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



## **MEDIA MONITORING**

**7 April 2015**

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**D.R. CONGO**

### **President Obama Urges Peaceful DRC Elections**

Source: VOA News

**6 April 2015** - An opposition leader in the Democratic Republic of Congo has called on President Joseph Kabila to categorically state that he will not seek a third term because the constitution prohibits him to seek another term.

Martin Fayulu of the Commitment for Citizenship and Development party said the opposition also wants presidential election before local government elections.

This comes after President Barack Obama last week telephoned President Kabila and “emphasized the importance of timely, credible, and peaceful elections that respect the DRC’s constitution”.

A release from the White House said Obama “noted that President Kabila’s legacy as a leader who brought the DRC out of war and set it on a path of continued democratic progress would be consolidated by free and fair elections in 2016.”

Kabila has not said whether or not he’s going to seek a third term. But Fayulu said the opposition welcomes President Obama’s phone call because Kabila has been laying the groundwork for a third term.

“We as the opposition, we really appreciate what President Obama did. We think that according to what is going on elsewhere in Africa, mainly the example of Nigeria where President Goodluck Jonathan has organized election and things went smoothly, we think President Obama told Mr. Kabila to respect the constitution and we agree,” he said.

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Fayulu said the opposition wants the election timetable as announced by elections commission changed to have presidential and parliamentary elections before local government elections.

“The timetable that was issued by the electoral commission is not comprehensive because it’s overbooked. And also the budget is too high – \$1.1 billion. What we are saying, according to the time we have now, we cannot organize in the same day the local election, municipal election and the urban election, plus the provincial,” Fayulu said.

He said the opposition wants would prefer to have provincial elections in 2015 followed by presidential and legislative elections in 2016.

DRC government spokesman Lambert Mende said those calling on President Kabila to not run are jumping ahead of themselves because Kabila had said he will respect the constitution.

Fayulu said Kabila is playing tricks on the Congolese people.

“We want him to say that I will not contest. But some of his people are telling him to run. That’s why President Obama is telling him to respect the constitution, and we agree,” he said.

He said other signals which indicate that President Kabila wants to stay in power include his recent attempt to change the electoral law so that the presidential election would be conditioned by the holding of a census.

Fayulu also notes that early this year, the ruling majority in the Congolese senate agreed to remove articles in a proposed law that required completion of a vast census before 2016 election.

The White House said President Obama assured President Kabila that the “United States would remain engaged in the DRC throughout the electoral process, including through the appointment of a new U.S. Special Envoy to the African Great Lakes Region and the DRC.”

The White House also said the two leaders reaffirmed their share commitment to ending the threat of armed groups, particularly the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR).

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## Opposition, rights group demand investigation into Congo mass burial

Source: Reuters

By Aaron Ross; Writing by Emma Farge; Editing by Alison Williams

**6 April 2015** - A rights group and an opposition lawmaker called on Monday [6 April] on the government of Democratic Republic of Congo to investigate the late night burial of at least 421 bodies last month.

The government said on Friday [3 April] that local authorities had buried between the corpses overnight on March 19 in the rural commune of Maluku, saying they were dead fetuses and still-born babies as well as unclaimed corpses.

But U.S.-based Human Rights Watch suspects the bodies might belong to people killed in anti-government protests in January or a crackdown on Kinshasa criminals.

At least 40 people died in the violent protests against a proposed law to require a national census before an election - a move that opponents said was an attempt to delay the vote and extend President Joseph Kabila's mandate.

Ida Sawyer, senior researcher for HRW in Congo, said bodies went missing both during the protests as well as in an anti-gang operation in late 2013 and early 2014, in which the group says at least 51 people were killed.

"Further investigations are required to determine if the bodies of those killed in January are among those buried in Maluku," she said.

The political climate in Congo is tense ahead of the presidential election scheduled for late next year when Kabila's mandate is set to expire.

A parliamentarian with the opposition Engagement for Citizenship and Development (ECIDE) party asked for the bodies to be exhumed and for autopsies to be conducted.

"Why bury these people at night? There needs to be an inquiry. This is not a simple affair," Martin Fayulu, told Reuters on Monday.

Human rights workers first became aware of the burial site after residents of Maluku reported a smell and tire tracks near the local cemetery more than two weeks ago.

"The women who work the fields there noticed a foul odor. They discovered the leg of a body," said Dolly Idefo, executive director of Voice for the Voiceless, a Kinshasa-based human rights organization.

There was nothing to mark the burial site, Idefo added.

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The government says the bodies were buried individually and not in a mass grave.

Congo's justice minister, Alexis Thambwe, said on Friday the government was prepared to exhume all the corpses should anyone raise the "slightest doubt" about the circumstances of their deaths.

But government spokesman Lambert Mende said on Monday there would be no exhumations, saying that human rights bodies or government officials had no right to make such a request.

## **Obama demands answers from Congo's Kabila over FDLR**

Source: News of Rwanda

**1 April 2015** - Heads are spinning in DR Congo after US President, Barack Obama, telephoned President Joseph Kabila demanding he cooperates with the UN stabilization mission (MONUSCO) to disarm the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) rebels.

