les FARDC auraient perdu deux pirogues motorisées et une quantité importante des munitions au cours de cette attaque. Le commandant de la force navale blessé est admis aux soins dans une structure sanitaire de Rutshuru.

Selon les mêmes sources, le bilan du côté assaillants n'a pas été avancé.

Dans un communiqué parvenu mercredi 20 mai à Radio Okapi, les notables de l'intercommunautaire du Nord-Kivu avaient exprimé leur profonde inquiétude face à la dégradation de la situation sécuritaire dans leur province. Ils dénonçaient notamment les tueries des populations et les kidnappings à répétition à Rutshuru et Lubero.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Kinshasa: présentation de la maquette du 1er satellite congolais

ARTICLE

Source: Radio Okapi (RDC)

24 Juin 2015 - Le vice-premier ministre et ministre des Postes, télécommunications, nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication, Thomas Luhaka Losendjola, a présenté mardi 23 juin à Kinshasa la maquette du premier satellite de télécommunication congolais. Ce projet Congo-SAT, évalué à 320 millions de dollars américains, est un partenariat entre la RDC et une société chinoise spécialisée dans les projets satellitaires, China Great Wall industry Corporation.

«La RDC a l'ambition de se développer et de devenir une leader dans le domaine des télécommunications en Afrique. Nous voulons déployer 50 000 km de fibre optique. On n'en est qu'à 7000. Mais en attendant, avec notre propre satellite, nous pouvons savoir ce qui se passe exactement à nos frontières. Cela a un avantage sécuritaire très important», a expliqué Thomas Luhaka aux journalistes.

Le projet est censé contribuer à améliorer et sécuriser les communications stratégiques. Un autre avantage, selon la même source, consiste à assurer et fournir les services publics de télécommunications, spécialement dans les régions à faible densité de la population.

Le projet Congo Sat 1 va créer beaucoup d'emplois, assurer le transfert de technologie. «C'est-à-dire les ingénieurs congolais vont être formés. Nous allons accroître l'influence politique et économique de la RDC. Donc, nous allons être en termes de télécommunications le centre de l'Afrique», a poursuivi Thomas Luhaka.

Si le projet est concrétisé, la RDC sera le troisième pays africain à disposer de son propre satellite de télécommunications, après l'Egypte et le Nigeria.

MINUSCA: Le Congo dépêche un enquêteur en Centrafrique

ARTICLE

Source: Agence d'Information d'Afrique Centrale

24 Juin 2015 - Le gouvernement congolais a désigné, puis dépêché en Centrafrique, un enquêteur dans le but de rassembler les preuves sur les accusations visant son contingent de la Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée pour la stabilisation en

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

République Centrafricaine (MINUSCA), a annoncé, le 24 juin, un communiqué du ministère de la Défense nationale.

Ce communiqué note des faits « de faute grave » rapportés par certaines sources, d'après lesquelles des soldats du contingent congolais, non identifiés, auraient, le 10 juin, sur demande des autorités locales, arrêté puis détenu quatre sujets centrafricains pour leur implication supposée dans des activités criminelles dans le pays. Deux de ces personnes seraient décédées durant leur transfèrement et deux autres hospitalisées.

« Le Congo prend d'ores et déjà l'engagement de donner à ces allégations les suites qui s'imposeront au vu des résultats de cette enquête en cours » assure le ministère de la Défense nationale.

RDC-Corruption: la plainte de Joseph Kabila vise Katumbi, Kasanji, Alex Kande et Chissambo

ARTICLE

Source: Radio Okapi (RDC)

24 Juin 2015 - Quatre gouverneurs de province congolais et un ancien conseiller du président de la République démocratique du Congo sont visés dans une plainte pour corruption ou fraude déposée par le chef de l'État Joseph Kabila et que l'AFP a pu consulter mercredi. Le document d'une vingtaine de pages adressé mardi au procureur général de la république vise nommément quatre gouverneurs: Moïse Katumbi (Katanga, sud-est), Alphonse Ngoy Kasanji (Kasaï-Oriental, centre), Alex Kande (Kasaï-Occidental, centre) et Marcellin Chissambo (Sud-Kivu, est).

La plainte, adressée au nom de M. Kabila par son conseiller spécial pour la lutte contre la corruption, le blanchiment et le terrorisme, vise également l'ancien directeur de cabinet du président, Gustave Beya Siku et une quinzaine d'autres personnes, parmi lesquelles d'anciens hauts fonctionnaires.

La plainte dénonce des faits de « corruption », « fraudes » et « détournements ».

Elle demande au procureur général de la République d'enquêter sur des allégations de fraude douanière à l'encontre de M. Katumbi, et de corruption à l'encontre des trois autres gouverneurs.

Selon le document, M. Beya Siku, récemment remercié par M. Kabila, se voit reprocher d'avoir empoché des pots-de-vin en échange de l'attribution du marché du

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

raccordement de Kinshasa par fibre optique à Moanda (sud-ouest), point d'arrivée du câble de télécommunication transatlantique.

Aucun des intéressés n'avait pu être joint mercredi soir pour réagir à cette plainte.

Populaire homme d'affaires richissime passé à la politique, M. Katumbi, membre du parti de M. Kabila, fait figure d'éventuel successeur à ce-dernier, au pouvoir depuis 2001.

La Constitution interdit à M. Kabila de se présenter à la prochaine présidentielle prévue pour novembre 2016, mais l'opposition le soupçonne de vouloir se maintenir au pouvoir au-delà de cette date, et demande en vain au chef de l'État d'annoncer publiquement qu'il quittera ses fonctions à la fin de son mandat.

En janvier, alors qu'un conflit larvé opposait MM. Katumbi et Kabila, le gouvernement avait révoqué le chef de la Direction générale des douanes et accises (DGDA) au Katanga en affirmant vouloir ainsi lutter contre la fraude à la frontière de cette province par laquelle transite la quasi-totalité de la production minière du pays.

Mi-mai, une commission d'enquête de l'Assemblée nationale dénonçait le coût exorbitant du raccordement de Kinshasa à Moanda par la fibre optique et les conditions d'attribution de ce marché.

Pays parmi les moins développés de la planète, la RDC est aussi l'un des plus corrompus au monde.

Le procureur général de la République est rattaché à la Cour suprême de justice, habilitée à juger les hauts-fonctionnaires et les élus.

Impasse dans les discussions sur la frontière entre l'Ouganda et la RDC

ARTICLE

Source: Agence de Presse Africaine

23 Juin 2015 - Les pourparlers entre des officiels ougandais et congolais (RDC) pour tenter de résoudre le lancinant différend frontalier de Vurra n'ont pas donné les résultats escomptés, a rapporté APA mercredi sur place.

