

Disclaimer:

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

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



MEDIA MONITORING

8 July 2015

GENERAL NEWS

Grands lacs : Kinshasa abritera la conférence sur l'investissement privé

ARTICLE

Source : Agence d'Information d'Afrique centrale

Par Alain Diasso

Ce forum vise à créer impérativement des conditions pour la promotion de l'investissement privé dans la région.

7 juillet 2015 - Kinshasa s'apprête à organiser les 24 et 25 février 2016, la conférence sur l'investissement privé dans les Grands lacs. C'est dans ce cadre qu'il faut placer le séjour dans la capitale congolaise de l'Envoyé spécial du secrétaire général de l'ONU pour cette région, Saïd Djinnit. Ce dernier se déploie dans tous les sens pour déblayer le terrain en prévision de cet évènement de haute portée régionale. Interrogé sur les préparatifs de ces assises, il a indiqué que le processus de mise en œuvre du projet est déjà lancé notamment avec la CIRGL, l'Union africaine, la SADC et d'autres instances régionales et internationales.

Depuis son arrivée à Kinshasa, le diplomate onusien ne cesse de multiplier des contacts avec les autorités congolaises impliquées dans ce projet à l'image du ministre des Affaires étrangères, Raymond Tshibanda avec lequel il a établi les paramètres de collaboration. Il en est de même avec le comité d'organisation de ce forum. « C'est un grand moment pour la RDC et pour la région. Et nous souhaitons qu'à partir de ce

Disclaimer:

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

moment-là, le secteur privé porte un regard plus favorable sur la région et soit informé pleinement des opportunités d'investissement », a-t-il indiqué.

Avec toutes les parties prenantes, Saïd Djinnit aura noté l'enthousiasme qui caractérise les uns et les autres dans la matérialisation de ce projet, mais aussi le souhait émis par ses interlocuteurs de « créer impérativement des conditions pour la promotion de l'investissement » privé dans la région des Grands lacs.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

RDC: lancement du Projet de renforcement de l'observation citoyenne des élections

ARTICLE

Source : Radio Okapi (Kinshasa)

7 juillet 2015 - Le Projet de renforcement de l'observation citoyenne des élections au Congo (Procec) a été lancé officiellement mardi 7 juillet à Kinshasa. Financé par l'Union européenne et l'Institut électoral d'Afrique australe (EISA), ce projet de vingt-quatre mois est appelé à aider les onze structures de la société civile congolaise dans la réforme électorale juridique et institutionnelle ainsi que la prise d'initiative de plaider pour une meilleure organisation des élections. Le responsable du Procec, Lucien Toulou, a souligné le rôle que la société civile est appelée à jouer dans le processus électoral en RDC:

« [Il faut] que la société civile congolaise soit la première juge du processus électoral. Il est important que les processus électoraux dans nos pays soient appropriés par nos propres sociétés. Et donc, le plus important c'est ce que les Congolais pensent de ce processus-là, évidemment à côté d'autres acteurs.»

Selon lui, il est important que le peuple s'approprie ce processus. Lucien Toulou a par ailleurs expliqué la valeur ajoutée de ce projet, pour la société civile congolaise, dans les observations des élections:

«Il faut [ce processus électoral] soit crédible, il faut qu'il soit impartial, qu'il soit neutre ; il faut qu'il soit un peu plus professionnel. Donc, la valeur ajoutée du projet, c'est de mettre à la disposition de la société civile congolaise un certain nombre d'outils et d'approches qui ont cours dans d'autres pays, qui sont utilisés notamment par les

Disclaimer:

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

observateurs internationaux pour faire cette observation crédible, professionnelle et impartiale.»

Il a assuré que les partenaires techniques et financiers accompagneraient la société civile congolaise «pour qu'elle puisse jouer sa partition dans l'observation des élections, dans l'amélioration du processus électoral et dans la consolidation de la démocratie au Congo.»

BURUNDI

Burundi ruling party wins controversial parliamentary poll

Source: AFP World News

Bujumbura, 7 July 2015 - The ruling party of Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza has swept to an expected overwhelming victory in controversial parliament elections that were boycotted by the opposition, according to official results released Tuesday.

The CNDD-FFD party of Nkurunziza, who is seeking a disputed third term in office in upcoming presidential polls, won 77 out of 100 elected seats in parliament, with two more seats going to its ally UPRONA, according to the national election commission.

