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



## **MEDIA MONITORING**

**4 September 2015**

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### **GENERAL NEWS**

#### **Africa: Great Lakes Region to Be Reinvigorated Through Development**

OPINION

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201509030447.html>

By Abebe Woldegiorgis

**3 September 2015** - The Great Lakes Region is one of the naturally rich places in Africa yet due to political volatility, it has been plagued with war and conflict and its mineral resources rather fueled destruction. But now, it has grabbed the attention of the international community as the destination of foreign investment.

Briefing journalists yesterday, African Union Great Lake Regions Special Envoy Seied Djinati said that the region has been a battle field for half a century between various political interest groups causing the death of many, displacement of families, infrastructural destruction and still the hungover of political upheaval is there. Ultimately, the execution of development projects and job creation for people there has been taken as a way out from the vicious circle of conflict by the international community.

According to Djinati, though some uncertainties still prevail, supporting development effort through construction of infrastructure, flourishing business and investment are vital and these efforts have a return in terms of political stability.

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He also said to that end issues related to regulatory and investment climate, finance and banking systems, customs and tariffs and other enabling environments have been discussed by various stakeholders and the situation seems promising.

He further said the Great Lakes investment initiative underlined both public and private partnership through which regional governments and foreign investment have a stake.

The Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry Executive Director Kebour Genna on his part said the situation in the region has shown improvement as compared to decades ago. Countries such as Rwanda and Uganda have been registering significant economic growth which spill over to neighbouring countries. Road infrastructure in the Democratic Republic of Congo also improved while the IT service could be said exemplary to other regions.

He further said that in the Great Lakes Region development initiative, investment agencies, ministry representatives, industry leaders, chambers of commerce and business association officials involved so as to facilitate the job.

According to him, the Region, though beset by recurring conflicts over years, it is well endowed with natural resources including strategic location bordering two oceans. The opportunities for exploiting these endowments for intra-regional benefits are immense. However, he underlined that to exploit the natural resources; capacity building, improving productivity and competitiveness are key challenges.

## DRC

### **RDC : le Groupe des envoyés internationaux apporte son soutien au processus électoral**

NOUVELLE

Source: Agence de presse Xinhua

4 septembre 2015 - Suite à sa rencontre du 28 août à Genève, le Groupe des Envoyés internationaux pour la région des Grands Lacs, a déclaré jeudi son soutien aux efforts de la RDC dans l'organisation des prochaines élections.

"Avec l'appui de la Communauté internationale, ces élections qui devraient être transparentes, crédibles et exclusives, auront une portée historique et sont d'une

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grande importance pour la poursuite du développement et du renforcement de la sécurité", souligne le Groupe des envoyés dans une déclaration conjointe.

Les envoyés internationaux reviennent sur la particularité, mais aussi l'importance de la tenue des élections présidentielles et législatives dans les délais constitutionnels avec la participation de toutes les personnes éligibles.

"Nous lançons un appel à tous les acteurs politiques en vue de parvenir rapidement à un accord sur les conditions d'un processus crédible, mais surtout, de prendre sans tarder des mesures nécessaires afin de garantir un espace politique ouvert à tous", ajoute les envoyés.

Le Groupe des envoyés internationaux est composé de l'Envoyé spécial de l'ONU pour la région des Grands Lacs, du Représentant spécial de l'UA, du Représentant spécial de l'ONU en RDC, mais aussi des USA, de l'Union européenne, et de la Belgique. F

## **Le Phare : «Les envoyés spéciaux de la CI dans les Grands Lacs interpellent la classe politique congolaise»**

NOUVELLE

Source: Radio Okapi.net (<http://www.radiookapi.net/2015/09/04/actualite/revue-de-presse/le-phare-les-envoyes-speciaux-de-la-ci-dans-les-grands-lacs>)

**4 septembre 2015** - Le groupe des Envoyés internationaux pour la région des Grands Lacs a publié jeudi 3 septembre 2015, un communiqué précisant sa position officielle sur les tractations politiques en cours en RDC, écrit Le Phare à la une : « Les envoyés spéciaux de la CI dans les Grands Lacs interpellent la classe politique congolaise. »

D'entrée de jeu, les Envoyés spéciaux ont confirmé leur soutien à la RDC dans ses efforts visant à organiser les prochaines élections qui auront une portée historique.

« Elles sont d'une grande importance pour la poursuite du développement et du renforcement de la sécurité. Ces élections, avec l'appui de la Communauté internationale, devraient être transparentes, crédibles et inclusives », ont-ils indiqué, selon Le Phare.

Dans le même document, les Envoyés internationaux ont souligné, en particulier, l'importance de la tenue des élections présidentielle et législatives dans les délais constitutionnels, avec la participation de toutes les personnes éligibles.

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La Prospérité abonde dans le même sens et titre : « RDC, les Envoyés spéciaux invitent les acteurs politiques à un accord ! »

Ils étaient six envoyés spéciaux à avoir pris part à la rencontre de Genève : Martin Kobler (Monusco), Saïd Djinnit (ONU), Ibrahima Fall (UA), Thomas Perriello (USA), Koen Vervaeke (UE) et Frank Coninck (Belgique).

Ils ont signé une déclaration dans laquelle ils insistent sur l'importance de la tenue des élections présidentielle et législatives dans les délais constitutionnels, rapporte le quotidien.

La Prospérité estime que «ces élections, avec l'appui de la Communauté internationale, devraient être transparentes, crédibles et inclusives. Un accord entre acteurs politiques est à trouver rapidement pour créer les conditions d'un processus crédible.»