Les officiels des deux pays se sont rencontrés mardi mais la partie congolaise a demandé plus de temps pour consulter les communautés locales et informer les autorités de Kinshasa de l'évolution des négociations sur la zone litigieuse.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

La rencontre survient après que des centaines de jeunes Congolais, armés de bâtons, de flèches, d'arcs et de lances ont occupé le 8 juin, par la force, près de deux hectares de terre à l'intérieur du territoire ougandais, estimant que la parcelle appartenait à leurs ancêtres.

Profitant de cette situation, les douaniers congolais ont poussé les barrières de leur frontière à Vurra, en direction des douaniers ougandais installées de l'autre côté.

Peter Dibele qui conduisait la délégation ougandaise aux pourparlers a indiqué dans un entretien que leurs homologues congolais avaient indiqué qu'ils ne pouvaient pas prendre de décision s'ils ne recevaient pas des instructions de Kinshasa.

Dibele a fait part de son mécontentement au sujet de la tension qui a éclaté et des véhicules stationnés le long de la frontière, pendant que des Congolais meurent de faim, car les camions chargés de vivres ne peuvent pas traverser la frontière.

Nicolas Aninga, l'administrateur assistant du territoire d'Ar'u qui conduisait la délégation congolaise a déclaré qu'il était venu pour connaître la position de l'Ouganda, mais ne pouvait pas décider sans consulter ses supérieurs à Kinshasa.

Il a cependant insisté sur la nécessité pour les peuples des deux pays de vivre en harmonie, car ils ont tous des liens de parenté entre eux.

Congo-Kinshasa: Malawi Soldier Shoots Himself Dead in DRC Peace-Keeping Mission

NEWS STORY

Source: Nyasa Times (Malawi)

By Cecilia Mawaya

24 June 2015 - Malawian soldier who was on peace-keeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) shot dead himself using a K2 rifle in the wee hours of Saturday, June 20, 2015, the Ministry of Defence has confirmed.

Corporal Lyson Manda who was working at Kamuzu Barracks, is understood to have discharged his own weapon on the chest while in his bed.

Military officials are investigating the circumstances of the accident.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Spokesman for Malawi Defence Force (MDF), Lieutenant Chimphwanya said "it is with deep regret that the Malawi Defence Force has to confirm the death of Corporal Lyson Manda who shot himself dead in DRC."

He said the army will come up with a statement regarding the death of Corporal Manda.

"The cause of his action will be known by the yet-to-be instituted investigation which will be available to the public soon", said Chimphwanya.

He said Manda's death is "a tragic blow" to everyone in the military and offered most sincere condolences, to the other soldiers and to his family.

The deceased, Manda, 35 years old hailed from Kayuni village, Traditional Authority Kyungu in the northern district of Karonga.

DR Congo president files anti-corruption case

NEWS STORY

Source: Xinhua

24 June 2015 - Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) President Joseph Kabila has filed a case at the public prosecutor's office against corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism.

"The president has accomplished his responsibility. The judiciary should also play its part," said Luzolo Bambi, the presidential special advisor on good governance, on Tuesday.

The advisor said "corruption had become endemic in DR Congo."

He said the president had received numerous cases of embezzlement of public goods and corruption in almost all sectors of the economy.

The suspects are not known yet. However, sources following the case told Xinhua the president's case was targeting businessmen from Katanga, North Kivu and South Kivu provinces.

Bambi, a former justice minister, was in March this year named as the president's special adviser on matters of good governance, the fight against corruption, money laundering and funding of terrorism.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

UN: DRC Rebel Group Weakened in Joint Operation

NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

Goma, 24 June 2015 - In the Democratic Republic of Congo, joint operations by the Congolese army and the United Nations mission MONUSCO have weakened one of the most active rebel groups in the country. The mission chief said Wednesday that about a quarter of the combatants with the FRPI rebel group have been taken out of action in the past four weeks.

The FRPI is a rebel group fighting for control of natural resources in Congo's Ituri province. The group was recently involved in a series of brutal civilian massacres, and made itself a high-priority target for the Congolese army and the U.N. mission, MONUSCO.

The U.N. tried to persuade the FRPI to lay down its arms during talks at Aveba at the beginning of the month, but the negotiations broke down.

That was when the U.N. and the Congolese army stepped up their operations against the rebels, MONUSCO chief Martin Kobler told media Wednesday.

He said the fighting on June 3 started after the FRPI had left the negotiating table, and after they were offered the option of surrendering their weapons and coming under the U.N.'s protection.

U.N. sources told VOA privately that the army and MONUSCO had jointly planned an attack on the FRPI if they refused to surrender and had surrounded part of their forces.

Kobler Wednesday gave an official total for casualties.

He said the casualty total, which a MONUSCO spokesman handed to him, corresponds with what he saw – 35 killed, 52 wounded and 36 who surrendered.

It was not clear how many other FRPI fighters have been taken out of action since June 3 but it would appear that the 123 accounted for on that day represent the majority.

Between 20 and 30 percent of the FRPI have been neutralized in the past three weeks, Kobler said, adding that it demonstrates that in unity lies strength, and the Congolese army and MONUSCO are stronger when they act in close collaboration.

Sources told VOA that FRPI's total strength was put at around 800 at the beginning of the month.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Kobler said MONUSCO has been very active in the latest operations, not only providing logistical support to the Congolese army but also gathering intelligence with its drones and attacking the rebels with helicopters every day.

MONUSCO's ground troops in the area, a Bangladeshi contingent, have also been very proactive, he said, going well beyond their normal role of protecting civilians.

He said the fighting against the FRPI in Ituri district has been the most intense and successful operation against Congolese rebels since the defeat of the M23 in 2013.

But the MONUSCO chief stressed that military operations are only part of the solution in eastern DRC. Restoring the government's authority and providing jobs for young people are also key to reducing insecurity, he said.

RWANDA

Rwanda complains after spy chief is held in London over alleged war crimes

NEWS STORY

Source: The Guardian (UK)

By David Smith, Stephen Burgen

24 June 2015 - Metropolitan police say Karenzi Karake is wanted in Spain in connection with alleged massacres in wake of 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Rwanda has angrily condemned the arrest of the country's intelligence chief, Karenzi Karake, by British authorities acting on a Spanish indictment.

Louise Mushikiwabo, the Rwandan foreign minister, tweeted: "Western solidarity in demeaning Africans is unacceptable!!" She suggested the arrest was a conspiracy by those who deny the 1994 genocide. "It is an outrage to arrest Rwandan official based on pro-genocidaires lunacy!"

Mushikiwabo also described the arrest warrant as preposterous.