The opposition boycotted the June 29 polls, which the UN electoral observer mission said took place "in a climate of widespread fear and intimidation".

The elections were also condemned by the African Union and European Union, while civil society groups backed the boycott calling on voters to skip the "sham elections" after months of turmoil.

Despite opposition boycott, the coalition Independents of Hope group of Agathon Rwasa and Charles Nditije won 11 seats.

The crisis in the central African nation revolves around Nkurunziza's third-term bid, which his opponents say is unconstitutional and violates a peace deal that brought an end to a dozen years of civil war in 2006.

Over 70 people have been killed in more than two months of protests, with over 158,000 refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries.

Presidential polls are due on July 15 followed by senatorial elections on July 24.

Disclaimer:

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

Under the constitution, based on peace deals that paved the way for the end of a 13-year civil war in 2006, there are strict ethnic quotas in parliament.

Parliament must be made up of 60 percent from the majority Hutu people -- who make up some 85 percent of the population -- with the remaining 40 percent of elected seats reserved for the minority Tutsi. At least 30 percent of seats must also be held by women.

Three extra seats on top of the 100 voted for are reserved for the Twa ethnic group, which make up some one percent of the population.

Burundi considers response after African nations seek vote delay

Source: Reuters World Service

Bujumbura, 7 July 2015 - Burundi officials will discuss their response on Tuesday to a call by African nations to delay the presidential election by two weeks to July 30, a presidential spokesman said.

Burundi has been plunged into its worst crisis since the end of a civil war in 2005 after President Pierre Nkurunziza announced in April that he would run for a third term in office, a move opponents and protesters say is unconstitutional.

The president cites a court ruling saying he can run.

Regional African states meeting in Tanzania on Monday called for the July 15 presidential poll to be delayed to allow Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni to mediate. They also urged steps including disarming youth groups linked to political parties.

"We are meeting today to consider a reaction," presidential spokesman Gervais Abayeho told Reuters, saying the meeting would include government officials and the CENI election commission.

He did not give a time or say if the government was considering delaying the vote. He said the meeting would be held once the foreign minister returned from Tanzania on Tuesday.

The government has yet to issue a response to the meeting of the East African Community (EAC), whose member states are Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Rwanda. South Africa, which helped broker the 2005 peace deal, also attended.

Disclaimer:

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

Nkurunziza's election bid triggered weeks of protests, often involving clashes between demonstrators and police. Dozens of people were killed.

More than 140,000 people have fled Burundi fearing a return of ethnic-fuelled violence experienced in the 12-year civil war that pitted rebel groups of the majority Hutus, one of them led by Nkurunziza, against minority Tutsis, who then led the army.

The conflict ended with the Arusha accords, named after the Tanzanian city where they were brokered. The deal established ethnic quotas in institutions and other steps to restore order.

The president's opponents say he is threatening that pact, which sets a two-term limit, by seeking a third term.

Burundi might postpone poll amid protests over president's candidacy

Source: dpa Deutsche Presse-Agentur GmbH

Bujumbura, 7 July 2015 - Burundi is considering postponing its July 15 presidential election after East African leaders said the vote could not be held amid protests against President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid for a third term, a presidential spokesman said Tuesday.

"The government is willing to listen to this request because we want everybody to go into this election satisfied," Willy Nyamitwe said.

The East African Community held an emergency summit Monday in Tanzania and called on the government to postpone the election to July 30 because of the unrest.

But Nyamitwe said the eventual postponement should respect the constitution. The ruling CNDD-FDD party said the constitution requires the election to take place by July 26, one month before Nkurunziza's mandate expires on August 26.

The five-nation East African Community appointed Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni to mediate between the government and the opposition after the ruling party rejected mediation by UN special envoy Abdoulaye Bathily, whom it accused of siding with the opposition.

CNDD-FDD spokesman Daniel Gelase Ndabirabe said the party would discuss the eventual postponement of the election with Museveni.

"We will convince him that we cannot go out of the provisions of the national constitution" by holding the election after July 26, he said.

Disclaimer:

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

Other issues to be discussed will include the formation of a government of union that would include opposition figures, Ndabirabe said.

Nyamitwe and Ndabirabe made their comments hours after Leonard Ngendakumana, a general who backed a failed coup in May, said the army was still planning to overthrow Nkurunziza.

The Pan African Lawyers Union, meanwhile, said it had filed a case at the East African Court of Justice to stop the July 15 election. It filed the case together with the East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum.