In a phone conversation with Kabila, Tuesday, March 31, Obama insisted Kabila should step up his commitment on ensuring peace in the great lakes region. Obama's call came at a time Rwanda begins the commemoration of the 1994 genocide against Tutsi, of which the FDLR rebels are largely responsible.

Rwanda has expressed frustration at the lack of action against the rebels. The FDLR had, until 2 January, 2015, to voluntarily drop their guns in a deadline set by International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Speaking at a major monthly press conference at his office in January, President Paul Kagame said the FDLR militia remains a huge security threat to Rwanda and was not satisfied with the way the disarmament issue was being addressed.

"The way FDLR issue is being handled, it's as if killing people was not such a bad thing after all," said Kagame. He said that, "Elsewhere, when people kill people on the streets, it's an outrage, when the same is done in Rwanda, it's political grievances."

However, since the January deadline for the FDLR rebels to disarm, only a handful of aging and sicken rebels have surrendered in what looks as a mockery.

Kagame said, "If the disarmament of FDLR rebels fails, Rwanda will tighten its internal security to make sure that nothing will destabilize the country."

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President Kagame is not happy with different players that have been speculating in regard to FDLR disarmament.

“If the groups that Monusco, the Congolese government and the international community as a whole consider – or pretend to consider – as criminal groups for years, still operate without any serious offensive being mounted against them then that means the problem is elsewhere,” he said in an interview with Jeune Afrique magazine on March 29.

Rwanda holds it that the insensitivities around this issue remind Rwandans what they (FDLR) committed in the Genocide. “It reveals that Genocide was broader than what people tend to believe, “Kagame said.

Meanwhile, Rwanda will mark the 21st commemoration of the genocide against Tutsis on April 7.

## RWANDA

### Message of the Secretary General of the United Nations on the International day of reflection on the genocide in

**7 April 2015**

The International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda offers an opportunity to honour the memory of the more than 800,000 people – overwhelmingly Tutsi, and also moderate Hutu, Twa and others – who were systematically killed across Rwanda in less than three months just over two decades ago. It is also an occasion to recognize the pain and the courage of those who survived.

Our annual sombre observance is all the more meaningful this year as we mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. We must use this occasion to look back on the past – and to squarely confront the challenges of the present, renewing our collective resolve to prevent such atrocities from happening again.

Many countries now face grave security threats. People are being subjected to the brutality of violent conflicts and the indignities of poverty. Discrimination persists in societies torn apart by war, as well as in democracies that largely enjoy peace. Hatred may manifest as institutionalized racism, ethnic strife, or episodes of intolerance or

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exclusion. In other instances, discrimination reflects the official, national version of history that denies the identity of some segments of the population.

I deplore the conflicts and atrocity crimes in many parts of the world that continue to divide communities, killing and displacing people, undermining economies and destroying cultural heritage.

Our first duty is always to prevent these situations and to protect vulnerable human beings in distress. My Human Rights Up Front initiative seeks to prevent serious human rights violations by acting on early warning signs before they become more serious. My Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect work to advance national and international efforts to protect populations from atrocity crimes. We aim to ensure swift and decisive action to save lives and stop abuses.

On this Day, I appeal to the international community to do more than just speak about atrocity crimes and then fail to take timely action to prevent them. I call on all to summon the courage to act before situations deteriorate based on our collective moral responsibility. This is critical for the maintenance of international peace and security.

As I said at last year's commemoration in Kigali, we must exercise "Umuganda" – coming together in common purpose – to avert what can be prevented and counter the cruelty taking place before our eyes.

## **Message du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies publié à l'occasion de la Journée internationale de réflexion sur le génocide au Rwanda**

**7 avril 2015**

La Journée internationale de réflexion sur le génocide au Rwanda est l'occasion d'honorer la mémoire des plus de 800 000 Rwandais – essentiellement des Tutsis, mais également des Hutus modérés, des Twas et d'autres – qui, il y a à peine plus de 20 ans, ont été massacrés de manière systématique en l'espace de moins de trois mois. Elle est également l'occasion de saluer le courage de ceux qui ont survécu et de reconnaître leur douleur.

Notre commémoration de ces événements tragiques a d'autant plus de sens cette année que nous célébrons le soixante-dixième anniversaire de la fondation de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. Nous devons en profiter pour jeter un regard sur le passé et affronter résolument les problèmes d'aujourd'hui, en réaffirmant notre détermination collective à empêcher que de telles atrocités ne se reproduisent.

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À l'heure actuelle, de nombreux pays voient leur sécurité gravement menacée. Des peuples subissent la brutalité des conflits violents et les humiliations de la pauvreté. La discrimination persiste, tant dans les sociétés déchirées par la guerre que dans les démocraties qui connaissent largement la paix. La haine peut prendre diverses formes : racisme institutionnalisé, affrontements ethniques, manifestations d'intolérance ou exclusion. Il arrive aussi que la discrimination soit le résultat d'une version officielle de l'histoire qui nie l'identité de certains groupes de la population.

Je déplore vivement les conflits et les atrocités criminelles qui, dans de nombreuses régions du monde, continuent de diviser les communautés, de tuer et de déplacer des personnes, d'ébranler les économies et de détruire les patrimoines culturels.