Karake, 54, known as "KK", has for two decades been a senior intelligence and military officer in the Rwandan Patriotic Front. The RPF brought an end to the genocide by Hutu extremists that left an estimated 800,000 Tutsis dead.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Karake and 39 others are accused of ordering revenge massacres of Hutus and the murder of three Spanish aid workers, according to a European arrest warrant issued by Spain in 2008, understood to be the basis for his detention by the Metropolitan police at Heathrow on Saturday.

Johnston Busingye, Rwanda's justice minister, told the country's New Times newspaper: "We are handling the matter with the UK government. They have better details on this evolving situation."

Karake had been on official duty in London for a week, the report added.

Busingye dismissed the Spanish indictment as politically motivated. "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."

Williams Nkurunziza, the Rwandan high commissioner to the UK, told the BBC World Service: "We take strong exception to the suggestion that he's being arrested on war crimes. Any suggestion that any of our 40 leaders are guilty of crimes against humanity is an insult to our collective conscience."

Jordi Palou-Loverdos, however, a lawyer representing the Spanish victims, told the BBC's Newsnight on Monday: "We hope in the name of the victims that this time justice will be provided and Karenzi Karake will soon be delivered to the Spanish court to have a fair trial, where he can defend himself.

"We hope that political or other interests will not neutralise the place for justice, truth and reparation."

The arrest was also welcomed by Rwanda's opposition FDU-Inkingi party. Its vice-president, Boniface Twagirimana, said: "It is a sign of equal justice for those who have killed innocent people. If someone has been involved in crimes against humanity, it is good if he is brought before the law to explain himself.

"It is very difficult for us to have reconciliation without this ... We cannot confirm if people are guilty or innocent. That is the job of the judge to confirm."

Andrew Mitchell, who worked closely with the Rwandan government while serving as Britain's international development secretary, said the European arrest warrant system was being abused. He told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "These are politically motivated. They are not about justice, they are about politics.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

“Let’s be very clear, they are being pursued by supporters of the genocidal regime which murdered up to one million people in Rwanda. It is one of the great tragedies and disgraces of our time, only 21 years ago.

“I think it is reprehensible that the European arrest warrant system should be abused in this way by a junior Spanish judge.”

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

“The Spanish indictment of 40 Rwandan military officers offers an unrecognisable 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 organised and endlessly repetitive”.

Karake is a former deputy chief of the UN-African Union peacekeeping force in Sudan’s Darfur region. Human Rights Watch criticised his appointment to the peacekeeping mission, alleging that he was responsible for the killing of civilians in the town of Kisangan in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in June 2000.

Karake has had mixed fortunes under president Paul Kagame’s rule. In 2010 he was placed under house arrest for misconduct, but was later released. He was a close friend of Patrick Karegeya, a former spy chief who became a dissident and was murdered in a South African hotel in late 2013.

Karake, the director-general of Rwanda’s national intelligence and security services, appeared at Westminster magistrates court in London and was remanded in custody until Thursday.

Madrid’s ability to prosecute him may be hampered by a law passed last year that severely limits judges’ ability to prosecute crimes that occur outside Spain.

Carina Tertsakian, Rwanda researcher at Human Rights Watch, said: “His arrest is significant because he’s been a key senior member of Rwanda’s intelligence and military for the past 20 years. Victims of human rights violations in Rwanda have often cited his name.

“We’re going to follow it closely. It could be a really important in terms of accountability. Many senior officials in Rwanda have never been held to account.”

The Spanish link

Karake stands accused of ordering the killing of three Spaniards – Flors Sirera, Manuel Madrazo and Luis Valtueña – in 1997. All three were members of the NGO Médicos del

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Mundo, and were allegedly murdered by four Tutsi soldiers after they had been taken to see the mass graves of murdered Hutus.

A former member of Karake's intelligence unit testified to the Spanish judge Fernando Andreu that Karake had ordered the killings because "these whites had sensitive information about the Rwandan Patriotic Front's recent massacres". In 2008 Andreu brought a case against Karake and 39 other military officials.

Madrid's ability to pursue Karake may be impeded by a law passed by the country's conservative government last year that severely limits judges' ability to prosecute crimes that occur outside Spain under a system known as universal justice.

The concept is rooted in the 1949 Geneva conventions and compels any signatory to provide effective sanctions against those accused of breaching the convention.

Spain took the lead in applying universal justice after the concept was integrated into the Spanish judicial system in 1985, most famously with the arrest and attempted extradition of the former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet from London in 1988.

The government introduced reforms to the system last year, apparently to avoid conflict with China, which had been indicted over human rights abuses in Tibet. A government spokesman said universal jurisdiction had to be abolished because "it only causes conflict".

A spokesman for Amnesty International in Spain described the reform as "a backward step" for human rights.

Not long after the new law was introduced, a number of international drug barons jailed in Spain successfully sued for their release, claiming that Spain had broken its own laws by acting outside its jurisdiction.

The chances of prosecuting Karake would be much greater were he extradited and made to stand trial on Spanish soil, legal experts say.

Four other Spaniards – Joaquim Valmajó, Servando García, Fernando de la Fuente and Isidro Uzkudun, all priests – were also tortured and murdered by RPF members. The dismembered bodies of Valmajó and García were thrown into a well.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Anger as Tory ex-minister - who gave Rwanda millions in aid - DEFENDS accused war criminal

NEWS STORY

Source: Express (<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/586627/Rwanda-spy-arrest-Andrew-Mitchell-arrest-Karenzi-Karake>)

By Tom Batchelor

A FORMER Tory Cabinet minister who handed Rwanda millions in foreign aid on his last day in office has sparked anger by DEFENDING an accused war criminal from the African country's regime.

24 June 2015 - Karenzi Karake, head of Rwanda's intelligence service, was detained in London under a European Arrest Warrant and is accused of ordering mass murder in the wake of the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

He was arrested on Saturday at Heathrow Airport and is wanted in Spain for crimes including ordering the killing of three Spanish nationals working for an international aid organisation.

The 54-year-old is also implicated in the killings of two Britons, it emerged today.

General Karake was remanded in custody until Thursday after appearing before Westminster Magistrates' Court.

However, former International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell - who previously denied to fellow MPs he "went rogue" by handing £16million to Rwanda on his last day as a minister - has claimed the arrest was carried out for "political reasons and not judicial ones".

The Tory MP, who has also seen his close relationship to Rwanda's regime scrutinised, told BBC's Newsnight: "I think it is reprehensible that the European Arrest Warrant is being abused in this way."

"This is a political use of the European Arrest Warrant... by supporters of the genocidal regime against those who stopped the genocide."

He claimed the arrest warrant had been issued by a "junior Spanish judge" and agreed with US authorities that the charges were "un-researched, politically motivated and lacking in facts".