Mais toutes ces déclarations de ceux qu'on appelle simplement fonctionnaires internationaux dans la ville haute, à Kinshasa, n'émeuvent pas grand-monde. C'est comme un vieux chat fatigué de corps, dit-on, qui ne fait plus peur aux souris. Et, pourtant, à l'Onu, l'on considère qu'il s'agit là, d'un vrai avertissement à prendre au sérieux, poursuit le quotidien.

Forum des As reprend intégralement le communiqué des envoyés spéciaux et représentants internationaux pour la région des Grands Lacs sur les élections en RDC.

L'Avenir traite du sujet des élections mais s'intéresse à celles des gouverneurs et vice-gouverneurs. «Fermeté de la Cour constitutionnelle pour débloquer la situation», titre le journal.

La Cour constitutionnelle a bouclé hier, l'instruction relative à la demande d'interprétation de la loi électorale et de celle de programmation de nouvelles provinces. Saisie par la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (CENI), les « neuf sages » de la Cour constitutionnelle ont entendu successivement André Mpungwe, Evariste Boshab et enfin, Matata Ponyo, hier lors d'une séance à huis clos, relate le quotidien.

Et le journal de poursuivre : «Ils sont, dès lors en possession de tous les éléments et informations ayant conduit à la non organisation de l'élection des gouverneurs et vice-gouverneurs des 21 nouvelles provinces par la CENI. L'absence des gestionnaires élus dans les provinces démembrées donne lieu aux fraudes dans la perception des taxes, occasionnant ainsi un colossal manque à gagner pour le Trésor public. Ce qui, par ailleurs, est de nature à troubler l'ordre public.»

Forum des As constate que le très matinal Matata Ponyo était invisible aux aurores. Une vraie anomalie pour ce Premier ministre qui se met à la tâche avant le lever du

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soleil. En déplacement ? Indisponible ? s'interroge le quotidien, qui trouve la réponse après recherches :

« Rien de tel. Des sources croisées ont signalé la présence du chef du gouvernement dans les locaux de la Cour constitutionnelle. Rien de grave. Rien d'anormal. Les Congolais devraient s'y faire. »

## **Congo militia chief Ntaganda says protected civilians**

### NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters Africa

By Thomas Escritt

**3 September 2015** - Militia leader Bosco Ntaganda, on trial in The Hague on charges of orchestrating rape and murder in a conflict in northeast Congo in the early 2000s, said he was a "revolutionary rebel" trying to restore peace in the province.

Accounts of rape and massacres during the fighting have dominated the first two days of his trial, with prosecutors saying Ntaganda gathered a guerrilla army to strengthen his allies and corner the region's mineral resources for himself.

But Ntaganda, who began his military career fighting alongside Tutsi forces in Rwanda in 1994 that brought to an end that country's genocide, said his Union of Congolese Patriots (UPC) army attempted to protect civilians of all ethnicities.

"The word had gone out to kill all Tutsis in Ituri, or those who looked like them," he said, rising to address judges in the wood-panelled courtroom at the end of the second day of his trial.

"I ask you to make a distinction between a revolutionary rebel and a criminal," he told judges. "I am not a criminal."

Earlier, a lawyer for victims had described how girls as young as 12 were forced to serve as "wives" to senior officers in the UPC or were forced to be sexually available to soldiers.

Prosecutors say Ntaganda let ethnic Hema troops under his command rape and massacre ethnic Lendu civilians who lived on land rich in oil, diamonds and gold which he wanted for himself. They also accuse him of raping child soldiers.

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One 13-year-old said falling pregnant with the child of a senior commander was a "relief" from the daily round of sexual favours she otherwise had to offer fighters, the victims' lawyer said.

But his lawyers said he was a disciplined and highly professional soldier who had protected civilians from other militias during a power vacuum in the country that followed the 1997 toppling of President Mobutu Sese Seso.

Before he gave himself up in 2013 after seven years on the run, Ntaganda fought for 15 years in wars that killed some 5 million people in the Democratic Republic of Congo over the past two decades.

U.N. experts have said the M23 rebels he fought alongside were backed by Rwanda, a charge Kigali has always denied.

Born in Rwanda but raised in Congo, he began his military career alongside Tutsi rebels who seized control of Rwanda in 1994, bringing to an end the genocide in which 800,000 died.

## **Bosco Ntaganda devant la CPI : Un procès qui doit faire trembler des têtes couronnées de la sous-région**

### **OPINION**

Source: Le Pays (Burkina Faso)

Par Dieudonné MAKIENI

**3 septembre 2015** - Hier, s'est ouvert à la Cour pénale internationale (CPI), le procès de Bosco Ntaganda, surnommé « Terminator ». Général de l'armée congolaise, ce chef de guerre qui a promené sa bosse du Congo au Rwanda, est impliqué dans la plupart des massacres de populations qui ont eu lieu dans la région des Grands lacs.