Notre première priorité doit être de prévenir ces situations et de protéger les êtres humains en situation de détresse. Mon initiative Les droits avant tout a pour objet d'empêcher la commission de violations graves des droits de l'homme en agissant dès l'apparition de signes avant-coureurs. Mon Conseiller spécial pour la prévention du génocide et ma Conseillère spéciale pour la responsabilité de protéger œuvrent à faire avancer l'action menée aux niveaux national et international pour protéger les populations contre les atrocités criminelles. Notre but est de prendre des mesures rapides et résolues de façon à sauver des vies et à mettre fin aux violations.

À l'occasion de cette journée, je lance un appel à la communauté internationale pour qu'elle ne se contente pas de parler des atrocités criminelles mais prenne en temps voulu les mesures nécessaires pour les prévenir. Je demande à chacun de trouver le courage d'agir avant que la situation ne se détériore, car telle est notre responsabilité morale collective. C'est là une condition absolument essentielle pour le maintien de la paix et de la sécurité internationales.

Comme je l'ai dit l'année dernière à la cérémonie de commémoration organisée à Kigali, nous devons faire preuve d'« Umuganda », autrement dit unir nos forces au service d'une cause commune, pour éviter ce qu'il est possible d'éviter et combattre les actes de cruauté qui sont commis sous nos yeux.

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## Renewed call to break silence on GBV, child abuse

Source: The New Times (Rwanda)

By Doreen Umutesi

**6 April 2015** - Rwandans have been called on to break the silence on gender and child abuse-related crimes committed in communities in order to combat the vices and ensure that justice is served.

Oda Gasinzigwa, the minister for gender and family promotion, made the call, yesterday, while launching the national anti-gender-based violence and child abuse awareness campaign at Nkumba Ubutore Training Centre in Burera District.

The campaign is running under the theme, “Responsibility for all.”

The launch was also graced by Local Government minister Francis Kaboneka, IGP Emmanuel K. Gasana, Northern Province governor Aime Bosenibamwe, and the Chairperson of National Itorero Commission, Boniface Rucagu.

Gasinzigwa said this should be a moment for all Rwandans to reflect on what still affects community safety, mainly issues related to gender violence and abuse of child rights like forced labour and defilement.

She challenged the youth to actively partner with government institutions to bring to light individuals involved in committing gender related crimes in communities.

“Your role in fighting and preventing challenges faced by women, girls and children is crucial. Be ambassadors of change; let’s join hands together, identify and point a finger where these crimes still exist so as to turn back what tarnishes the Rwandan tradition,” the minister said.

“We have sensitised the community enough, what follows now is to expose and shame those who have kept deaf ears. We should meet again when we are celebrating a milestone in this fight,” she added.

Lamin Manneh, the One UN Rwanda resident coordinator, noted that the international community attaches values to such awareness programmes as an effective tool to break silence about issues faced by women and children and to bring everyone on board in the fight.

“Women shouldn't be treated like an object. The UN stands by Rwanda in this fight, and we are grateful for what Rwanda and the national police have done to protect women



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and children's rights. No doubt these awareness campaigns will reach the intended goal," Manneh said.

He commended Rwanda National Police for the holistic approach of scaling up the anti-gender violence medical wing, Isange One Stop Centre.

The scale up of Isange One Stop Centre, implemented in partnership with the Dutch government, provides free medical, psycho-socio and legal services to GBV and child abuse victims and ensures that human rights are respected.

Established in 2009 at Kacyiru Police Hospital as a pilot project, more 12 centres have since been established in various parts of the country.

The launch of the national awareness campaign against GBV and child abuse proceeded the official closing of the third intake training in crime prevention of over 500 youths organised under the banner of "Rwandan Youth Volunteers in crime Prevention."

The organisation is composed of over 10,000 youths countrywide, with the aim of supporting vulnerable communities by providing medical insurance, livestock and other needs.

They carry out crime prevention awareness programmes in schools and communities against drug abuse, corruption and gender-based-violence, among others.

## **Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda have signed a deal for peace cooperation**

Source: Xinhua

**4 April 2015** - Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda have signed a deal outlining framework for cooperation in Peace Support Operations under the North Corridor Integration Projects (NCIP), a day after Islamist militants attacked a university in Kenya, killing close to 150 people.

The deal was signed at the conclusion of a workshop that attracted delegates from the three countries in Kigali.

The Peace Support Operations are expected to be set up after the heads of state from the five countries endorse the framework.

The framework agreement is a product of negotiations that resulted from a "Mutual Peace and Security Pact" signed in May last year, which aimed at establishing the Eastern Africa Standby Force.

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The aim of setting up the operation framework is to safeguard and protect the fast economic growth of the three countries, whilst avoiding overlapping similar and separate cooperation under the Northern Corridor Integration Projects, a release obtained Friday said.

Speaking at the workshop, the Rwandan head of delegation, Chief Inspector of Police Sam Mwesigwa, said under the framework, the Peace Support Operation will jointly tackle crosscutting crimes such as terrorism, smuggling and economic crimes, as well as improve the lives of people in the region by managing conflicts and guaranteeing their peace.

“We are discussing areas under which member states will cooperate when the Peace Support Operation is implemented.

“They include modalities under which we shall conduct joint trainings, joint command post exercises, financial mobilization, force generation, among others,” CIP Mwesigwa told journalists.