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

However, Mr Mitchell's comments have now prompted the International Federation of Human Rights to brand the remarks ignorant of international law.

Florent Geel, head of the Africa division, said the arrest had "broken a taboo" surrounding the detention of those accused of war crimes.

He told Express.co.uk from Paris that Mr Mitchell's remarks failed to respect the rule of law in Europe.

Mr Geel said: "It is very complex for governments and politicians to manage the arrest of a chief of the security services, but this is a law, it is a principle.

"It is important that the law be applied. We have to respect this principle in Europe...massive crimes have been committed."

In 2012, Mr Mitchell attracted controversy over his eleventh-hour green light for Rwandan aid, a move that was criticised by human rights groups at the time.

On his last day as International Development Secretary, Mr Mitchell restored British taxpayer-funding to the sub-Saharan state, despite ongoing fears about the Rwandan president's dubious human rights record.

Mr Mitchell, who resigned from his ministerial post in 2012 following the 'plebgate' scandal, also saw his close relationship to Paul Kagame's regime examined after it emerged he had visited Rwanda eight times in six years.

Speaking later, he said the last minute decision to offer support to the embattled African nation was a collective government decision and not the actions of a "rogue" minister.

But the decision to restore aid was criticised by MPs who said they did not "understand how he reached the conclusion".

Mr Mitchell, MP for Sutton Coldfield and a former Tory Chief Whip, is founder of Project Umubano - a Conservative Party social action project in Rwanda and Sierra Leone.

When Justine Greening took over as International Development Secretary she announced that Britain would be cancelling its next payment to Rwanda.

The British High Commission in Rwanda said the arrest of General Karake was a "legal obligation" and that the UK was a "close partner" to the country.

It added: "The UK has a strong and effective aid partnership with the government of Rwanda.

"We co-operate closely on a growing range of regional and international issues.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

"Her Majesty's Government greatly values the close relationship with Rwanda and is committed to that relationship for the long term."

Gen. Karake, a close ally of President Kagame, was one of 40 members of the Rwandan military indicted in 2008 on charges of terrorism and genocide by Spanish judge Fernando Andreu.

Mr Mitchell's comments echo those of the Rwandan justice minister, Johnston Busingye, who claimed the charges were politically motivated.

On Twitter, Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo called the arrest "an outrage", adding that "Western solidarity in demeaning Africans is unacceptable."

Rwandans protest outside UK mission over detained general

NEWS STORY

Source: Associated Press

24 June 2015 - Hundreds of people demonstrated outside the British diplomatic mission in Rwanda on Wednesday, saying they will not return home until a general detained in the UK is set free.

The detention in London of Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Karenzi Karake, who serves as Rwanda's spy chief, has prompted an angry response from Rwanda's government, which says the charges against Karake are politically motivated.

Karake, a close ally of Rwandan President Paul Kagame, was one of 40 members of the Rwandan military indicted in 2008 on charges of terrorism and genocide by Spanish National Court Judge Fernando Andreu.

Gen. Karake allegedly oversaw the mass killings of Hutus in revenge for their genocide against Rwanda's Tutsi people and was also behind the killing of eight Spanish humanitarian workers.

Spanish magistrates have used the principle of universal jurisdiction several times to go after current or former government leaders or terrorism suspects, but extraditions and convictions have been rare.

"We are here to stand in solidarity with our hero, who was among the people who stopped genocide in this country," said Herbert Muhire, a protest leader. "We will not stop until he is released."

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

The British High Commissioner to Rwanda, William Gelling, briefly addressed the protesters before quickly returning to the highly guarded facility.

"First of all I thank you for your message. I understand what you said and I understand your frustration," Gelling said. "All I can say is that this was a legal decision as you understand, on behalf of the Spanish legal authorities. The UK is a very close partner with Rwanda."

Karake, who had reportedly travelled to the London on official duty, was arrested Saturday, had a brief hearing at Westminster Magistrates' Court that day and will be back in court on Thursday.

BURUNDI

Burundi government rejoins UN-led crisis talks

NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

24 June 2015 - Burundi's government on Wednesday joined a fresh round of UN-led talks hoped to broker peace between rival parties following weeks of violence and ahead of elections on Monday.

It comes one day after the ruling CNDD-FDD party slammed the talks as a diversion "aimed to disrupt the 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.

This move is branded by opponents as unconstitutional and a violation of a peace deal that paved the way to end 13 years of civil war in 2006.

Opposition politicians as well as civil society and religious leaders have been taking part in the talks.

On Wednesday, Interior Minister Edouard Ndiwumana, the government representative to the talks, also attended the meeting.

"It is good news the Burundian government has come... although we still regret the absence of the ruling party," a source close to the mediators said.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

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

Last week, the Burundian human rights group Aprodeh said that 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, which diplomats fear could plunge the country back into war.

The last round of talks, which the government took part in, stalled earlier this month after the UN envoy quit after civil society leaders accused him of bias.

Burundi: Civilians being disarmed ahead of possible refugee returns, claims government

NEWS STORY

Source: International Business Times (<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/burundi-civilian-militias-being-disarmed-ahead-possible-refugee-returns-1507718>)

24 June 2015 - The disarmament of civilians is already under way in Burundi, the government has confirmed, amid calls from the international community for an immediate demilitarisation.

A commission for disarmament set up after the civil war has continued to recover arms during the recent escalation of violence, presidential adviser Willy Nyamitwe confirmed, saying that Burundi's government is open to help from foreign agencies.

"Burundi does not refuse international help, but it already has expertise in terms of disarmament," he told IBTimes UK over the phone on Wednesday 24 June.

This month, the African Union echoed the East African Community's request of an urgent disarmament of all youth groups affiliated to political parties – including Burundi's ruling National Council for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) party's youth wing, the Imbonerakure – in an attempt to create conditions conducive to the return of refugees.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

The government had previously rejected proposals from heads of state of the Peace and Security Council (PSC), such as the deployment of military experts "to verify the process of disarming the militias and other armed groups", it was reported. The only condition to their appearance was that the government was informed of the "country of origin of the experts, their number and their precise mandate".

This comes amid increasing rumours civilians are now seeking "to get weapons so that they can face police with similar fire power".

While IBTimes UK could not confirm that civilians had managed to get their hands on weapons, sources believe the arms could come from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Burundi has disarmament experts

"Burundi already has experts in disarmament because we had a national commission of disarmament, which started working in 2009 and has already recovered more than 100,000 arms. It has already been able to do a remarkable job. Recovering 100,000 arms is not a negligible number," Nyamitwe said.