"What is happening in Burundi now is a total breach of fundamental and operational principles of the treaty for the establishment of the East African Community," said Evelyn Chijarira, a lawyer representing the lawyers group.

About 80 people have been killed during more than two months of protests against Nkurunziza's bid for a third five-year term, which critics see as violating the constitution. More than 140,000 people have fled the country.

Nkurunziza ignored calls to postpone the June 29 parliamentary elections, which were boycotted by the opposition. The election results have yet to be made public.

ANGOLA

Central Africa: ICGLR Executive Secretary, Professor Ntumba Luaba Received By Angola Vice President

PRESS RELEASE

7 July 2015 - The ICGLR Executive Secretary, Professor Ntumba Luaba was received by the Vice President of the Republic of Angola, H.E Manuel Domingos Vicente on 3rd July 2015 in Luanda, on request of the President of the Republic of Angola and Chairman of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), H.E. José Edouardo Dos Santos due to his tight schedule.

The Executive Secretary came to report on the political and security situation in the Great Lakes Region, particularly Burundi, especially on the activities of the Joint International Facilitation Team (ICGLR Executive Secretary, EAC Deputy Executive Secretary, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission

Disclaimer:

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

in Burundi and for the Great Lakes Region, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Central Africa) on the electoral process in Burundi.

The Executive Secretary avails himself of this opportunity to thank the Republic of Angola for the commitment and the leadership of the current chairmanship aiming at the consolidation of peace, security, stability and development in the Great Lakes Region.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

'Fake' UN troops in attack on C. Africa radio station

NEWS STORY

Source: The Daily Star

Bangui, 7 July 2015 - Armed men, some disguised as U.N. peacekeeping soldiers, raided the state radio facilities in the capital of the restive Central African Republic overnight, a police source said Tuesday.

"The three members of the gendarmerie on guard duty at the state radio were attacked by a group of unidentified armed men, some disguised as Blue Helmets (troops)" from the United Nations military force in the troubled country, the source told AFP.

After disarming two of the gendarmes, "the assailants smashed the control panels and then tried in vain to get into the (main) studio," the source added.

The third gendarme fired warning shots and forced the attackers to leave the building, but they took one policeman hostage as they fled. When they let him go, he had a broken arm.

"An inquiry has been opened to find out whether this was an attempted coup or the work of a gang," the source added. The number of attackers is unclear.

A radio presenter confirmed the details to AFP and said that the injured gendarme was taken to hospital, but no official statement about the incident was issued by the end of the morning.

The deeply poor, landlocked country was plunged into chaos in the wake of a March 2013 coup that ousted President Francois Bozize and put Michel Djotodia, the leader of mainly Muslim rebels, in power.

Disclaimer:

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

Djotodia quit under international pressure after 10 months in power, but atrocities committed by his Seleka alliance led to reprisals by vigilantes from the Christian majority.

Thousands died in the violence and hundreds of thousands remain displaced from their homes.

Banditry and armed robbery persist in Bangui, but foreign peacekeeping forces have helped bring about a slow return to normal life.

However, the transitional authorities have almost no control over the northeast and west of the country, where ex-rebels, renegade former soldiers, highway robbers and bandit gangs hold sway.

REPUBLIC (CONGO)

Le président Sassou-Nguesso a rencontré François Hollande

ARTICLE

Source : RFI

Denis Sassou-Nguesso est en visite officielle en France mardi 7 juillet. Le chef de l'Etat congolais a été reçu par François Hollande quatre jours avant un dialogue national sur l'avenir des institutions au Congo. Denis Sassou-Nguesso est depuis plus de 30 ans à la tête de son pays. L'opposition craint qu'il ne veuille changer la Constitution pour briguer un nouveau mandat en 2016. Ce matin, l'entretien a duré plus d'une heure entre les deux présidents.

7 juillet 2015 - Après sa rencontre avec François Hollande, le président congolais n'a pas été très bavard. Il a expliqué que des sujets de sécurité avaient notamment été abordés : la crise centrafricaine et la guerre contre le groupe terroriste Boko Haram. Interrogé sur la fameuse réforme des institutions, le président a simplement affirmé que ça faisait plus d'un an que les Congolais parlaient librement des affaires de leur pays sans entrave et que le débat national se déroulait de manière ouverte. Il s'est ensuite engouffré dans sa voiture. Une grande prudence donc du chef de l'Etat, qui entretient toujours le mystère sur ses intentions.