The Head of the Kenyan Delegation, Dancan Ogore, said the operation will serve to improve life of people in the Northern Corridor partner states through guaranteeing their peace and security and improving their capability to manage conflicts wherever they emanate.

Amanda Magambo, head of Uganda delegation pointed out that partner states recognize peace and security as a pertinent pillar necessary for propelling the region towards its development visions.

“It will act as a springboard to all other development projects being undertaken in the region, whereby, in the event of need to manage conflicts within the region, the partner states will jointly deploy joint forces in the affected region,” Magambo said.

Other areas of cooperation in the Northern Corridor Integration Projects include; disaster risk reduction, management of refugees, control of proliferation of illicit arms and light weapons, combating financial, organized and cross-border crimes such as human and drug trafficking, money laundering and cyber crimes.

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## BURUNDI

### Burundian Refugees in Rwanda Reject Repatriation

Source: New Times

**6 April 2015** - Hundreds of Burundians who fled into the country last week seeking refuge have refused to be repatriated, arguing that there were still security concerns in their country.

During a meeting with a delegation of Burundian officials that was in the country to convince them to go back, the refugees, mostly from Kirundo Province in northern Burundi, said security remained a pressing issue.

Stan Rutsikiri, from Ntega commune, who is now in a transit camp in Bugesera District, said he could not repatriate unless a militia locally known in Burundi as Imbonerakure stopped harassing them.

"We can't go back to Burundi since Imbonerakure are terrifying us. They throw stones at our houses, they beat us, saying we are opposed to the ruling party. Having seen that we were in danger, we fled and we can't go back unless there is adequate security," Rutsikiri said.

Sylvanie Muhawenimana, from Bujumbura, said she was searching her son, who she claims fled to Rwanda.

"My son disappeared last week and I was told that he might have come to Rwanda. When I arrived here, I was told that he was abducted by Imbonerakure and taken to Kiyanzi forest for military training. For sure, we have no peace in Burundi with Imbonerakure," Muhawenimana said.

Paschal Rwaso, from Burori commune, said adequate security would be a vital factor if they are to be repatriated.

"Last Saturday, a group of Imbonerakure attacked my home. I tried to hide but I was finally caught. They led me to Kiyanzi forest where were training. We were about 20 people but as we tried to escape, most of us were shot. I managed to escape, but sensing that I could be abducted again, I decided to flee. Once peace is restored in Burundi I will repatriate."

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Edouard Nduwimana, the Burundian minister for internal affairs, and his delegation heard the testimonies of the refugees during an event in one of the camps in Bugesera on Saturday.

Nduwimana, who led the delegation, told his countrymen that there was adequate security since those who were terrorising them are being arrested.

"It is true that people have to flee when they feel that their lives are in danger, but I want to assure you that there is adequate security in Burundi since we have arrested all those who were terrifying you. Imbonerakure's role is to ensure your security. Those who were abusing their power have been arrested and some of them prosecuted," he said.

"We have come with officials from different areas, including local administration, security and judiciary, so that they can explain to you the current situation in the country so that you can repatriate."

Col Gerard Bigirimana, the commandant of the army in northern Burundi, faulted the group for not reporting their security concerns to relevant authorities.

"We have several military barracks in Kirundo, once you report any threats in a certain area, we conduct operations to restore order. Yet, instead of reporting those threats you just fled the country which is not the solution," Col Bigirimana said.

Seraphine Mukantabana, the minister for disaster preparedness and refugee affairs, said the group was free to repatriate or stay in the country once they felt it was not safe to go back.

"I hope they have heard what the authorities told them. It is up to them to decide on repatriation or stay. Those who will decide to go back will be facilitated but those who will choose to stay will be relocated from close to border as provided by the laws governing refugees," the minister said.

Since last week, 765 Burundians from Kirundo province have been crossed into the country.

They are living in two temporary camps established in Gashora Sector in Bugesera District that hosts 534 refugees, while the rest stay in a camp in Muyira Sector, Nyanza District.

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## **Info RFI: B.Diarra, représentant spécial de l'UA au Burundi remercié**

Source: RFI

**Coup de théâtre au Burundi. C'est une information RFI, le gouvernement burundais vient de demander dans la plus grande discrétion le rappel de l'ambassadeur Boubacar Diarra, représentant spécial de l'Union africaine pour le Burundi et pour la région des Grands Lacs, qui avait son siège à Bujumbura depuis fin 2012. La raison de ce divorce diplomatique : le pouvoir burundais reprocherait au diplomate africain de s'être aligné sur les pays occidentaux, notamment sur la question du 3e mandat pour le président burundais, source d'énormes tensions politiques à quelques semaines du début des élections.**

**6 avril 2015** - Officiellement, l'ambassadeur Boubacar Diarra a été rappelé à Addis-Abeba vendredi 3 avril pour une réunion sur la région des Grands Lacs. Mais en réalité, il quitte définitivement le Burundi. Le diplomate d'origine malienne paie au prix fort son franc-parler, selon nos sources à l'Union africaine, car le gouvernement burundais le trouvait de plus en plus gênant, notamment sur la question du 3e mandat du président Pierre Nkurunziza.