In May 2005, Burundian President Domitien Ndayizeye signed a decree creating a new programme to disarm civilians. At the time, Burundi was said to have some 250,000 small arms in circulation, following a 12-year civil war that ended in 2005 after killing more than 300,000.

The decree stated that a nine-member Burundian National Commission for Civilian Disarmament and Prevention of Weapons Proliferation (CDCPA) was to be set up to disarm "all persons residing in Burundi other than police and defence forces in possession of weapons and ammunition".

The commission, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Switzerland, France, the US, the Peacebuilding Fund and the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), was also charged with disarming thousands of young Burundians known as the "guardians de la paix" (the Guardians of Peace).

It is reported they had previously been armed with guns by the government to support the security forces to protect civilians.

By the autumn of 2009, civilians across Burundi started handing in thousands of guns, grenades and rounds of ammunition during a 10-day voluntary disarmament campaign. In return, the state handed out goods such as construction materials, furniture, bicycles, farming tools, mobile phones and soap.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

"Nearly 80% of weapons in circulation" had been collected at the time, according to the commission's head, General Zénon Ndadabaneze —a pro-13 May coup general now detained by the Burundian authorities.

Working with international community

"Burundi agrees to co-operate with international experts, who would want to come and get a sense of the steps already made in disarming civilians on the ground. This work is still under way," Nyamitwe said.

If the international experts were to come to Burundi, Nyamitwe said, they would work in co-operation with Burundi "as a team".

"Burundi already receives financial help from foreign countries, but we cannot refuse logistical support from the international community, so any contribution in this direction is more than welcome."

The adviser confirmed he did not know if a date had been set for the arrival of a team of foreign observers, as the chair of the African Union Commission, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, who is in charge of organising, has yet to make an announcement.

Burundi VP Blasts President's Bid for Third Term as 'Illegal'

NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

24 June 2015 - Burundi's second vice president has fled the country and denounced President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid to extend his stay in power.

Gervais Rufyikiri told France 24 television on Wednesday that he is against what he called the president's "illegal third term."

The president's media adviser, Willy Nyamitwe, sent out a Twitter message saying, "Goodbye and good riddance is the refrain of the song in my heart."

The second vice president is believed to be in Belgium. The president's office told VOA that Rufyikiri went there on a mission a couple of days ago.

VOA reporter Edward Rwena, who is in Burundi's capital, says the country's first vice president, Prosper Bazombanza, remains in the country.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Nkurunziza's bid for re-election sparked violent protests in the capital, Bujumbura, triggering a failed coup attempt last month.

Critics say he is violating a two-term limit in the constitution and the accords that ended Burundi's civil war. Burundi's constitutional court said the president is eligible because he was elected by parliament, not voters, for his first five-year term in 2005.

In Washington, Burundi's foreign minister, Alain Aimé Nyamitwe, told VOA that the president's critics were wrong.

"I believe that it is not correct to say that the president would intentionally want to plunge the country into chaos," Nyamitwe said. "The man has been at the helm of the nation since 2005, and since he came to power, we all know and history has recorded that he has pacified the country, put the country together, has modernized the country, has spearheaded reform."

The presidential election is now scheduled for July 15, after being postponed because of the protests.

More than 100,000 Burundians have fled to neighboring countries because of the unrest.

World must act to avoid Burundi catastrophe: exiled journalist

NEWS STORY

Source: AFP World News

Geneva, 24 June 2015 - The international community should prepare for a possible military intervention in Burundi, one of the country's top journalists said.

"We are facing a catastrophic situation," Bob Rugurika, head of African Public Radio (RPA), Burundi's most popular private radio station which was shut down by the state in May, told AFP in an interview in Geneva this week.

"It is a catastrophe created and planned by the presidential camp," he said, insisting that "the international community should prepare for a military intervention ... to at least reduce the damage."

Burundi has been in crisis since late April over President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid for a third five-year term in office - a move critics have branded unconstitutional and a violation of a peace deal that ended 13 years of civil war in 2006.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

At least 70 people have been killed in opposition protests that have been brutally suppressed, according to Aprodeh, a leading Burundian human rights group.

Rugurika's comments came as the country's ruling party announced Tuesday it was boycotting the restart of UN-led talks aimed at brokering peace after weeks of violence.

"The international community can see the danger approaching," Rugurika said in Geneva, where he met with UN representatives.

"If tomorrow catastrophe happens in Burundi, if we see violence on a large scale, and multiple human lives are lost, the international community will not have an excuse," he said.

Rugurika welcomed an threat by EU foreign ministers to sanction individuals responsible for the violence.

But sanctions would not be enough, he said, accusing Nkurunziza's administration of being prepared to "bathe the country in fire and blood" to protect themselves and stay in power.

- Elections 'a farce' -

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

Burundi has rejected the African Union's call to delay the polls further, but has agreed to allow in AU military observers and human rights experts ahead of the elections, under certain conditions.

"These elections will be a farce," said Rugurika, who fled Burundi last month after his radio station was used by a former intelligence chief to announce a coup attempt that ultimately failed.

Burundi's main independent radio stations were all attacked by pro-government forces and taken off air during the failed coup and have not been permitted to reopen.

Rugurika, who spent a month in jail at the beginning of the year after implicating intelligence officials in the murders of three Italian nuns, accused the government of using the coup attempt as an excuse to destroy the country's independent media.

"It was a premeditated act," he said.

More than 20 other journalists from RPA have gone into exile, Rugurika said.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

"We are continuing the fight, and we will return to Burundi, no matter how long it takes," he vowed.

Send troops to stop Burundi meltdown

NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

The international community should prepare for the possibility that military intervention in Burundi will become necessary, one of the country's top journalists says.

25 June 2015 - "We are facing a catastrophic situation," said Bob Rugurika, head of African Public Radio, Burundi's most popular private radio station, shut down by the state in May.

"It is a catastrophe created and planned by the presidential camp," he said, insisting that "the international community should prepare for a military intervention to at least reduce the damage."

Burundi has been in crisis since late April because of President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid for a third five-year term in office, a move critics have branded unconstitutional and a violation of a peace deal that ended 13 years of civil war in 2006.

At least 70 people have been killed in opposition protests that have been brutally suppressed, according to the Aprodeh human rights group.

The ruling party announced on Tuesday that it was boycotting the resumption of UN-led talks aimed at brokering peace after weeks of violence.

"The international community can see the danger approaching," Rugurika said in Geneva, where he met UN representatives.

"If tomorrow catastrophe happens in Burundi, if we see violence on a large scale and human lives are lost, the international community will not have an excuse."

Rugurika welcomed a threat by EU foreign ministers to sanction individuals responsible for the violence. But sanctions would not be enough, he said, accusing Nkurunziza's administration of being prepared to "bathe the country in fire and blood" to protect itself and stay in power.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

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

Burundi has rejected a call by the African Union to delay the polls further, but has agreed to allow AU military observers and human rights experts in ahead of them, under certain conditions.