Recherché activement par les autorités congolaises et rwandaises ainsi que par l'institution de Fatou Bensouda qui l'accuse de crimes de guerre, de crimes contre l'humanité et d'enrôlement d'enfants mineurs, Ntaganda a toujours nié les faits. Mais pris entre le marteau de la CPI et l'enclume de ceux qu'il a servis hier, Bosco Ntaganda s'était finalement rendu à l'ambassade américaine de Kigali en mars 2013, avant d'être transféré à la CPI pour y être jugé. Il faut dire qu'en choisissant la Justice internationale, Bosco Ntaganda a ainsi mis fin à une cavale dont l'issue risquait à tout moment de lui être fatale. En se livrant à la CPI, Bosco était conscient qu'il risquait gros, au regard des chefs d'accusation retenus contre lui (13 pour crimes de guerre et 5 pour crimes contre

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l'humanité dont des meurtres, des pillages, des viols d'enfants soldats et d'esclavage sexuel). Mais il savait, par dessus tout, qu'il coupait l'herbe sous les pieds de certains chefs d'Etat de la sous-région qui auraient préféré le savoir six pieds sous terre, que dans les bureaux de l'intraitable Fatou Bensouda. On sait en effet que Terminator n'était pas qu'un chef de guerre sanguinaire. Il était aussi un homme d'affaires qui prospérait dans le commerce minier et ce, à travers toute la sous-région. Une activité qui n'a pas manqué d'intéresser certains chefs d'Etat comme le sulfureux Paul Kagamé du Rwanda ou encore Yoweri Museveni de l'Ouganda, sans oublier l'insaisissable Joseph Kabila. Tous, pour une poignée d'or ou de diamant, lui ont donné leur onction par leur silence, quand ils ne l'utilisaient pas pour massacrer ou exterminer des ethnies qui refusaient de se soumettre à leur diktat.

C'est le lieu de saluer les efforts de la CPI et son rôle dans la protection des populations vulnérables

On est donc bien fondé à penser que ce procès qui vient de s'ouvrir à la CPI, va faire trembler de nombreuses têtes couronnées de la sous-région. Qu'à cela ne tienne, pour les populations de la sous-région, ce procès est la meilleure revanche que la communauté internationale puisse leur donner. Un cadeau de Noël avant Noël. Ce procès laisse par ailleurs comprendre pourquoi les peuples africains et leurs dirigeants ne seront jamais sur la même longueur d'onde, dès qu'il est question d'apprécier l'utilité de la CPI pour le continent. Bosco Ntaganda a choisi de plaider non coupable, quoique les preuves rassemblées contre lui soient tellement criardes qu'il aurait été sage pour lui de ne pas les contester. Et ce d'autant que la Cour pénale a réussi à mobiliser plus d'une centaine de témoins à charge. Mieux, parmi ces témoins, on retrouve aussi bien ses victimes que des anciens camarades et frères d'armes prêts à témoigner. C'est sans doute le lieu de saluer les efforts de la CPI et son rôle dans la protection des populations vulnérables contre ces seigneurs de guerre qui n'ont aucun égard pour la vie humaine. Il faut que ce procès aille à son terme et qu'il soit exemplaire, comme celui de Charles Taylor. Il faut que les dirigeants africains sachent qu'il y aura toujours une épée de Damoclès au-dessus de leur tête, chaque fois qu'ils porteront atteinte à la vie de leurs concitoyens. Ce procès doit être une piqûre de rappel à tous les dictateurs et autres tortionnaires du continent africain. Et le meilleur service que Bosco puisse encore rendre à ceux qu'il a brimés pour espérer leur pardon, est de parler et de dénoncer tous ses anciens complices, fussent-ils des chefs d'Etat en exercice.

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## DR Congo surgeon lashes out at film ban

### NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

**Kinshasa, 4 September 2015** - The surgeon who is the subject of an acclaimed film about efforts to help women raped by the military and militia in the Democratic Republic of Congo has hit out at its banning.

Denis Mukwege, who has treated thousands of women sexually abused during conflict, said a decision by censors to veto "The Man Who Mends Women" was indicative of the "climate of oppression" in the DRC.

It "demonstrates the willingness of the government to deny the Congolese people the right of access to information in order to better manipulate and control," Mukwege said in a statement issued Thursday.

"In the DR Congo, we live in a climate of oppression, diminishing human rights and a shrinking space for fundamental freedoms," he said.

A number of opposition and civil society activists have been arrested in recent months in the wake of a deadly January crackdown on demonstrations against President Joseph Kabila.

Belgian film maker Thierry Michel's movie follows Mukwege's efforts to repair the physical and psychological injuries of the victims of sexual violence.

Banning the film this week, DRC media minister Lambert Mende said: "There is a clear intent to harm and sully the image of our army and no country in the world could tolerate it.

"That is why we have banned the showing of the film here."

The film follows the activity of gynaecologist Mukwege in the Panzi Hospital he founded in 1999, and which he has run in the South Kivu city Bukavu while operating on several rape victims each day.

The militants vying for control of the region's mineral wealth use rape to terrorise the local population, though members of the army are also known to have undertaken regular waves of mass sexual assault.

Mukwege was awarded the European Parliament's Sakharov rights prize last November.



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## Congo bans documentary about renowned rape trauma surgeon

### NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

By Aaron Ross

**Kinshasa, 2 September 2015** - Democratic Republic of Congo on Wednesday banned a documentary film about a doctor who treats war rape victims, leading the film makers to say the government was trying to silence debate about sexual violence.

Media Minister Lambert Mende gave no reason for the decision to ban "The Man who Mends Women (L'Homme Qui Repare Les Femmes)," which is about Congolese gynecologist Denis Mukwege, the founder of Panzi Hospital in the eastern city of Bukavu.

Sexual violence by militias and the army is a defining atrocity of a conflict in eastern Congo that has lasted two decades, and the hospital has treated thousands of rape victims. Several high-level perpetrators have recently been convicted.

Human rights groups have accused the army of using rape as a weapon, but military leaders objected to the film as slanderous, said Thierry Michel, the film's Belgian co-producer.