C'est le chef de l'Etat en personne qui se serait chargé de faire passer le message à la présidente de la commission de l'Union africaine, au cours de sa visite au Burundi il y a une dizaine de jours. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma avait tenté, elle aussi, de le convaincre de renoncer à briguer un 3e mandat présidentiel en juin. Elle n'y est pas parvenue assurent toujours nos sources à l'Union africaine.

Le ministre burundais des Relations extérieures, Laurent Kavakure, a confirmé dimanche soir à RFI le rappel de l'ambassadeur Diarra. Ce rappel ferait donc suite « à une évaluation globale de ses prestations et par le gouvernement du Burundi, et par l'Union africaine », explique le chef de la diplomatie burundaise. Et celui-ci d'affirmer que « cela n'a rien à voir avec le dossier du 3e mandat ».

Mais ici, de nombreux diplomates soulignent la dimension exceptionnelle qu'avait prise la carrière du brillant représentant de l'Union africaine au Burundi. « Un homme de principe » devenu un des porte-paroles de la communauté internationale. Ce que le pouvoir burundais ne pouvait plus supporter, jugent-ils.

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## Burundi Ministers Meet Refugees in Rwanda

Source: Voice of America

**4 April 2015** - A delegation of Burundi government ministers [met] Saturday with Burundi refugees who have sought safe haven in neighboring Rwanda, according to VOA's Africa Division. The refugees say they have left their homes in Burundi because they are afraid of the violence that could erupt in the run up to Burundi's presidential elections in June.

There is concern in Burundi that President Pierre Nkurunziza's ambitions for a constitutionally-questionable third term in office could re-ignite violence in a country still regaining its footing after years of civil war.

President Nkurunziza has faced revolt from within his own party over his presumed candidacy. Seventy-nine members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party wrote the president last week asking him not to seek office.

The influential Catholic Church in Burundi also has joined the growing chorus of civil society and opposition groups urging Mr. Nkurunziza not to run.

The president has offered no signal he will step aside.

Nkurunziza's eligibility comes down to a legal argument over the wording of a formative peace agreement and the country's constitution.

Burundi's existing political structures were founded on the 2000 Arusha agreement which brought to an end the civil war between Hutu and Tutsi factions that killed up to 300,000 people. That agreement says the president can serve no more than two terms in office.

But the 2005 constitution states the president must be elected through "universal direct suffrage" - interpreted to mean a popular vote. Nkurunziza was elected by parliament to his first term, so, his supporters argue, he is eligible to run again.

Whether he does so or not, Nkurunziza's government has been under fire from rights groups and the international community for excluding the opposition and silencing voices of dissent.

Rights groups have accused the ruling party of arming its youth wing, known as the Imbonerakure, and using them to attack opponents in the past.

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Human Rights Watch last month said members of the group assisted the police and military in executing 47 people following a confrontation with an unnamed armed group in northwestern Cibitoke province.

Jean Claude Nkundwa, a peace activist in Bujumbura, fears that armed groups could be exploited to keep the president in power.

The international community, including the United Nations, the United States and the African Union have urged Burundian political actors to respect the rule of law and hold fair elections, without much weighing into the debate about whether the president has the legal authority to run.

Nkundwa is urging foreign partners to be prepared to intervene if necessary.

“The current situation may just break all the things that we have built for 10 years,” he says. “This is where I actually personally would call the international community to get actively engaged to protect this democratic state we have achieved.”

## **300 Burundians flee to Rwanda over insecurity**

Source: Xinhua

**2 April 2015** - At least 300 Burundian citizens from the province of Kirundo have fled to neighboring Rwanda over “insecurity rumors” ahead of elections, Burundi National Radio reported Thursday.

The radio indicated that residents in Kirundo flee after reports of a war that may break out during the country’s forthcoming elections.

According to the state-run radio, by Wednesday, more than 202 Burundian citizens had sought asylum in Bugesera District, Rwanda’s Eastern Province whereas others are seeking asylum in Butare District, Rwanda’s Southern Province.

In Bugesera District, those asylum seekers were received in householders, but were later regrouped in a camp at Gashora.

The radio indicated that Kirundo Governor Reverien Nzigamasabo called on those Burundian nationals to return home, arguing that they are just fleeing “rumors”.

The radio reported that citizens in various localities of Kirundo started to flee to neighboring Rwanda since last month.

Most fugitives are from the Tutsi minority group who fear for their security.

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The radio reported that they fear that the situation during the country's general elections due from May to September this year may be similar to that of 1993 when inter-ethnic massacres between the majority Hutus and the minority Tutsis occurred after the killing of first Hutu democratically elected President Melchior Ndadaye.

The radio also reported that residents fear rumors that violence might erupt if Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza runs a third term despite protests made by opposition parties.

They argue that if Nkurunziza runs the third term, it will be a violation of the Arusha Agreement and the Burundian Constitution.