"These elections will be a farce," said Rugurika, who fled Burundi last month after his radio station was used by a former intelligence chief to announce a coup attempt that failed.

All of Burundi's main independent radio stations were attacked by pro-government forces and taken off the air during the failed coup and have not been permitted to reopen.

Rugurika, who spent a month in jail at the beginning of the year after implicating intelligence officials in the murders of three Italian nuns, accused the government of using the coup attempt as an excuse to destroy the independent media.

"It was a premeditated act," he said.

More than 20 other journalists from RPA had gone into exile, Rugurika said.

"We are continuing the fight and we will return to Burundi, no matter how long it takes," he vowed.

UGANDA

Ouganda: les meetings du principal adversaire au président interdits

ARTICLE

Source: MaliActu (<http://maliactu.net/ouganda-les-meetings-du-principal-adversaire-au-president-interdits/>)

24 Juin 2015 - Le patron de la police ougandaise a interdit à l'ex-Premier ministre Amama Mbabazi, candidat déclaré contre le président Yoweri Museveni à la présidentielle de 2016, d'organiser des meetings dans le pays, les déclarant « illégaux ».

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

M. Mbabazi, 66 ans, avait annoncé mi-juin dans une même lettre envoyée à la Commission électorale ougandaise son intention de se présenter à la présidentielle et de tenir des meetings électoraux dans le pays du 9 juillet au 1er août.

En réponse, le chef de la police Kale Kayihura lui a écrit mardi que son parti, le Mouvement national de résistance (NRM), par ailleurs parti présidentiel, ne le soutient pas comme candidat et que par conséquent « ses aspirations sont illégales ».

Yoweri Museveni, 70 ans, au pouvoir depuis 1986, a d'ores et déjà été désigné par les dirigeants du NRM comme candidat à la présidentielle de 2016. Cette candidature doit encore être confirmée par un congrès du parti, qui devrait être une pure formalité.

Cela n'a pas empêché M. Mbabazi – ex-secrétaire général du parti présidentiel et ex-Premier ministre démis de ces fonctions respectivement en mars et septembre 2014 – d'annoncer la semaine dernière vouloir affronter M. Museveni, son compagnon d'armes dont il fut longtemps un fidèle.

Sa porte-parole, Joséphine Mayanja-Nkangi a répliqué que les avocats de l'adversaire comptaient contre-attaquer.

« Le chef de la police connaît parfaitement bien la loi, cette interdiction cherche simplement à faire diversion », a-t-elle affirmé.

Une trentaine de partisans de l'ex-Premier ministre avaient été arrêtés jeudi pour rassemblement illégal et campagne électorale hors de la période officielle.

Début juin, des partis d'opposition ont pour leur part formé une coalition pour regrouper leurs forces face au vétéran Museveni. L'Alliance démocratique (TDA) a prévu de présenter un candidat unique, qui, a-t-elle promis, s'en tiendra à un seul mandat s'il est élu.

M. Mbabazi avait ces derniers temps laissé entendre qu'il pourrait participer à cette alliance, que le gouvernement tente d'ores et déjà de faire passer pour un projet « sponsorisé par les donateurs occidentaux et la société civile ».

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Une organisation remet en cause le vote des Centrafricains réfugiés à l'étranger

ARTICLE

Source: Agence Africaine de Presse (APA)

Bangui, 25 Juin 2015 - Le cadre de concertation sur les élections, une structure du ministère de l'Administration du Territoire, a souhaité que les Centrafricains réfugiés hors du territoire national ne puissent pas voter lors des prochaines élections, à l'issue de deux jours de réflexion sur le nouveau calendrier électoral.

Le cadre de concertation a souhaité un réaménagement du calendrier électoral et justifié sa requête de voir exclu du processus électoral les Centrafricains réfugiés à l'étranger parce que leur vote pourrait comporter des risques de fraudes.

Le cadre de concertation sur le processus électoral n'a pas remis en cause le vote de la diaspora centrafricaine mais celui des Centrafricains ayant le statut de réfugiés dans d'autres pays.

L'Autorité nationale des élections (ANE) a ouvert des bureaux de vote par zone géographique. En Afrique centrale, le Congo Brazzaville, le Tchad, le Cameroun dispose chacun d'un bureau de vote.

En Afrique de l'Ouest, le centre de vote est installé en Côte d'Ivoire et au Bénin. En Europe, c'est en France et en Belgique que l'ANE a ouvert un bureau de vote. Dans la zone des Amériques, la diaspora centrafricaine ira voter aux Etats-Unis.

Certains bureaux de vote ont juridiction sur certains pays. C'est ainsi que les Centrafricains vivant en République démocratique du Congo (RDC) iront voter à Brazzaville, alors que les Etats-Unis vont accueillir tous les Centrafricains des Amériques.

Pour entrer en vigueur, cette proposition doit cependant recueillir l'avis non seulement du Conseil national de transition (CNT) mais aussi du conseil des ministres.

Une mission de l'ANE s'est rendue à l'étranger pour installer ses représentations qui seront chargées de l'organisation du processus électoral dans ces pays.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

SOUTH AFRICA

SA soldiers worst sex offenders on UN missions

NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

24 June 2015 - A recently released United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services report on sexual offences committed by the military on peacekeeping missions has revealed that South African soldiers are the worst offenders.

The report focused on offences in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan, South Sudan, Liberia and Haiti. South Africa has more than 2 000 troops stationed in the DRC, Sudan and South Sudan, according to the Times.

The report puts South Africa at the top of the list of offending nations, with nine official allegations, despite not being the biggest contributor of troops to missions.

The report said the three countries whose soldiers are most abusive were:

South Africa (nine allegations)

Uruguay (eight allegations)

Nigeria (seven allegations)

The report does not detail the nature of the allegations but says some of the offences were committed by more than one soldier.

The Times reported that the ministry of defence did not respond to requests for comment on the report or whether any troops had faced military trials. In terms of the UN agreement, allegations should be investigated by the army of the soldier involved in the alleged misconduct.

Complaints 'persist'

The UN report says allegations of sexual misconduct persist, and called for improved investigations and transparency and court martials in peacekeeping missions.

The UN received 480 sexual exploitation and abuse allegations regarding its peacekeeping operations and special political missions between 2008 and 2013, with the DRC mission accounting for 214 (45%) of these.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Of the 480 reported allegations, 36% involved minors.

The report follows an outcry over allegations of child sexual abuse by French and African troops in Central African Republic (CAR).