"The banning of the scheduled screening of this film is a way of gagging (Mukwege) ... and (the voice) of the victims of these wars and tragedies that the country has lived through for 20 years," Michel said in the statement.

The film, co-financed by Belgium's foreign affairs ministry and the International Organisation of La Francophonie, was scheduled to be screened in the capital, Kinshasa, next week and Bukavu the following week.

Millions died in a war in eastern Congo between 1998 and 2003, mostly from hunger and disease. Since then, the region has been plagued by instability as dozens of armed groups compete for its vast natural resources.

Mukwege won the Sakharov Prize, Europe's top human rights award, last October and was tipped for last year's Nobel Peace Prize.

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## **Les six Imams tanzaniens libérés grâce à la puissance de feu des Fardc présentés au Gouverneur du Nord-Kivu**

NOUVELLE

Source: Agence congolaise de presse (ACP) via DigitalCongo.net  
(<http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/109701>)

**Kinshasa, 3 septembre 2015** - Le dénouement heureux de cette captivité a été salué par le Gouverneur Julien Paluku pour qui la stratégie utilisée par les Fardc pour cette fin constitue une preuve de plus du professionnalisme de l'Armée régulière.

Le gouverneur de la province du Nord-Kivu, Julien Paluku Kahongya a reçu, ce mercredi 2 septembre, en sa résidence officielle, les six Imams (prédicateurs musulmans) tanzaniens libérés des griffes de leurs ravisseurs présumés Fdlr, grâce à la puissance de feu des Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo, Fardc.

Conduits auprès de l'Autorité par le Général Bruno Mandevu, commandant des opérations Sukola II, les six hommes relaxés après près de trente jours de captivité, disent n'avoir pas été maltraités par leurs ravisseurs sauf la privation de liberté, les intempéries et l'éloignement de leurs proches.

Les six prédicateurs originaires de Zanzibar qui ont avoué n'avoir pas versé une quelconque rançon présentent leurs ravisseurs comme étant de jeunes dont l'âge varie entre 16 et 19 ans encadrés par quelques responsables suffisamment pour qui les donneurs d'ordre serait basé loin du lieu de captivité.

Aucune trace de torture n'est visible sur tous les membres du groupe dont l'unique mission était le raffermissement de la foi musulmane dans cette partie de la RDC.

A noter qu'à leur capture, en date du 02 août dernier sur l'axe routier Ishasha-Kiwanja, dans le territoire de Rutshuru, plus au Nord-Est de Goma, deux parmi les membres du groupe avaient été relâchés pour raisons de santé.

Le dénouement heureux de cette captivité a été salué par le Gouverneur Julien Paluku pour qui la stratégie utilisée par les Fardc pour cette fin constitue une preuve de plus du professionnalisme de l'Armée régulière.

Les six Imams libérés sont nommément Mohamed Abdallah, Abedi Issa, Sheikh Makame Amisi, Abdallah Silim, Hemedi Arwesu et Ali Amisi Ali.

Satisfecit de l'Ambassadeur de la Tanzanie en RDC

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L'ambassadeur de la République Unie de la Tanzanie en RDC, M. Antony Cheche, a effectué le déplacement de Goma pour accueillir ses compatriotes sortis des mains de leurs kidnappeurs au terme de près des trente jours dans la brousse.

Pour le diplomate tanzanien, cet acte heureux et réconfortant est une preuve de l'excellence de rapports entretenus par les Présidents Morisho Jakaya Kikwete de la Tanzanie et Joseph Kabila Kabange.

« Le dénouement heureux et réconfortant de cette prise d'otage constitue une occasion de réaffirmer les bonnes relations entretenues par nos deux Etats respectifs », a affirmé l'Ambassadeur Antony Cheche après une audience conjointe des ex-otages avec le Gouverneur Julien Paluku.

Tout en saluant les prouesses dont ont fait montre les éléments des forces armées de la RD Congo ayant concouru à cette libération, l'Ambassadeur Antony Cheche a enfin fait remarquer que cet incident passager ne doit en rien affecter les relations entre son pays, la République Unie de Tanzanie et la RDC, deux pays unies par de bonnes et longues relations d'amitié.

## **RDC : le gouvernement tanzanien salue la libération des imams**

NOUVELLE

Source: Agence de presse Xinhua

**4 septembre 2015** - L'ambassadeur de Tanzanie en RDC, M. Antony Cheche, en déplacement à Goma, dans l'est de la RDC, a salué la libération de six imams-prédicateurs enlevés le mois dernier par des éléments présumés des forces démocratiques pour la libération du Rwanda (FDLR).

"Cet acte heureux et réconfortant est une preuve de l'excellence de rapports entretenus par les Présidents Morisho Jakaya Kikwete de la Tanzanie et son homologue de la RDC", à déclaré le diplomate tanzanien, qui a effectué le déplacement à Goma, dans l'est de la RDC pour accueillir ses compatriotes sortis des mains de leurs kidnappeurs.

Conduits auprès de l'Autorité de la province par le général Bruno Mandevu, commandant des opérations Sukola II, les six hommes relaxés après près de 30 jours de captivité, en compagnie de leurs ambassadeurs, disent n'avoir pas été maltraités par leurs ravisseurs.

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Les six prédicateurs originaires de Zanzibar, qui ont avoué n'avoir pas versé une quelconque rançon, présentent leurs ravisseurs comme étant de jeunes dont l'âge varie entre 16 et 19 ans encadrés par quelques responsables plus âgés.

Les six Imams et leur chauffeur rd-congolais, enlevés depuis le 2 août dernier dans le territoire de Rutshuru (Nord-Kivu), ont été libérés mardi à l'issue des opérations militaires en cours contre les rebelles des FDLR.

## BURUNDI

### Gunfire Rocks Burundi's Capital for Second Consecutive Night

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Bloomberg Business

By Desire Nimubona

**3 September 2015** - Gunfire and explosions rocked Burundi's capital, Bujumbura, for a second consecutive night as unrest continues to roil the East African nation after President Pierre Nkurunziza's re-election.

Police officers deployed and searched homes in the city's Cibitoke district on Thursday morning. The body of a young man was found river near the area, Ndayisaba Elie, a local resident, said in an interview. Gunfire and blasts were also heard in Bujumbura's Jabe and Musaga districts.

Police spokesman Pierre Nkurikiye didn't answer calls seeking comment. In an address on national television on Sept. 1, he said 15 people had been arrested in restive areas of the capital and that military uniforms and a rifle were seized.

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Unrest in Burundi, spurred by Nkurunziza's successful re-election bid, has left at least 90 people dead since April and driven 180,000 others to seek refuge in countries in the region. Opponents say Nkurunziza's July re-election violates a two-term limit set out in peace accords that ended a 12-year civil war in 2005.

## **Burundi's Government Trying to Disarm Civilians**

### NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

**3 September 2015** - The U.S. State Department has called on Burundi's government to disarm all militias, including the ruling party's youth wing, the Imbonerakure, to prevent a further escalation of violence.

Burundi's government says a disarmament program is underway. Critics say the program, however, is targeting areas that opposed the president's bid for a third term.

Burundi's capital, Bujumbura, has seen a rise in clashes involving police. Police said Wednesday that officers shot and killed two "insurgents" who had fired on them. On Sunday, police allegedly killed two opposition activists.

Government spokesman Willy Nyamitwe said such attacks have prompted security agencies to carry out sweeps in neighborhoods that have witnessed months of protests.

"The police and the army going into these suburbs to try to remove all the guns from the civilians," he said. "This is what is being done right now and we hope in a few days all the guns will be removed from those persons and those persons who are being sought will be brought to justice."

### **Constitutional issues**

Witnesses and officials say some residential areas, like Jabe in central Bujumbura, have seen multiple disarmament raids. Some residents accuse the government of taking revenge against them for demanding that President Pierre Nkurunziza not seek a third term.

Nkurunziza was re-elected in July, but only after withstanding a storm of protest from opponents, who said he was violating term limits in the constitution.

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In his inauguration speech last month, he promised to unite the country, bring an end to violence, and called for what he termed "security committees" to work with the country's security agencies.

The State Department said that call was worrisome, as the "committees" apparently includes the ruling party's militia, the Imbonerakure.

Human rights groups have accused the Imbonerakure of attacking protesters and carrying out human rights abuses.

Nyamitwe says the president called on all Burundians to work and help security forces to secure the country.

"It means that everybody in the country, all the persons — Hutus and Tutsis, persons from all religions, social groups — should collaborate with the army and the police in order to arrest every person that is suspected because we need to secure our country 100 percent," said Nyamitwe.

The United States is still pushing the Burundian government to join opposition leaders in a national dialogue. Without it, some observers fear political tensions could rip apart a country less than a decade removed from civil war.

## UGANDA

### Uganda says 12 of its soldiers killed in Islamist attack in Somalia

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters Africa

**3 September 2015** - Twelve Ugandan soldiers who served as African Union peacekeepers were killed when militants attacked their base in Somalia this week, a Ugandan military spokesman said on Thursday.

The statement suggests a lower death toll than the 70 claimed by al Shabaab, which carried out Tuesday's attack, although spokesman Paddy Ankunda said he could not confirm if peacekeepers of other nationalities had been killed.

The AU peacekeeping mission, known as AMISOM, has not yet released casualty figures for Tuesday's attack, which came roughly a year after al Shabaab leader Ahmed Abdi Godane was killed in a U.S. air strike.

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"We won't relent in our efforts to pacify Somalia, it's a mission we must accomplish no matter what," Ankunda told Reuters after announcing that the bodies of the 12 Ugandan soldiers would be flown home this week.

Akunda said the delay in announcing the death toll was due to protocol requiring next of kin to be informed first.

Somalia-focused diplomatic sources had initially said the toll was expected to be "very large" lending some credence to the figure claimed by al Shabaab.

But one source said on Thursday that fewer people may have been killed in the attack than previously feared, although the number would only be clear when AMISOM announced it.

Al Shabaab often exaggerates the success of its attacks, while officials play down losses.

The attack on Janale base, about 90 km (56 miles) south from capital Mogadishu, was the latest of its frequent assaults on AMISOM's bases or convoys by the Islamist group which wants to topple Somalia's Western-backed government.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### U.N. experts accuse Chad of abuses in Central Africa conflict

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

By Louis Charbonneau

**3 September 2015** - Chadian security forces have been guilty of numerous abuses against civilians in the conflict in Central African Republic, including indiscriminate border killings, a panel that monitors U.N. sanctions said in a confidential report seen by Reuters.

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

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Rival armed groups agreed to a peace accord in May, but the conflict has continued at a lower intensity, and a transitional government has been unable to assert authority over CAR's vast, mineral-rich territory. Among the problems are trade in "blood diamonds" and poaching.

Another problem is that government forces of neighboring Chad have targeted CAR refugees attempting to cross the border and return home.

"The panel collected evidence establishing that individual members of Chadian security and armed forces have committed a number of human rights violations against Central African nationals," said the expert panel's report, seen by Reuters.

"These violations include killings of civilians, looting and destruction of civilian property, forced displacement, extortion, illegal detention and violation of the right of return of Central African refugees in Chad," it added.

Chad's U.N. mission did not have an immediate response when contacted about the allegations.

The panel said many people it interviewed described how Chadian security forces beat or fired on civilians trying to return home to CAR from Chad, where they had fled to escape the fighting.

"According to victims and witnesses, civilians crossing the border are indiscriminately targeted, day and night, including women and children," it said, adding that this was a violation of international humanitarian law.

The report said that some people were allowed to cross into CAR after paying bribes to Chadian forces, while others were killed, wounded or detained despite those bribes.

After humanitarian groups complained to the Chadian government about the targeting of civilians in this manner, it issued what the panel described as an "urgent cable" on May 19 explaining that the border with CAR remained closed though there were no orders to shoot people approaching it.

But "indiscriminate shootings" continued after the cable was issued.

It said that since May 2014 in the village of Moyen Sido alone, there have been 42 cases of CAR refugees being killed and 140 injured while attempting to cross the border.



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## Centrafrique : nouvelle allégation d'abus sexuel contre un militaire français

NOUVELLE

Source: AFP

**La victime présumée, probablement en fin d'adolescence au moment des faits allégués, a donné naissance à un enfant en avril, selon l'ONU.**

**3 septembre 2015** - L'armée française est une nouvelle fois impliquée dans une affaire d'abus sexuels en Centrafrique, après un premier scandale en avril dans ce pays et un autre en juillet au Burkina Faso, qui ternissent son image malgré sa volonté affichée de punir sévèrement les coupables. L'affaire, révélée jeudi par le haut commissaire aux Droits de l'homme de l'ONU, porte sur "des allégations d'abus sexuel d'une jeune fille" par un soldat de la force française Sangaris. "La jeune fille, probablement en fin d'adolescence au moment des faits allégués, a donné naissance à un enfant en avril", précisent les services du haut commissaire dans un communiqué diffusé à Genève. Les faits se seraient produits il y a environ un an et le personnel des Nations unies en République centrafricaine (RCA) en a été informé le 30 août.

"Ceci est la dernière d'une série d'allégations effroyables d'abus et d'exploitation sexuelle par des troupes étrangères en RCA", a déclaré Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, en visite à Bangui. Il a ajouté que les autorités françaises avaient été informées de ces dernières accusations et que l'ONU se tenait disponible pour les aider dans leurs enquêtes. Le ministre français de la Défense, Jean-Yves Le Drian, "a immédiatement ordonné une enquête de commandement et saisira le parquet de Paris dès que des éléments lui seront transmis", a-t-on annoncé dans son entourage en notant n'avoir pour l'heure connaissance que du communiqué.

"Les autorités françaises ont demandé aux Nations unies de leur transmettre officiellement toutes les informations dont elles disposent. (...) Elles sont déterminées à faire toute la lumière sur cette affaire", a ajouté le porte-parole du ministère, Pierre Bayle. Si les faits sont avérés, "des sanctions disciplinaires exemplaires seront prononcées", outre les suites judiciaires auxquelles ils pourront donner lieu, a souligné M. Bayle.

Dans l'immédiat, l'Unicef va fournir un soutien psychosocial et une assistance juridique à la jeune fille et à sa famille via une ONG partenaire. La victime présumée a aussi déposé une plainte pour reconnaissance de paternité auprès des autorités locales.

**"Assez, c'est assez"**

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La France enquêtait déjà sur des accusations d'abus sexuels sur des enfants en Centrafrique entre décembre 2013 et juin 2014. Ces allégations, révélées en avril par le quotidien britannique The Guardian, visent notamment 14 soldats français. Les enfants, âgés de 8 à 13 ans, auraient également été violés par des soldats du Tchad et de Guinée équatoriale. Les Nations unies ont été vivement critiquées pour leur lenteur à répondre à ces allégations et pour avoir sanctionné un fonctionnaire qui avait, de sa propre initiative, transmis un rapport aux autorités françaises pour les alerter.

Le 12 août, le chef de la Mission de l'ONU en Centrafrique (Minusca), le Sénégalais Babacar Gaye, a dû démissionner après une série d'autres accusations d'abus sexuels commis par des Casques bleus sur des mineurs. "Assez, c'est assez", avait alors martelé le secrétaire général de l'ONU, Ban Ki-moon. La Minusca, forte de 12 000 Casques bleus, fait face à au moins 61 accusations de fautes, dont 12 concernant des cas d'abus sexuels.

Le haut commissaire aux Droits de l'homme a souligné que les gouvernements des pays qui fournissent des contingents ont l'obligation d'enquêter rapidement sur tous les cas présumés de violences sexuelles. "Tous les militaires reconnus coupables, qu'ils soient des Nations unies ou d'un autre pays étranger, doivent être condamnés à des peines qui correspondent à leurs crimes", a déclaré M. Zeid.

Lors d'une rencontre fin août à Paris, le président François Hollande a assuré M. Ban que la France serait implacable dans sa lutte contre tous les responsables d'abus sexuels, selon un responsable français s'exprimant sous le couvert de l'anonymat. Début juillet, deux soldats des forces spéciales françaises soupçonnés d'attouchements sur deux petites filles au Burkina Faso ont été immédiatement suspendus et transférés en France, où l'un des deux a été mis en examen, sur la foi d'images vidéo.

## UN: French soldier sexually abused girl in Central Africa Republic

### NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

**3 September 2015** - The UN said on Thursday its staff had learned that a French soldier had sexually abused a teenage girl in the Central African Republic, who became pregnant and gave birth.

"This is the latest in a series of appalling allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by foreign troops in CAR," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said in a statement.

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The UN workers in the country learned on August 30 that a girl was allegedly sexually abused around a year ago by soldier from the French military force, known as Sangaris, the United Nations rights office said.

The girl, who is believed to have been in her mid to late teens at the time of the alleged abuse, gave birth to a child in April, it said, adding that the victim has lodged a paternity case with the local authorities.

French authorities had been informed of the allegations and that the UN was ready to help with any investigation, Zeid said.

**Investigation**

A source close to French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said he "immediately ordered an investigation and will refer the case to Paris prosecutors once the details have been transferred to him".

The ministry had been informed three days ago that the UN was planning to put out a statement about sexual abuse allegations, but had not received any details yet, the source said.

"We're waiting for the UN to give us a bit more," ministry spokesperson Pierre Bayle said, stressing the French would be "completely transparent" in their handling of the case.

France is already investigating allegations that 14 Sangaris soldiers sexually abused children in CAR in return for food, from December 2013 until June 2014.

"Although this particular case did not involve UN peacekeepers, there have been a number of other cases in CAR - and elsewhere - which have," said Zeid, who is currently visiting the chronically restive, impoverished nation.

The case announced on Thursday is only the latest in a string of alleged sexual abuse cases involving foreign troops.

**Underage victims**

The French Sangaris soldiers were not deployed under UN command, but the UN's 12 000-strong MINUSCA force, which took over from an African Union mission nearly a year ago, has also been plagued by a series of allegations of rape and other misconduct by its own troops.

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The UN mission in CAR has been hit by 13 cases of alleged sexual abuse by its peacekeepers, including nine that involve underage victims as young as 11, an official said last month.

"We simply have to find ways to prevent such odious acts being committed by any soldiers anywhere who are supposed to be protecting vulnerable populations," Zeid said.

He said governments who send peacekeeping troops have an obligation to investigate all such cases in a timely manner.

"Any UN or other foreign military personnel found guilty must be given sentences that fit the crime," he said.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Zuma meets Al-Bashir in China, agrees to visit Sudan

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Times Live (<http://www.timeslive.co.za/politics/2015/09/03/Zuma-meets-Al-Bashir-in-China%E2%80%9A-agrees-to-visit-Sudan>)

**President Jacob Zuma, despite a storm of controversy in South Africa over wanted "war criminal" President Omar Al-Bashir, today met the Sudanese leader and agreed to visit that country.**

**3 September 2015** - Just this week, the opposition DA had tried to ask Parliament to investigate the circumstances under which Al-Bashir had been allowed to leave South Africa when he was ordered by the International Criminal Court not to leave; whether the Constitution had been breached; and whether Zuma should be removed from office for failing to effect the ICC arrest warrant on Al-Bashir when he attended the African Union summit in Johannesburg in June.

In a statement today, the Presidency said Zuma had met Al-Bashir "to discuss strengthening relations between South Africa and Sudan, on the margins of the 70th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese Peoples' War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, taking place in Beijing, in The Peoples' Republic China".

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“South Africa and Sudan enjoy warm bilateral relations,” the presidency said, adding that 16 bilateral agreements have been concluded between the two countries to date.

“South Africa seeks to further strengthen cooperation with Sudan in the fields of agriculture, agro-processing, science and technology, energy, infrastructure development, mining and retail... Today, the two leaders recommitted themselves to elevating the bilateral Joint Co-operation Commission (JCC) to a Ministerial level.

“President Zuma accepted the invitation by President Al –Bashir to visit Sudan,” the statement read.

## SOUTH SUDAN

### Le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU se réunit vendredi sur le Soudan du Sud

NOUVELLE

Source: AFP

**Nations Unies, 4 septembre 2015** - Le Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies doit se réunir vendredi pour évoquer les combats qui se poursuivent au Soudan du Sud malgré l'accord de paix signé fin août et qui devait mettre fin à 20 mois de guerre civile.

Les 15 membres du Conseil doivent se réunir à huis clos à partir de 14H00 GMT à la demande des Etats-Unis, parrains de l'indépendance de ce jeune pays et qui ont encore brandi mardi la menace de sanctions onusiennes contre les belligérants accusés de violer le cessez-le-feu.

Le secrétaire d'Etat John Kerry a d'ailleurs téléphoné une nouvelle fois jeudi au président sud-soudanais Salva Kiir pour exprimer l'inquiétude de Washington face aux dernières violations du cessez-le-feu, a rapporté un diplomate du département d'Etat.

Le président Kiir a confirmé au secrétaire d'Etat qu'il s'était engagé à appliquer l'accord de paix et le cessez-le-feu.

Cette trêve est prévue dans l'accord signé fin août par le président Kiir et par son rival et ancien vice-président, le chef de la rébellion Riek Machar.

Vendredi, les membres du Conseil devraient notamment entendre un rapport de l'envoyée spéciale de l'ONU, Ellen Margrethe Loej, ont indiqué des diplomates.

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Le Soudan du Sud a proclamé son indépendance en juillet 2011, grâce à la partition du Soudan, sous les auspices des Etats-Unis. La plus jeune nation du monde a replongé dans la guerre en décembre 2013 en raison de dissensions politico-ethniques alimentées par la rivalité entre MM. Kiir et Machar.

Le conflit, marqué par des massacres et des atrocités, a fait des dizaines de milliers de morts et chassé quelque 2, 2 millions de Sud-Soudanais de leurs foyers.

## South Sudan Rebels Committed to Implementing New Peace Deal

### NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

By James Butty

**4 September 2015** - South Sudan rebels loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar say they are committed to the implementation of the peace deal signed last month in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

This came as a three-day workshop on transitional security arrangements in South Sudan gets under way Saturday in Addis Ababa.

Ambassador Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth, the secretary for foreign affairs of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said the rebels are committed to a peaceful and democratic South Sudan and have selected a team of officers to attend the security arrangements workshop.

"We are committed to this peace, and we have selected 11 senior army officers to attend this workshop in Addis Ababa on the fifth of September to the eighth of September," he said.

Gatkuoth said the rebels are happy and appreciative of President Salva Kiir for finally signing the agreement. He said rebel leader Machar signed the deal first because he believes it is the best workable agreement.

"This is the best compromise that we can use to transform South Sudan. It is workable; it is implementable; the letter is there and we are asking for the spirit because you can have a very good agreement, but if the spirit is not there, it will not work," Gatkuoth said.

He said the rebels are now asking the South Sudan government to commit to making the agreement work.

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Gatkuoth said a functional government of national unity will be in place by November this year and Machar will be sworn in to assume his responsibility as the First Vice President of South Sudan.

"We have a pre-transitional period, which is exactly three months," said Gatkuoth. "By November this year, you will have a functional government of national unity. So the transitional government of national unity will be sworn by November. My leader definitely will assume his responsibility as the First Vice President of South Sudan," he added.

Under the agreement signed by President Kiir and rebel leader Machar, a cease-fire was due to take effect last weekend, but fighting has continued in parts of the country. The rebels have accused South Sudan government forces of violating the latest cease-fire, an accusation South Sudan denies.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry called President Salva Kiir on Thursday.

"Secretary Kerry spoke with President Kiir today and expressed concern regarding recent cease-fire violations," a senior State Department official said. "President Kiir confirmed to the secretary that he is committed to the implementation of the peace agreement and the cease-fire."

The official said Kerry underscored that the United States would work to support the implementation of the peace agreement and continue to provide humanitarian aid.

The U.N. Security Council is to meet Friday behind closed doors at the request of the United States to discuss the latest developments in the South Sudan crisis.

The U.N. has already threatened to impose sanctions on any parties impeding the latest compromise agreement to end South Sudan's nearly two-year civil war.

## **UNMISS condemns violation of South Sudan peace agreement**

### NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

**3 September 2015** - The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) has condemned the violations of the compromise peace accord on resolution of the South Sudanese conflict, urging the warring parties to take all necessary steps to meet their obligations.

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Two attack helicopters, UNMISS reported, fired rockets in the direction of the west bank of the River Nile in the Upper Nile state capital, Malakal on Wednesday.

“Heavy explosions, including mortar shells, as well as heavy artillery and small arms fire were also heard coming from Malakal towards areas located on the west bank,” Stephane Dujarric, the spokesperson for the UN secretary general said in a brief statement.

“UNMISS also reports instances of firing in Malakal earlier today [Thursday],” he added, without revealing the forces involved.

The UN vowed to continue protecting civilians in Malakal, including at its protection sites, through regular patrols in town and the airport.

**Rebels blame Government**

Meanwhile, a division within the armed opposition faction (SPLM-IO) accused government forces of allegedly attacking their positions in Lelo and Warjok villages on the west bank of the White Nile River.

The military spokesperson of the SPLM-IO, Col. William Gatjiath Deng said forces loyal to President Salva Kiir used gunships to shell their bases in Upper Nile state at various time intervals on Thursday.

“The regime forces in Malakal shelled the same areas using artillery, D-30s, tanks. A force of 250 government soldiers crossed to the west bank to attack our said bases. Fighting will start soon,” Deng said in a statement extended to Sudan Tribune.

“These acts are blatant violations of the permanent ceasefire which may lead to unraveling of the peace agreement,” he added.

Reiterating the armed opposition’s commitment to the ceasefire deal, Deng urged the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-Plus, African Union and the international community to halt the violation of the permanent ceasefire by government.



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## SUDAN

### Darfur rebels release 18 prisoners: Red Cross

#### NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

**3 September 2015** - Rebels in Sudan's conflict-hit Darfur region have released 18 people they were holding prisoner, the International Committee for the Red Cross said on Thursday.

The ICRC said it "assisted in the transfer of 13 Sudanese Armed Forces personnel, three policemen and two civilians released by the Sudan Liberation Army–Abdul Wahid," a Darfur-based rebel group.

An initial statement said all 18 were armed forces personnel.

The detainees were handed over to Sudanese authorities in South Darfur state capital Nyala on Wednesday and Thursday, the ICRC said.

The SLA-Abdul Wahid is one of the groups that has been battling the government since 2003, when mostly black rebels launched a campaign against the Arab-dominated Khartoum government, saying they were being marginalised.

It is rare for the armed groups to release prisoners but the Red Cross has mediated releases in the past.

"After the handover, the ICRC team assisted the released individuals in contacting their families, who were very relieved to hear news of them," ICRC chief Eloi Fillion said in a statement.

The ICRC gave no further details, and the military could not be reached for comment.

The United Nations says 300,000 people have been killed in the western region since 2003, and another 2.5 million forced to flee their homes.

President Omar al-Bashir was indicted by the International Criminal Court for alleged war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide charges related to the conflict.

The situation in Darfur has deteriorated in recent years because of a spike in criminality and inter-tribal disputes over land and resources in parts of the region.