Burundi is to hold this year's general elections between May and September, with the presidential election to be held on June 26.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### Centrafrique: deux exclus du forum de réconciliation nationale

Source: Belga

**L'ex-président centrafricain François Bozizé et son tombeur Michel Djotodia, en exil respectivement en Ouganda et au Bénin et signataires d'un accord de cessez-le-feu en janvier à Nairobi, ne participeront pas au forum de réconciliation nationale programmé - après plusieurs reports - du 27 avril au 4 mai à Bangui, a annoncé la présidence centrafricaine, citée dimanche par l'agence de presse chinoise Xinhua.**

**5 avril 2015** - Ce rendez-vous mettra donc face à face les protagonistes de la crise centrafricaine représentés par les ex-rebelles de la Séléka ayant porté au pouvoir le 24 mars 2013 à Bangui leur leader, Michel Djotodia, les milices anti-Balaka fidèles à François Bozizé, d'autres mouvements politico-militaires, la classe politique toutes tendances confondues et la société civile.

"On est dans une logique où il n'y a pas d'impunité. La République (centrafricaine) est respectueuse des engagements vis-à-vis de la communauté internationale et des décisions prises par celle-ci. Il y a des sanctions internationales contre un certain



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nombre de personnalités et nous en tenons compte", a souligné samedi le ministre conseiller chargé du dialogue politique et social à la présidence centrafricaine, Anicet Guiyama-Massogo.

La République centrafricaine (RCA) a plongé dans un chaos sans précédent après que Michel Djotodia, à la tête d'une rébellion à dominante musulmane, la Séléka, eut renversé l'ancien président François Bozizé en mars 2013.

Les deux dirigeants, aujourd'hui en exil respectivement à Kampala (Ouganda) et à Cotonou (Bénin), sont sous le coup depuis 2014 d'une interdiction de voyager de la part des Nations unies, qui les accusent de torpiller le processus de transition devant conduire à des élections présidentielle et législatives cet été, avant la fin de la transition au mois d'août.

Fin janvier à Nairobi (Kenya), MM. Bozizé et Djotodia s'étaient pourtant rencontrés lors de négociations ayant abouti à un "accord de cessez-le-feu et cessation des hostilités entre les ex-Séléka et les anti-Balaka de la République centrafricaine", accord récusé par l'ONU et le médiateur de la crise centrafricaine, le président congolais Denis Sassou Nguesso.

Précédé de consultations populaires organisées dans les seize préfectures de la RCA et des pays voisins comme le Cameroun, où sont réfugiés un grand nombre de Centrafricains pour échapper aux violences commises par ex-rebelles de la Séléka et les milices anti-Balaka, le forum de réconciliation annoncé doit débattre des thèmes de paix et sécurité, de justice et réconciliation, de gouvernance, puis le développement social et économique.

## **Centrafrique : le ministre Romaric Vomitiade connaîtra son sort le 8 avril prochain**

Source: Agence d'Information d'Afrique Centrale

Par Fiacre Kombo

**Poursuivi pour viol d'une mineure de 16 ans, le ministre centrafricain du Tourisme, des arts et de la culture, Romaric Vomitiade, encourt 5 ans de prison et une forte amende, à en croire, le procureur de la République. Le verdict du tribunal est attendu ce mercredi 8 avril.**

**4 avril 2015** - L'audience publique dans l'affaire du ministre Vomitiade a pris fin le 1er avril dernier au Tribunal de grande instance de Bangui. Le ministre Anti-balaka a été

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placé sous mandat de dépôt le 23 mars pour avoir abusé sexuellement d'une mineure de 16 ans à Yaloké (Nord) de la Centrafrique lors des consultations populaires, qu'il a conduites dans la localité.

Le procureur de la République, Ghislain Grézénguet, a démontré l'exactitude des faits avant de recueillir 5 ans de prison ferme et une amende de 500 000 francs. Il a par ailleurs soutenu la partie civile qui a exigé à titre de dommage et intérêt le versement de 20 millions de francs.

Le procès de Romaric Vomitiade, le représentant des Anti-balaka dans le gouvernement de transition, est particulièrement suivi aussi bien par la présidente de la transition centrafricaine, que par les partenaires de la Centrafrique qui appuient le processus de réforme du secteur de la Justice ainsi que la lutte contre l'impunité.

Dans un entretien avec les confrères du VOA Afrique, le ministre de l'Administration du territoire et porte-parole du gouvernement, Modibo Bachir Walidou a déclaré : « Cette arrestation d'un membre du gouvernement en fonction, répond à la volonté de la présidente de la transition, Catherine Samba Panza, de lutter contre l'impunité ». Malgré, les divergences de vue qui entourent cet épisode judiciaire, la présidente se dit déterminée à poursuivre la lutte contre l'impunité.

Même écho du côté des partenaires onusiens et américains, lorsque le gouvernement des Etats-Unis d'Amérique a alloué environ 15 milliards de francs au Programme des Nations unies pour le développement (PNUD) en vue de favoriser le rétablissement de l'Etat de droit et la lutte contre l'impunité dont la répression des violences sexuelles, note le site de la radio onusienne Ndekeluka.

Pour l'heure, tous les regards sont tournés vers le palais de Justice de Bangui. Le juge va-t-il suivre le réquisitoire du procureur, ou bien prononcera-t-il une décision autre que celle requise par l'accusation ?