A l'Elysée en tout cas, l'entourage de François Hollande se dit convaincu que Denis Sassou-Nguesso essaie de savoir s'il peut changer la Constitution. Le dialogue national du 11 juillet serait donc un test pour voir les réactions des uns et des autres.

Disclaimer:

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

Selon une bonne source, le cas congolais a d'ailleurs été évoqué vendredi à Luanda, lors du tête-à-tête entre le président français et son homologue angolais José Eduardo dos Santos.

Les deux chefs d'Etats souhaiteraient que la présidentielle congolaise se déroule dans le calme et la stabilité. Le président Dos Santos aurait aussi confié que contrairement à 1997, si des violences éclatent au Congo, l'Angola n'interviendra pas pour soutenir Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

Congo: père et fils Sassou-Nguesso pour une «nouvelle République»

ARTICLE

Source: Rfi.fr

Denis-Christel Sassou-Nguesso, fils du président Sassou-Nguesso, accompagne son père dans son projet de vouloir modifier la Constitution dans la perspective de la présidentielle de 2016.

7 juillet 2015 - A la tête d'une Dynamique pour l'émergence d'une nouvelle République, « Kiki le pétrolier » - pour les intimes -, est allé animer un meeting ce week-end à Dolisie, fief du premier parti d'opposition pour mobiliser les populations derrière le projet de changer la Constitution. Sur la grande banderole, déroulée derrière le podium où se sont produits les orchestres qui ont animé le meeting de la Dynamique pour l'émergence d'une nouvelle République, on pouvait lire « Une nouvelle République pour des institutions fortes et modernes ».

Parrain de ce mouvement, Denis-Christel Sassou-Nguesso a défini la forme même de cette nouvelle République qu'il appelle de ses vœux : « Il ne s'agit pas uniquement d'un changement de Constitution, encore moins d'une révision de la Constitution existante. Il s'agit de la refondation de notre République, de nos institutions et avant tout de notre pratique collective de la politique. » La Dynamique, qui veut d'une nouvelle Constitution, appelle les Congolais à participer au dialogue.

L'opposition, quant à elle, exige la présence de la communauté internationale à ce dialogue. Pascal Tsaty Mabiala de l'Union panafricaine pour la démocratie sociale (UPADS) invite le pouvoir à retirer simplement son projet de vouloir changer la loi fondamentale : « Dans les grands pays démocratiques, quand le président lance un projet qui requiert le consensus, s'il n'y a pas de consensus, il retire ce projet. Le président pouvait simplement retirer [son projet] et nous pensons qu'il a encore le

Disclaimer:

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

temps de le faire. C'est l'appel que je lance au président. » De l'appel de l'opposition, le dialogue va baliser le chemin du référendum.

KENYA

Al-Shabaab kills more than a dozen in Kenya attack weeks before Obama visit

NEWS STORY

Source: The Guardian

Suspected fighters from group targeted workers in remote village near Somalia border

7 July 2015 - Suspected al-Shabaab fighters killed 14 sleeping quarry workers and wounded many others in a gun and grenade attack in northern Kenya staged only weeks before a highly anticipated visit by President Obama to the East African country.

The gunmen raided the remote village of Soko Mbuzi near the Somalia border at around 1am Tuesday, smashed through a gate using a petrol bomb before hurling grenades at the workers and spraying those who tried to flee with bullets.

Local police chiefs said the attack bore all the hallmarks of the Somalia-based al-Qaida affiliate which has been blamed for a series of atrocities in East Africa.

“All indications are that they were al-Shabaab militants. They destroyed metal grilled doors before they bombed the houses and opened fire on the innocent victims,” Mandera County Commissioner Alex Ole Nkoyo told The Standard newspaper.

Several victims were rushed to hospital although the exact number of those affected were unclear.

The killings follow a pattern where al-Shabaab militants have targeted non-locals working in the predominantly Muslim region near the Kenyan-Somalia border. Workers from areas outside the region tend to be Christian.

In December, 36 quarry workers were killed in similar circumstances in the same county.

Disclaimer:

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

Kenya has been on a heightened state of alert since it was announced in March that Obama will tour the country at the end of July to attend a global entrepreneurship summit.

Although the visit has generated considerable enthusiasm, in part due to the fact Obama's father was Kenyan, there are concerns that militants could take advantage of the occasion to stage attacks.

Hundreds of security officers have been mobilised to bolster security and surveillance cameras have been installed in many streets in the capital Nairobi. But al-Shabaab have shown themselves capable of operating at will in the vast, historically marginalised region near the Somalia border where they are most active.

After a particularly shocking shooting rampage in a university in the northern town of Garissa left 148 students and security students dead in April, Obama called his Kenyan counterpart Uhuru Kenyatta to offer his support and said he would not change his plans to visit the country.

The Kenyatta government, which has come under severe public pressure to contain the al-Shabaab attacks, is expected to find itself under increasing scrutiny in the weeks leading up to Obama's visit.

SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan embassy in Kenya accuses UN of alleged "bias"

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

6 July 2015 - South Sudanese embassy in Kenya has issued a statement condemning the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and accusing the world body of alleged "biased" and "misleading" report about the atrocities committed against innocent civilians by the South Sudanese army (SPLA) in the oil-rich Unity state in the ongoing government's offensive against rebels.

In the strongly worded accusation, South Sudan also asked UNMISS to refrain from making "false allegations" against the "elected" government of South Sudan.

"The embassy of South Sudan has read with shock and is deeply concerned about the contents of the UNAMISS report which was subsequently cited in articles published on

Disclaimer:

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

the [Kenyan] Daily Nation (p28) and the Standard (p34) of July 1, 2015 respectively,” partly reads the statement dated 6 July, extended to Sudan Tribune on Monday.

“The said report erroneously accused the National Army of the Republic of South Sudan (SPLM) of crimes of Rape and burning of girls alive; heinous acts that were committed against the innocent citizens by the rebels operating in Unity state,” it further reads.

The statement explained that it was the rebels that turned against their own communities or families by killing and torturing them in order to blame it on the South Sudanese government. It maintained that UNMISS report was not correct.

“The UNAMISS report is biased and lacks credibility,” the embassy said.

The statement described the South Sudanese army as a “professional and disciplined force” governed by the rule of law and mandated by the constitution of the country to protect all citizens without discrimination and prejudice.

The statement condemned the report by UNMISS as “false allegation” and urged the world body’s organization to refrain from such allegations in the future so as to have a smooth relationship with the host government.

Reports this week from various sources including the Small Arms Survey said government troops and allied militia forces from Bul Nuer community, Warrap and Northern Bhar el Ghazal states have been carrying out atrocities against civilian populations in Unity state.

Former detainees vow commitment to reunifying SPLM leadership

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

6 July 2015 - A group of South Sudanese former political detainees, or G10, said they have embarked on ways to bridging the gaps over host of issues which the two main warring parties in the conflict have been unable to reach consensus on since the regional led negotiations began in January 2014.

Former South Sudanese cabinet affairs minister, Deng Alor Kuol, told Sudan Tribune on Monday that he and his group were determined to ensuring peace came to the country through reunification of the ruling party.

Disclaimer:

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

“There can never be a military solution to political differences. The current war has caused much suffering to the people. Everybody has been affected by the war,” Kuol said on Monday.

The leading official of the ruling Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) said the priority of his group remained the reunification of its leadership in accordance with the January 2015 Arusha roadmap agreement.

“The unity of the SPLM is very important at this moment. The region and the international community are working with us to achieve this. We are talking about the unity of the SPLM leadership, about the unity of our people and the country. I know there are challenges but I still believe that even with this staggering movement in the process of searching for peace, we will get out of the situation,” Kuol said.

He expressed optimism that peace would come to the country soon, stressing that a lot of efforts were being exerted to ensure the two main warring parties under the leaderships of President Salva Kiir and Chairman Riek Machar made bold decisions in the interest of peace.

The former detainees returned to Juba in June and rejoined the SPLM faction in the government led by president Kiir. Their ring leader, Pagan Amum, was reinstated as secretary general of the party in government.

The former political detainees left Juba in mid-2014 after their release. They were accused of allegedly plotting a military coup with the former vice president, Riek Machar, a charge they all dismissed as false. No military officer was arrested in the alleged coup plot.

Before the crisis, the group allied itself with the former vice-president, Machar, calling for internal reforms in the ruling party. On 6 December 2013, 9 days before the 15 December crisis, the former detainees held a press conference in Juba under the leadership of Machar, condemning actions of president Kiir, describing him as somebody with dictatorial tendencies.

The tripartite negotiations in Arusha on reunification process which involved three factions of SPLM has now turned into a bilateral negotiation between the SPLM in government led by president Kiir - former detainees included – and the SPLM in opposition led by Machar.

The factions are yet to thrush out outstanding issues on reforms and future leadership of the would-be reunified party.

Disclaimer:

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

However, they expressed understanding that an agreement on reunification of the party would not end the war unless a comprehensive peace agreement was reached in Addis Ababa which would have addressed other contentious national issues on governance, compensation and reparation and security arrangements which are beyond the party.

One Hurt in Attack on South Sudan-Uganda Border Town

NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

6 July 2015 - A customs officer was wounded and three freight trucks were torched when armed men attacked the town of Nimule near the border with Uganda, officials and residents said Monday.

Nimule has remained largely unaffected by fighting that erupted around South Sudan in December 2013.

Emillio Igga, chief administrator of the area that includes Nimule, blamed rebels under the command of Major General Martin Kenyi for the attack on Sunday.

Local residents said they heard several gunshots in Rock City, an eastern suburb of Nimule, in the early hours of Sunday. Those shots were followed a few minutes later by more gunfire and huge explosions that came from Nimule airstrip and part of the town center.

Residents said the shootings lasted about one-and-a-half hours and ended at 3 a.m.

Rebel statement

A spokesman for Riek Machar's rebel group, James Gatdet Dak, confirmed that the armed opposition was involved in the clashes.

"Our forces around Nimule town at South Sudan's border with Uganda... preempted an attack by government forces on their positions in the area," Gatdet said in a statement.

Gatdet said the rebels launched the attack to try to force the closure of "the trade route between Uganda and South Sudan at the Nimule border unless Salva Kiir's government accepts peace and signs an agreement with the [opposition] Movement."

He said the fighting lasted three hours, ending "when our forces withdrew from the town, after destroying government's war logistics in the area."

Disclaimer:

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

Nimule is the main transit point for goods that are bought and sold between South Sudan and Uganda. Customs duties and taxes paid by traders are a significant source of revenue for the government of South Sudan.

Igga said steps are being taken to step up security in Nimule and nearby villages to prevent more attacks. Residents said several military trucks arrived in Nimule on Sunday, within hours of the attack.

SUDAN

Free Will Party Reiterates Support for National Dialogue

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Vision

7 July 2015 - Free Will Party reaffirmed its support for national dialogue until it reaches its goals.

The party Secretary of Youth and Students, Ibrahim Abdallah Ibrahim said that the stability of Sudan, its territorial integrity and maintain the gains is a matter that concern everyone.

He called on all armed movements and parties that reject dialogue to participate in the dialogue without preconditions in order to avoid destroying the country.

Ibrahim stressed that his party participated in the previous elections and that consultations between their party and the NCP going on with regard to participation in the government, expressing his hope that all Sudan's issues to be resolved.

TANZANIA

Tanzania's ruling party to pick presidential candidate

NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

Disclaimer:

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

7 July 2015 - With a weak and fractured opposition, and President Jakaya Kikwete stepping down after completing his second and final term, competition is stiff with 38 candidates vying to secure the party ticket of the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), in power since independence in 1964.

Kikwete, the CCM chairman, has said he does not have a "favourite person", but called on party members to vote for a candidate who could stem corruption.

"Pick a person who is a serious, competent and good leader to boost the country's economic and social development," Kikwete told a rally on Monday.

Front runners include Vice-President Mohamed Bilal, Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda, and former prime ministers, Edward Lowassa and Frederick Sumaye.

Also in the line up are Justice Minister Asha-Rose Migiro, a former UN Deputy Secretary General and ex-foreign minister, as well as current Minister of Foreign Affairs Bernard Membe.

Charles Makongoro Nyerere, son of the east African country's founding president Julius Nyerere, as well as Ali Karume, the son of the first president of Tanzania's semi-autonomous Zanzibar archipelago, are also in the race.

Most of the aspirants have pledged to tackle poverty and fight corruption should they win.

"This is the first time in the country's history when dozens of aspirants are seeking nomination of CCM to run for the top office - it is healthy and shows democratic maturity," said Benson Bana, a political scientist at the University of Dar es Salaam.

But he also called for fair play.

"Aspirants should avoid mudslinging and corrupt practices," Bana said.

Top CCM party officials will this week select three candidates for party members vote on their final choice at a congress on July 12 and 13.

The party will also select its candidate to run for president of Zanzibar, with incumbent Ali Mohamed Shein hoping to secure his second and final five-year term.