On Monday, UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon announced that former Canadian Supreme Court justice Marie Deschamps would lead a review of how the UN dealt with allegations that French troops sexually abused children in CAR.

‘Transactional sex’

The report revealed that UN peacekeepers routinely buy sex with everything from jewellery to televisions, and even shoes, in countries where they are deployed.

In Haiti, 231 people admitted to having “transactional sexual relationships” with peacekeepers in exchange for “jewellery, ‘church’ shoes, dresses, fancy underwear, perfume, cellphones, radios, televisions and, in a few cases, laptops”.

The women interviewed in the report said they were hungry, homeless or needed items for their babies or their households. A survey of 489 women aged 18 to 30 in the Liberian capital of Monrovia showed that more than a quarter of the city’s women had engaged in sex with UN peacekeepers, usually for money.

When peacekeepers refused to pay, some women in Haiti “withheld the badges of peacekeepers and threatened to reveal their infidelity via social media”, according to the report.

The report pointed to the surveys and interviews done in Haiti and Liberia as indicative of a broader trend in peacekeeping of trading sex for goods.

The UN maintains it is enforcing a zero-tolerance policy for sexual misconduct and that it “strongly discourages sexual relations” between its blue helmets and the people they are helping.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Peace and stability more important than justice: Zulu

OPINION

Source: Times Live (<http://www.timeslive.co.za/politics/2015/06/24/Peace-and-stability-more-important-than-justice-Zulu>)

Lindiwe Zulu invoked the words of former Cuban leader Fidel Castro for Tuesday's parliamentary debate on the presence of Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir at the African Union Summit in South Africa.

24 June 2015 - The Minister of Small Business said Castro's 1953 statement that "history will absolve me" was relevant "in the context of the swelling condemnation against our government by those bent on distorting our hard-earned commitments to human rights and respect of the rule of law".

Bashir is wanted on an International Criminal Court warrant for alleged war crimes. South Africa, as a signatory to the Rome Statute, is obliged to execute the warrant.

While not specifically mentioning the government's ignoring of a Gauteng high court order for the arrest of Bashir, who was allowed to leave the country, Zulu said: "Africa's newest state, the Republic of South Sudan, would not be in existence today had the parties placed the issue of justice above all others".

According to her "draft speaking notes" distributed on Tuesday night, she qualified this by saying: "This does not mean that there is no role for justice for victims of conflicts. It means that recognising the complexities inherent in conflict resolution, it is best to address the question of justice in the context of a political settlement".

Putting justice ahead of all other elements, Zulu postured, was "counter-productive ends...as the belligerents have no incentive to settle disputes for fear that they will be locked up the day after the resolution of the conflict".

"Speaker, South Africa's track record in contributing to finding lasting and peaceful solutions to the challenges faced by our continent speaks for itself, and again, history will absolve us."

She cited "interventions in the Burundi peace process, the DRC, and the Great Lakes region; to our facilitation processes in Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Madagascar and our ongoing efforts to resolve the conflict in South Sudan" as examples of SA's "commitment to the promotion of peace, stability and development on the continent".

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Zulu went on state that SA “was instrumental in the establishment” of the ICC”, but argued that it was “largely as a result of our own efforts as Africans (that) the continent is more peaceful than it was in 1990”.

She conceded that there was still much work to do.

“However, we have not yet managed to silence the guns. Indeed, we are still far from successfully addressing conflict-producing factors in many parts of the continent,” said Zulu.

“Speaker, this festival of condemnation that has arisen out of President Bashir’s attendance to the AU Summit has sought to impose a disjuncture between the attainment of peace on the one hand and justice on the other,” she concluded. “It should therefore be noted that, our efforts for the renewal of the continent will remain void if the fundamentals elements which include peace and stability are not realised. Peace and stability is therefore an important ingredient for development.”

SOUTH SUDAN

Amum vows to reunite divided SPLM, end South Sudanese war

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

24 June 2015 - South Sudanese ruling (SPLM) party’s newly reinstated secretary general, Pagan Amum, vowed on Tuesday to reunite the fractured former guerrilla movement whose internal power struggle and debate over reform agenda ignited the 18-month long conflict in the world’s youngest nation.

Speaking to reporters after taking oath of office after being reinstated to the position by president Salva Kiir who dismissed him two and half years ago, Amum also revealed that the former vice-president and current armed opposition leader Riek Machar was also reinstated, at least in theory, as the first deputy chairman of SPLM.

Amum who said he was a “born again’ politician after the reinstatement by president Kiir, said he would now take up the business of reunifying the divided party.

“And from now, it is going to [be] business of uniting the SPLM, from now, it is a business of proceeding to stop this war and bring peace to our country so that we can

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

rebuild South Sudan, improve and change tarnished image of South Sudan and (of) the SPLM,” Amum said.

The oratory South Sudanese politician was in February 2013 fired by president Kiir, who is also the chairman of SPLM, at the peak of power struggle in the party. The decision was revoked during an emergency meeting of the party’s National Liberation Council (NLC) on Tuesday and Amum was sworn in to the office few hours later.

The NLC decision was reached after president Kiir reportedly agreed to implement the Arusha SPLM roadmap reunification agreement signed in January 2015. The agreement also caters for reforms in the party. According to the deal, brokered by ruling parties of Tanzania and South Africa, Riek Machar would be reinstated as first deputy chairman of the SPLM.

Machar has not sent any delegate to Juba to pursue the implementation, citing security concerns, according to his spokesman. This week bilateral talks between his faction and the government’s SPLM faction will resume in Arusha.

Amum said with his swearing in to the office, he will now shoulder the responsibility to reunite the party, end the war and pave way for badly needed services delivery to South Sudanese.

“And united, work to make the dream of all our martyrs, on the top of whom our founding father and visionary leader Dr. John Garang de Mabior; make his dream come true; the dream of peaceful, free and prosperous South Sudan,” Amum said.

The resumption of SPLM influential post by Amum triggered mixed reactions among South Sudanese. Some criticized president Kiir for rewarding rebellion with top public position and others rebuked him for causing the death of innocent civilians when he will not stand his ground.

For the last one year after the crisis, Amum, who declared to contest for chairmanship position against Kiir in 2013, had been calling for removal of the president from power, saying an interim government should be handed over to none of the two rival leaders, including Machar.

AMUM IN KENYA

Amum arrived in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, on Wednesday in preparation for his new role as government’s official.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

Sources told Sudan Tribune that he was preparing for a meeting between president Kiir and opposition leader, Riek Machar on the Addis Ababa peace process, which is expected to take place on Thursday under the auspices of president Uhuru Kenyatta.

He will also make preparations for delegation of SPLM in government to travel to Arusha to meet with the SPLM-IO delegates.

Rebel leader Machar on Monday also met president Kenyatta at the State House and discussed a way forward in the peace process.

SPLM-IO accuses govt forces of renewed fighting in Jonglei

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

23 June 2015 - South Sudanese rebels said government forces have attacked their positions at Canal area in Jonglei state as their full scale offensive against opposition fighters continued in violation of the cessation of hostilities agreement.

Rebels spokesman also added they however repulsed the government troops on Tuesday which he said resulted to capture of Doleib Hill, a government's controlled town near Malakal, capital of the oil-rich Upper Nile state.

"Our positions at Canal came under heavy attack on Tuesday by government forces," rebel leader's spokesman, James Gatdet Dak, said.

"Our gallant forces however repulsed and pursued the government forces. In the process we captured Doleib Hill," he added.

He said that pro-government's remnants were pursued back into Malakal town, adding that the clashes also cleared the way to Balieta area, south of Malakal.

The rebel leader's spokesman said 3 tanks were captured from the government's forces in addition to other war equipment.

Dak accused the government of continuing with the offensive as regional leaders were preparing for resumption of the peace talks in Addis Ababa between the two warring parties.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

“They believe that the former detainees have surrendered to them. Their attack on our forces on the same day they were reinstating Pagan Amum was a sign of imaginary victory,” Dak alluded.

The clashes came as government was reinstating Pagan Amum to his position as ruling party’s (SPLM) secretary general together with a number of former political detainees. Amum was arrested in December 2013, detained for months and released into exile when he was accused of allegedly playing a role in an alleged military coup to topple president Salva Kiir.

East African regional bloc (IGAD) is yet to announce a date for resumption of peace talks between the warring parties under a new IGAD-Plus mechanism which shall involve other countries and international bodies beyond the continent.

It is expected that by rejoining the government, Pagan Amum and his colleagues would now become part and parcel of president Salva Kiir’s negotiating team when the talks resume whether in the intraparty dialogue process with the rebels or in Addis Ababa process.

SUDAN

Sudanese parliament voices frustration over continued armed insurgency

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

Khartoum, 24 June 2015 - The Chairman of the Security and Defense subcommittee in the Sudanese parliament Ahmed Imam al-Tuhami lambasted rebels fighting Khartoum and warned that weakened resolve will push people to leave the country as the insurgency continues.

The Sudanese government has been fighting the Sudan People Liberation Movement North (SPLM-N) in the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile since the year 2011 as well as several Darfuri rebel groups since 2003.

Al-Tuhami called for adhering to the military principle of ‘Shoot to kill’ which he said is used in the United States and Europe when faced with similar situations.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

"Unless the rebellion is finished for good in the near future then we will pack our bags and leave this country to them," he said.

For his part, MP Adam Hamid Musa said that the military has become one of undesired professions in the country following the deterioration of the economic situation of the armed forces which according to him has been burned out by fighting for more than 60 years.

Musa pointed out that low compensation for soldiers prompted the state to use militias to resolve conflicts.

He also underscored the high cost paid by the country to use those "cheap" militias and urged the legislature to enact laws that guarantee a decent life for combat soldiers.

MP Ismail Mohamed Youssef warned that the military arsenal owned by specific tribes is larger than those owned by the state and urged the legislature to enact laws to disarm all tribes.

Youssef also called for keeping the issue of tribal reconciliation out of state governors hands.

But MP Nafie Ali Nafie said the failure to reach peace in the country is caused by the unwillingness of the other party to resort to dialogue.

"Peace and dialogue will not be achieved, unless the opposition parties drop their own agenda," Nafie said.

Other MPs stressed the importance of supporting national dialogue initiative, demanding at the same time the formation of a parliamentary committee to follow up on dialogue as the only way to bring peace to the country.

Sudan's Bashir to attend India-Africa summit in New Delhi

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

Khartoum, 24 June 2015 - The Sudanese president Omer Hassan al-Bashir has been invited to third India-Africa summit which will be held in New Delhi between 26 to 30 October, an African diplomatic source disclosed.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

The Turkish news agency Anadolu quoted an anonymous source Wednesday as saying that India would invite Bashir along with 53 African leaders to attend the third India-Africa summit.

The same source added that the summit will be held on 29 October, noting that the African Union (AU) stipulates that invitation must be extended to all African presidents without exception to the cooperation summits between Africa and the other continents.

The source pointed that the AU fell out with the European Union (EU) several times when the latter required that the president of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, must be excluded from participating in European-African cooperation summit.

“Some countries require that invitations must not be extended to presidents wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) such as Bashir,” added the source.

According to the source, Bashir’s participation in this summit would be more secure than South Africa because India is not a member of the ICC.

“Another reason why Bashir would not fear the possibility of arrest is that all the countries he would have to cross from Sudan to India are ones that have amicable relations with Sudan,” the source added.

The Sudanese president closely escaped being arrested and being turned over to the ICC while attending an African Union summit in Johannesburg earlier this month.

Bashir’s attendance drew widespread controversy both inside and outside South Africa given his status as an individual wanted by the ICC for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide allegedly committed in Darfur since 2003.

The India-Africa summit is expected to be attended by nearly 1,000 delegates, including heads of state, ministers, government officials, business leaders and others.

The summit was originally scheduled for December 2014, but was postponed due to the Ebola scare.

Disclaimer:

This media monitoring is sent to you only for your information. The inclusion of the attached news items is not an endorsement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in Africa or that of the United Nations Organization. Further use or distribution of this media monitoring must be guided accordingly.

TANZANIA

La Banque Mondiale approuve un prêt de 100 millions USD pour la réforme de la gouvernance en Tanzanie

ARTICLE

Source: Agence de presse Xinhua

25 Juin 2015 - La Banque Mondiale a approuvé un prêt de 100 millions de dollars pour la Tanzanie pour aider à augmenter la transparence dans la gouvernance, a déclaré mercredi la banque dans un communiqué.

Le communiqué a expliqué que cet argent permettra également d'améliorer la gestion des finances publiques pour améliorer ainsi les services de santé, d'éducation et de distribution d'eau.

"Les financements approuvés mercredi ont montré l'engagement de la Banque Mondiale pour soutenir les efforts de la Tanzanie en faveur d'un gouvernement plus ouvert, de plus de transparence et de l'amélioration des services à la population, notamment aux plus pauvres", a expliqué Philippe Dongier, directeur pays en Tanzanie de la Banque Mondiale.

La Vision 2025, qui fixe le chemin à suivre de la Tanzanie pour devenir un pays à revenus moyens, a adopté un nouveau modèle de livraison de résultats intitulé "Big Results Now" pour s'assurer que les programmes soient mis en place à temps en se concentrant sur les citoyens et leur participation dans les prises de décision.