## **LRA : Joseph KONY, avenir incertain**

Source: [www.KongoTimes.info](http://www.KongoTimes.info)

Par Kléber Kungu

**Dominic Ongwen, lui-même ancien enfant soldat devenu le numéro trois de la LRA, s'est constitué prisonnier auprès des forces spéciales américaines en Centrafrique début janvier. Cette reddition surprenante a porté un coup dur à la rébellion commandée depuis une trentaine d'années par son fondateur Joseph**

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**Kony, toujours insaisissable. Ongwen a été transféré à la CPI pour crimes contre l'humanité et crimes de guerre présumés, devenant ainsi le premier membre de la LRA à comparaître devant la CPI. Plusieurs observateurs estiment qu'avec l'arrestation de Dominic Ongwen et son transfert à la CPI, l'avenir du numéro un de la LRA devient de plus en plus incertain. D'autant plus que les dépositions et autres déclarations de Dominic Ongwen peuvent conduire à son arrestation sinon à son assassinat.**

**4 avril 2015** - En dépit de l'arrestation au début de l'année de Dominic Ongwen, un des chefs de l'Armée de résistance du seigneur (LRA), transféré devant la CPI, cette rébellion sanguinaire ne cesse de multiplier ses attaques à la frontière entre la Centrafrique et la République démocratique du Congo (RDC).

Un communiqué du Haut commissariat de l'Onu pour les droits de l'homme fait état de 15 Congolais qui avaient fui les atrocités de la LRA pour se réfugier en Centrafrique ainsi qu'un autre ressortissant congolais ont été enlevés par la LRA le 21 mars à la frontière avec la République démocratique du Congo.

Par ailleurs, treize d'entre eux, deux femmes et onze hommes, ont été libérés deux jours plus tard dans des circonstances non précisées et ont gagné le camp de réfugiés de Zemio, dans le sud-est de la Centrafrique.

L'agence onusienne fait état de l'arrivée de certaines victimes avec des blessures ouvertes et d'une jeune fille de 16 ans qui a été violée. En plus, trois garçons parmi les réfugiés sont toujours portés disparus, a ajouté l'agence de l'ONU.

Le HCR a constaté que depuis l'arrestation en Centrafrique de Dominic Ongwen, un de leurs principaux commandants accusés de crime contre l'humanité au début de l'année, les rebelles de la LRA ont augmenté le régime de leurs attaques dans les villages à la frontière entre la RDC et la République centrafricaine.

Pour le seul mois de février 2015, la LRA est accusée d'être responsable de 25 enlèvements dans plusieurs villages du nord-est de la RDC près de la frontière avec la Centrafrique et du camp de Zemio.

## **Coup dur à la LRA**

Dominic Ongwen, lui-même ancien enfant soldat devenu le numéro trois de la LRA, s'est constitué prisonnier auprès des forces spéciales américaines en Centrafrique début janvier. Cette reddition surprenante a porté un coup dur à la rébellion commandée depuis une trentaine d'années par son fondateur Joseph Kony, toujours insaisissable.

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Dominic Ongwen a été transféré à la Cour pénale internationale (CPI) pour crimes contre l'humanité et crimes de guerre présumés, devenant ainsi le premier membre de la LRA à comparaître devant la CPI.

Plusieurs observateurs estiment qu'avec l'arrestation de Dominic Ongwen et son transfert à la CPI, l'avenir du numéro un de la LRA devient de plus en plus incertain. D'autant plus que les dépositions et autres déclarations de Dominic Ongwen peuvent conduire à son arrestation sinon à son assassinat.

La LRA, qui s'est rendue tristement célèbre par ses rapt d'enfants transformés en soldats ou esclaves, ses mutilations et massacres de civils en Afrique centrale, est aujourd'hui traquée et dispersée.

## SOUTH SUDAN

### **IGAD: another deadline for peace in South Sudan**

Source: Sudan Tribune

**6 April 2015**, After the disappointing deadline of March 5, the role of IGAD in continuing mediating the South Sudan peace talks came under scrutiny. The question is less about what went wrong with the IGAD-led mediation but rather what lessons we can learn to improve the mediation of the next peace talks.

Recently some non-state actors consisting of civil society, media, women, traditional authorities, faith-based institutions and academia held a meeting in Juba to evaluate the IGAD-led peace mediation. Despite bitter criticism of the poorly managed mediation, the participants recognised that IGAD is the only regional organisation mandated to resolve conflicts in the region.

Given the subsidiarity principle and the geopolitics of the region, IGAD is well situated to continue mediating the peace talks, using a new design of mediation. The participants also agreed to expand the IGAD mediation to include other countries that can add value and have sufficient economic, political, diplomatic and military weight. The meeting also recommended the new mediation to learn from the CPA experience of having one main mediator, accepted by all the parties.

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While the participants affirmed the principle of an inclusive process, a multi-process of engaging stakeholders was accepted. This would include direct negotiations between the warring parties, provided that the outcome is brought to the plenary of all stakeholders. The meeting also stressed the added value of the Arusha Agreement in resolving the outstanding issues in the IGAD-led mediation.

With the failure of the peace talks in Ethiopia, the warring parties have started pursuing the option of war, as seen recently by increased violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement. The question is: What can be done to encourage the warring parties to engage in peace talks but in good faith?

A recent report, titled 'South Sudan: The Cost of War', indicates that every minute spent on the war effort will make the task of putting South Sudan on the path of sustainable peace and stability more difficult. The report shows that if the conflict continues for another one to five years, it will cost South Sudan an estimated \$28 billion. In addition, the region could save up to \$53 billion and the international community \$30 billion if the war stopped today. The report stressed the urgent need for the warring parties, the region and the international community to take action to bring peace to South Sudan.

A possible action of encouraging the warring parties to conclude peace deal is to enforce targeted UN sanctions on individuals who are obstructing the peace talks. Although these sanctions may target individuals, there is need for a thorough assessment of their impact on the people of South Sudan, the region and the international community. A recent evaluation of the effectiveness of UN targeted sanctions shows that they are effective only in one-third of the time in changing the behaviour of targeted individuals, constraining them from engaging in certain activities or stigmatising them.

UN targeted sanctions are often evaded through the diversion of assets through a third party, the use of black markets or safe havens, the diversification of funds and investments, and reliance on family members. Besides, the report shows that sanctions do have unintended consequences, such as an increase in corruption and criminality, the strengthening of authoritarian rule, a burden on neighbouring states, diversion of resources and a negative humanitarian impact.

Given the complex context of South Sudan, the unintended consequences of UN targeted sanctions will certainly be borne by the people of South Sudan, with far-reaching consequences on their lives and livelihoods. In addition, neighbouring countries such as Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and probably Ethiopia would not be receptive in implementing the sanctions given their economic and security interests in South Sudan and the possible impact of the sanctions on their economies.

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Another option for the region is to use the much-awaited report of the AU commission of inquiry to encourage the warring parties to conclude the peace agreement without compromising on issues of justice. Although the content of the report is not known, the leaked report may provide a hint of what is expected from the final report. It is most likely that some senior leaders of the warring parties will be the prime suspects of the atrocities committed since the eruption of the conflict in December 2013.

It is understandable that the release of the report should be managed in such a way not to obstruct the peace talks. Given the fact that the warring parties committed themselves to issue of justice in Arusha Agreement, the African Union in collaboration with IGAD, the Troika, the EU and the UN could use the AU report as a carrot or stick when appropriate in encouraging the warring parties to conclude a peace agreement.

Another option is the leaked IGAD action plan for resolving the conflict in South Sudan by April 18. Unlike previous deadlines, when the warring parties were given a chance to agree on the contentious issues, the new action plan aims at proposing a final and binding peace agreement to be signed by the parties by April 18.

If the leaked document reflects the true IGAD action plan, then the challenge is how to inform this process so that it reflects the aspirations of the people of South Sudan and reduces the risk of bringing a 'bad peace'. As a good peace is becoming unattainable due to the intransigent positions of the warring parties, the remaining choice for the people of South Sudan is whether to have a bad or imposed peace, or war.

The remaining outstanding issues are two armies, federalism, power-sharing, the choice between the position of prime minister or an additional vice-president, and succession. With the exception of federalism, all these issues are less of concern to the people of South Sudan. The security concerns rightly raised by the SPLM-in-Opposition can be resolved by increasing the pre-interim period, to build trust between the warring parties and establish appropriate security guarantees rather than having two armies.

The issue of federalism is less contentious. It has been agreed in principle as the appropriate system of government for managing diversity in South Sudan. However, its adoption requires a thorough study and engagement of the citizens as part of the constitution-making process. The other issues of power-sharing, the position of prime minister or another vice-president, and succession can either be resolved in the context of the SPLM reunification agreement in Arusha or through logical assessment, as reflected by previous IGAD proposals and its protocol of August 25, 2014.

One would expect the newly expanded IGAD-plus mediation, with South Africa, Rwanda, Chad and Algeria added, to be bold in proposing a draft agreement guided by the overwhelming desire for peace of the people of South Sudan. If the proposed

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agreement would subject the remaining issues to the will of the people, then it cannot be termed a bad peace. However, it would be appropriate that all the stakeholders, and particularly the warring parties, are given a last chance to discuss the proposed peace agreement before it is signed into a final agreement.

## ZAMBIA

### Zambia, Ugandan presidents to meet on regional conflicts

Source: Xinhua

**3 April 2015** - Zambian President Edgar Lungu is expected to hold talks with his Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni to seek solutions to conflicts in South Sudan and some parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), his office said on Thursday.

Lungu was invited to go to Uganda by Museveni when the two held bilateral talks in China on the sidelines of the 2015 Boao Forum for Asia conference, presidential spokesperson Amos Chanda said.

The Zambian leader will use his official visit to Uganda to discuss how the two governments could work together to deal with conflicts in the Great Lakes Region, particularly the conflict in South Sudan, he added.

"The president has since directed Minister of Foreign Affairs Harry Kalaba to travel to Uganda within the next two weeks to prepare for the visit and also to look at the contentious issues causing trouble in South Sudan," he said.

However, the presidential spokesperson did not say when Lungu will visit Uganda.

Lungu was invited to be part of the South Sudan peace process by that country's President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar when he held separate talks with both leaders on the sidelines of the African Union Summit early this year.

The South Sudan rebel leader served as the first vice-president of South Sudan from its independence in 2011 until his dismissal in 2013.

Other African leaders involved in the mediation process include Museveni, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn.