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



## **MEDIA MONITORING**

**8 September 2015**

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### **GENERAL NEWS**

#### **Future, survival of African militaries lie in joint operations, arms purchases**

OPINION

Source: The East African

By TREVOR ANALO

**6 September 2015 -**

7 September 2015 - With African militaries increasingly working together to fight extremist groups and other destabilising forces, experts say joint purchases of arms and sharing of capabilities should be next.

African nations have been spending more on their armed forces - despite the continent being mostly peaceful - due to the emergence of insurgents and armed non-state actors, including terrorist groups like Al Shabaab and Boko Haram and rebel groups like M23, LRA, the White Army and FDLR.

Last year, African nations collectively spent \$47 billion on defence, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

But as the continent continues to face rising existential threats amid funding shortfalls, the London-based Think Security Africa research firm is urging African nations to “pool and share” their military resources.

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As governments expand the operational remit of their militaries — from hunting down poachers to suppressing street protests — national treasuries across the continent will have to become innovative in how they plug gaps in their military budgets.

Speaking to The EastAfrican, Think Security Africa founder Adunola Abiola said her report is informed by the “rising regional trend towards threat-centric military cooperation, which has propelled militaries across the region to engage in joint operations (sometimes reluctantly) in order to defend against mutual threats.”

African militaries are working together on border security issues, anti-poaching operations and counter-insurgency.

According to the report, this kind of co-operation “presents an opportunity for African militaries to exercise collective bargaining power... to acquire tactical capabilities... at a reduced cost.”

“If the rise in military operations in Africa continues, alongside rising budgetary uncertainties, militaries and donors will have to change funding priorities to enhance the sustainability of operations,” said Ms Abiola.

“In addition, militaries will have to co-operate more closely on the administrative and operational levels, and defence contractors will have to amend the way they market and supply.”

Besides funding shortfalls, African militaries could also be limited by sanctions, aid cuts and arms embargoes. For “African militaries to retain and develop the capacity to guarantee national defence,” they may have to look for new funding approaches, said Ms Abiola.

Currently, Think Security Africa says 18 per cent of African militaries are being rebuilt or restructured, while 35 per cent are engaged in operations beyond normal peacetime activity.

In East Africa, Uganda has the biggest military deployments in the region, having 2,000 troops in CAR, 6,700 in Somalia, and 850 in South Sudan. Ethiopia has an unknown number of troops in Somalia but 2,600 troops in Sudan and 4,000 in the disputed Abyei region.

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**DRC**

## **Congo-Kinshasa: Monusco's New Chief Should Come With New Ideas**

### OPINION

Source: The New Times

**6 September 2015** - Martin Kobler's tenure as the head of the UN Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) comes to an end at the end of October.

To say that he will not be missed by many in the region would be an understatement. As the head of a more than 20,000 force, Kobler failed dismally in one of his core task; neutralizing the FDLR militia that are the primary source of instability in eastern DRC for two decades.

MONUSCO never failed to come up with an excuse as to why it had not embarked on disarming the FDLR despite the robust mandate from the Security Council. Instead, it was caught up in a series of scandals that should have been warning signal that the UN force was on a course of failure of tremendous proportions.

Kobler might not be the source of MONUSCO's debacle, but he had the power to influence things at UN headquarters, after all, he was the Secretary General's Special Representative in DRC, so the buck stops at his desk.

In sourcing for Kobler's replacement, the UN should also revisit its priorities regarding the armed groups in the DRC. They should not be hinged on selective course of actions; neither should it be seen to be favouring some sides of the conflict.

Otherwise, contributors to the \$1.4 billion annual budget should sincerely raise questions as to whether it is money worth spent.

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## At least 7 civilians killed in eastern DR Congo

### NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

**Goma, 6 September 2015** - At least seven civilians were killed in a weekend attack by Ugandan rebels in the restive east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, a regional official told AFP on Sunday.

But a local NGO put the toll at nine dead, saying most of them had been killed with machetes.

Officials said the attack took place on Saturday near Mbau in the northern sector of the troubled North Kivu province in an area where there were no government troops.

"Last night we found three bodies and today four more, which makes seven dead," Amisi Kalonda, a top official in the regional capital of Beni, told AFP.

The violence took place in an area from which many people had been evacuated because of the threat from the Ugandan Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), he said.

The ADF has been accused of killing more than 400 villagers over the last 10 months, most of whom were slaughtered with machetes and farm implements.

In a statement issued late on Sunday, the Beni-based Study Centre for the Promotion of Peace, Democracy and Human Rights said a total of nine people had been killed.

Most of them had been killed with machetes, and either had their throats slit or had been decapitated, it said.

Officials could not immediately confirm the higher toll.

The mostly Muslim rebels, who are said to number around 400, have been active in the region since being driven out of their homeland in 1995.

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## **DR Congo humanitarian crisis must not ‘fall off’ world’s radar – UN deputy relief chief**

### NEWS STORY

Source: UN News Centre

**4 September 2015** - Wrapping up a four-day mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Kyung-wha Kang, called strongly today for creative ways to reignite donor engagement and ensure that one of the world’s most protracted crises does not “fall off the humanitarian radar.”

Ms. Kang, who is also the UN Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, travelled to the DRC to assess the scope of the humanitarian crisis, better understand the challenges faced by humanitarian actors in the response, and ensure the DRC crisis remains on the agenda of donors and the greater international community.

Ms. Kang’s trip included a visit to the Mugunga 3 camp for internally displaced people (IDPs), in the outskirts of Goma in North Kivu, one of the oldest in the country. The camp, “home” to some 5,000 displaced people, is a symbol of the impact of the dwindling support for and attention to the DRC humanitarian crisis.

Although needs for all residents in the camps remain significant, only the most vulnerable among them receive food rations, and this is only 50 per cent of the required amounts. Moreover, the camp’s only health facility has been closed for months, given the shortage of funds to keep it operational.

“I’ve seen many IDP camps during my many missions around the world, but Mugunga is one of the worst because the environment and living conditions are so harsh. UN agencies and NGOs [non-governmental organizations] are doing their best to provide the much needed assistance but, in order to enhance the response, they require additional financial resources,” Ms. Kang said.

She added that Mugunga 3 was also a strong symbol of resilience and hope due to the determination of the IDPs to improve their living conditions, as shown by the 100 women benefiting from an income-generating soap-making project that she visited on the site.

While in the eastern city of Goma, the senior humanitarian official also held discussions with the Governor of North Kivu, notably on the issue of IDP camp closures. They agreed that closer dialogue would be held regularly between the authorities and the

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humanitarian community to ensure that any camp closure be carried out in line with international principles, including the Kampala Convention ratified by DRC, and in full respect of the wish of the people to be affected.

The need to work together on durable solutions for IDP returns was also raised, and the necessity to better link humanitarian and development programming in specific areas and contexts.

Ms. Kang also travelled to the neighbouring province of South Kivu where she visited Lusenda, the newly established camp for refugees from Burundi, home to 8,000 out of the 15,000 people who have crossed into the DRC since the beginning of the Burundi crisis. The other 7,000 have been living with host families who very generously share their limited resources with the refugees. However, capacity is overstretched and the spectre of financial constraints is looming. While the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has given \$6.8 million to provide an emergency multi-sectoral response, if additional resources are not made available soon, many of the operations in Lusenda would have to close down, Ms. Kang said.

In Kinshasa, Goma and Bukavu, Ms. Kang, who last visited DRC two years ago, held very productive discussions with the Congolese authorities who expressed their willingness to move the country forward on the path to economic growth and development.

In that framework, Ms. Kang stressed the necessity to ensure that “no Congolese is left behind” in the efforts to advance the country, as development cannot be sustainable unless the needs of the most vulnerable people are adequately addressed.

“We need new creative ways – a new compelling narrative to ensure continued support by the donors and international community, to what remains one of the world’s most complex and protracted emergencies.”

## RWANDA

### **US warns Paul Kagame not to seek third term as Rwandan president**

#### NEWS STORY

Source: The Telegraph (UK)

**African leader was once hailed as a new hope for a continent riddled with corrupt dictators but now appears intent on changing constitution to run again**

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**5 September 2015** - The US has warned President Paul Kagame that he faces instability and uncertainty if he presses ahead with plans to change the constitution of Rwanda to allow him to stay on for a third term.

Mr Kagame was once hailed as part of a new generation of African leaders, helping usher in democracy after taking de facto power at the end of the country's bloody civil war in 1994.

However, he has been criticised repeatedly for stifling opposition, interfering in neighbouring countries affairs – including the long-running conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo where more than five million people have died – and trying to cling to power.

In July, parliamentarians voted in favour of changing the constitution to allow Mr Kagame to stay on for a third term. He has now set up a constitutional commission to review the country's two-term limit.

John Kirby, spokesman for the State Department, called on Mr Kagame to honour his previous commitment to respect term limits.

“We do not support those in positions of power changing constitutions solely for their political self-interest,” he said.

Mr Kagame has fallen from international favour since the days when he was seen as the hero who led Rwanda's Tutsis to victory over the genocidal Hutu onslaught.

In June General Karenzi Karake, his head of security, was arrested in the UK over alleged war crimes in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide. He was eventually released after a court decided he could not be extradited to Spain.

Now he is the latest African leader to be accused of "stayism".

It follows unrest in Burundi where President Pierre Nkurunziza won a third term earlier this year. More than 100 people have died in the violence amid protests that his run was unconstitutional.

Barack Obama seized on the issue during his African visit in July.

“When a leader tries to change the rules in the middle of the game just to stay in office, it risks instability and strife, as we’ve seen in Burundi,” he said in Ethiopia. “And this is often just a first step down a perilous path.”

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## BURUNDI

### Insecurity returns in several neighbourhoods of Burundi capital

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Xinhua

**7 September 2015** - Heavy gunshots and grenade explosions were heard Tuesday and Wednesday in neighborhoods of the Burundian capital Bujumbura where protests against the third term bid of Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza took place since late April.

Residents in neighborhoods including Ngagara, Jabe, Cibitoke and Musaga told Xinhua that they were unable to sleep during the last two nights because of "heavy gunshots and grenade explosions".

Some avenues leading to Ngagara neighborhoods were still barricaded Thursday morning with stones and wood or other objects like dumped automobile spare parts.

Residents in Ngagara told Xinhua that they have barricaded avenues "for security reasons", arguing that those who open fire at night or detonate grenades come from outside their neighborhood.

In Jabe, residents said they have been unable to get out of their neighborhood for the past two days after police sealed off the neighborhood in an arms search and no one is allowed to enter or get out of Jabe without a "special" permission.

Police Deputy-Spokesman Pierre Nkurikiye told Xinhua that a "criminal" was killed in Jabe on Tuesday night, while four policemen were injured in clashes against armed criminals and police agents.

During an arms search operation carried out Wednesday at Nyakabiga, Jabe and Musaga, Nkurikiye indicated that more than 10 persons were arrested for investigations.

During the inauguration of Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza on August 20 upon his re-election for a controversial third term on July 21, Nkurunziza gave two months to security and defense forces to restore security countrywide, especially in some neighborhoods of the east African country's capital Bujumbura.



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## Burundi releases Rwandans, says citizens also held in Kigali

### NEWS STORY

Source: The East African

By Edmund Kagire

**7 September 2015** - Burundi has released some Rwandans held incommunicado after Kigali appealed to the Bujumbura government, while accusing its northern neighbour of detaining its citizens on similar suspicions of espionage.

Dozens of Rwandans are being held in Bujumbura and Cibitoke on suspicion that they were spying for the Rwandan government. 14 of the more than 30 Rwandan nationals who were arrested in Burundi were released last week.

Burundi in turn says Rwanda is detaining its citizens on similar accusations. At least 29 Burundians are thought to be held by Rwandan authorities on suspicion of spying for Bujumbura.

The Burundian ambassador to Rwanda Alexis Ntukamazina confirmed to The EastAfrican that Burundian nationals are being detained in Rwanda but said that the two governments are working together to see how they can be released.

“Yes, I can confirm that we are aware of some Burundians who are detained in Rwanda and we are working to see how this matter can be resolved,” said Mr Ntukamazina, without specifying the number or reasons they were arrested.

“As you might have seen in the media, some Rwandans who were detained in Burundi have already been released. I am confident the remaining ones will be released too. We are brothers and sisters and we believe this matter will be resolved in a short time,” he added.

The Rwanda National Police spokesperson Chief Superintendent Celestin Twahirwa could not confirm the development, instead referring The EastAfrican to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to sources, the Burundians were arrested between April and August after they were suspected of spying for the Burundian government.

“Most of them came in masquerading as refugees, but they would later be suspected or found to be spies or members of Imbonerakure (a pro-government militia group) who were sent to spy on fellow countrymen seeking refuge in Rwanda,” a Burundian refugee, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said.

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Diplomatic ties between Rwanda and Burundi have not been good over the past months after Kigali expressed concern over the violence in the country.

Burundi in turn accused Rwanda, which is hosting over 70,000 Burundian refugees, of allowing opposition members a safe haven to regroup and wage war against the government.

Bujumbura has accused Kigali of supporting rebel groups planning to wage war against President Pierre Nkurunziza's government, accusations that the Rwandan government has vehemently denied.

The two countries previously shared warm relations and depended on each other for cross-border trade while social relations thrived.

## **Burundi Officials Blame Museveni for Stalled Peace Talks with Opposition**

### **NEWS STORY**

Source: The East African

By Trevor Analo

**5 September 2015** - Senior Burundian officials say they are in support of dialogue between the government and opponents of President Pierre Nkurunziza's administration, adding that Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has failed to bring both sides to the negotiating table.

Last week, President Nkurunziza sent emissaries to Kampala, following his surprise inauguration last month, with analysts speculating that he was reaching out to the regional leadership.

President Nkurunziza dispatched the president of the national assembly Pascal Nyabenda, and longtime rival turned ally Agathon Rwasa, to meet President Museveni.

Speaking to The EastAfrican, government spokesperson Gervais Abayeho said that their side is ready to engage with those opposed to the president in order to find a way out of the political crisis that is now in its fifth month.

"Political dialogue is an ongoing process in Burundi. We have remained open and ready to talk to whoever has a stake in this crisis," said Mr Abayeho on phone from Bujumbura.

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He added that President Museveni, who was appointed in early July by the East African Community to renew stalled talks between President Nkurunziza's ruling CNDD-FDD party and opposition groups, has been unable to bring both sides to the table.

President Museveni, however, delegated Ugandan Defence Minister Crispus Kiyonga to drive the talks.

"President Museveni is the one who should tell us his agenda for the talks and when to resume," Mr Abayeho told The EastAfrican.

Asked to comment, Uganda's presidential press secretary, Linda Nabusayi, did not respond as promised.

The last time the two groups met was on July 15, when President Museveni chaired the talks; before President Museveni, there were two other mediators who quit after being rejected by the parties.

UN mediator Said Djinnit resigned in June after being accused by the opposition and civil society of a government bias.

His successor, Abdoulaye Bathily, was rejected by the government, which accused him of an opposition bias and disrespecting authorities in the capital.

It is not yet clear whether UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will appoint another envoy as President Museveni currently has his hands full with the crisis in South Sudan.

Much like the two previous mediators, President Museveni has been unable to get the two camps to agree on what issues should be discussed.

Analysts say President Museveni may not be the best choice to mediate the crisis.

"The general perception is that President Museveni does not enjoy the support of many of the players in the conflict, given that the subject matter of the crisis is term limits and he is a beneficiary of violating them himself," said Nicholas Opiyo, a Ugandan political analyst and the executive director of Chapter Four, a Kampala-based civil rights group.

The opposition's main condition for ending the crisis is that President Nkurunziza step down; the government maintains that the president was validly elected, albeit in an election criticised by the international community for failing to meet the basic standards of a fair poll.

To consolidate his position ahead of any future talks with the opposition, President Nkurunziza has already appointed his Cabinet and senior government officials. The opposition now has limited options, and needs to negotiate with the government.

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Mr Rwasa, a former rival of President Nkurunziza, has been co-opted by the government as the Deputy Speaker of the national assembly, and has secured five ministerial positions for his party.

With the most prominent opposition figure now in government, analysts in Bujumbura say this is an attempt by President Nkurunziza to show the international community that there is a government of national unity in place.

"The opposition finds itself in a very difficult position now. By agreeing to participate in the talks, they are hoping to salvage what they can," Mr Opiyo said.

## UGANDA

### Security key to regional prosperity – Museveni

#### NEWS STORY

Source: New Vision (Uganda)

By Moses Walubiri

**President Yoweri Museveni has called upon member states under the East African Community (EAC) bloc to expend considerable resources on augmenting their collective security.**

**6 September 2015** - Museveni contends that this kind of investment is an integral component in efforts aimed at securing the fruits of economic prosperity regional integration is seeking to achieve.

While launching the Great Lakes Emerging Leaders' Forum (GLELF) at International University of East Africa on Friday, Museveni told hundreds of students from different African countries that efforts tailored to regional integration ought to go hand-in-hand with buttressing regional security.

GLELF is a platform aimed at nurturing and mentoring emerging young leaders in the region.

"Becoming first world does not immunize you against conquest by stronger powers," Museveni said, citing the example of Netherlands and Belgium which were conquered and occupied by Nazi Germany for a large part of World War two 70 years ago.

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"We can become economically prosperous but how about strategic security? Immunizing ourselves against future conquest by greedy people should be done now," Museveni said.

Museveni is an avid supporter of the notion that security plays a bigger role in the economic transformation of any society since it fosters a conducive investment climate.

During his recent budget speech, the president told lawmakers that considerable expenditure on defense and infrastructure will form a core component of his government's development strategy.

"Those who do not agree with me should go and try to set up a coffee farm in Somalia," Museveni said as a ripple of murmurs swept through the opposition benches.

Already, Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya, through the mutual defense pact, agreed upon early this are laying the foundation for EAC states to play a bigger role in fighting trans-national crime. The three countries have also committed troops to the East Africa Standby Force, which is backed by the United Nations.

Once adopted, the pact will allow armed forces from member countries to conduct joint military operations when combating terrorism and other international crimes.

On the issue of Africa's long term security, Museveni said Africa should explore possibilities of joining the 'space race' warning that the African continent is ceding far too much ground to countries having space projects.

"Russia, USA, India and China have space programs. Space is our common heritage. We must go to space and find out what these people are doing. Those people in space look at Africans like sugar ants," Museveni noted.

Not a single African country is running a space program and any talk of an expensive program on a continent blighted by poverty is most likely to be deemed a nonstarter.

The president extolled GLELF as an ingenious initiative that will mentor "young people dedicated to the unity of Africa."

Citing the similarity between interacustrine communities, Museveni warned against fomenting narrow tribal differences.

"If you engage in serious scholarship of Africa, you will discover the similarity between its diverse people," Museveni said.

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## Uganda at 'crossroads', opposition leader warns

### NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

**4 September 2015** - Flanked by motorbike riders honking horns, Uganda's key opposition leader is hailed as a hero by supporters, but three-time presidential challenger Kizza Besigye insists he never wanted to go into politics.

"One Uganda, one people," the dozens of motorbike riding supporters chanted after a recent rally by Besigye, once personal doctor to veteran President Yoweri Museveni, now his greatest political rival.

"I didn't set out to be in politics, let alone be president," Besigye told AFP, saying he had been forced into the "unenviable situation" of having to challenge Museveni in order to see change.

The opposition Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) chose Besigye on Wednesday to be its candidate in next year's election, the fourth consecutive time he will run for the presidency.

Museveni, who has led the east African nation since 1986, has been endorsed by the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) to represent it in the vote scheduled for February.

"I would like to believe that the momentum for change is unstoppable," Besigye said.

Besigye had previously said he would not contest elections again after losing in 2001, 2006 and 2011, claiming free and fair polls were impossible.

### - 'Questions to answer' -

He has since changed his mind and once again put himself forward, overcoming his challenger, former general Mugisha Muntu, for the FDC candidacy.

Besigye said he feared Uganda is "now very clearly at a crossroads", and demanded an overhaul of the electoral commission running the polls.

"If this matter is not corrected at this time, I dare say the country will be at a very serious risk of sliding back into political instability, into violence and chaos," Besigye said.

"We are very, very determined to do everything within our means to have changes in the management of the election."

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Besides Besigye, Museveni's other key political challenger is ex-prime minister Amama Mbabazi.

Besigye said he is prepared to work with "anybody" to ensure a better Uganda, and opposition parties have said they will form a "Democratic Alliance" fielding a single joint candidate.

But with the main opposition leaders being influential former members of the ruling party, they struggle to offer a convincing alternative or to effectively criticise a system they befit from, or in some cases helped create.

Besigye grudgingly admitted many had "questions to answer" about their time in power.

"Maybe all of us do, because at some stage all of us served in the dictatorship," he said.

**- 'Prepared for the worst' -**

Besigye said he also feared that Uganda's role in regional wars -- playing a key part of supplying troops to the internationally-backed African Union force in Somalia, as well as deploying forces to prop up the government in South Sudan -- meant Museveni was above international criticism.

"They've taken advantage of having a huge military security outfit, which they have found handy in dealing with certain regional hotspots," he said.

"Museveni benefits from that relationship, and the foreign countries benefit from him, each one knowing that in so doing the people of Uganda are not benefiting."

But Besigye does have some grass-roots support, despite the risk demonstrators face.

After losing in 2011, he led repeated anti-government protests, at which he was regularly arrested and held for hours before being released while his supporters were also chased, tear-gassed, beaten and arrested.

"He's popular everywhere, he is a leader who listens to everybody," said Swaibu Mugalu, 32, wearing a T-shirt with Besigye's face emblazoned on it.

While Besigye has less cash in his campaign chest than rivals -- especially the incumbent president who blurs party and state funds -- he inspires loyalty among followers, and said that he was more than willing to risk the tear gas and police batons once again.

"If I die today, I die for my country," he said.

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"I'm lucky to be here, because my colleagues are not that lucky to be alive," he said. "In this kind of engagement, you are prepared for the worst."

## ANGOLA

### Angola accused of 'illegal' interrogation

#### NEWS STORY

Source: <http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/angola-accused-of-illegal-interrogation-1.1912130#.Ve51BrKqgko>

**Senior Angolan judicial officials have “illegally” interrogated an Angolan politician and academic in Portugal about the activities of 15 young political prisoners recently arrested at his Luanda home and still in custody, an activist NGO alleged on Monday.**

**7 September 2015** - Maka Angola, an organisation dedicated to fighting for democracy and against corruption, said the officials from Angola’s Criminal Investigation Service (SIC) and Attorney General’s office met Alberto Neto on August 6 and 7 in Lisbon.

The Angolan officials questioned him because he owns the property in Luanda where 15 youths had been arrested on 20 June, accused of involvement in plotting a coup against President José Eduardo dos Santos, Maka Angola said. The youths have said they were merely attending a study group discussing non-violent protest.

Maka Angola added that deputy attorney general Luciano Chaca and SIC special agent Pedro João tried to persuade Neto to sign an affidavit that they had interrogated him in Luanda because they were doing so illegally in Lisbon.

Neto told Maka Angola in an interview that the officials had told him that Domingos da Cruz was the ringleader of the attempted coup and that the youths had already asked members of the Angolan Armed Forces to remain neutral while the coup was taking place.

“They also told me the youths had a list of leaders to replace the President of the Republic, one being [José] Kalupeteka [the leader of a religious sect that was recently massacred in Huambo and who is under arrest since April]. Luaty Beirão [the rapper] would be the new Attorney-General of the Republic”, Neto said, according to Maka Angola.



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Neto said he asked the government officials if they believed this and they said they did. He told them that he knew some of the youths and that they were welcome in his house.

“I told them that the story about the coup is a farce.” I told them these kids are nobodies, and much less have military training. How could they possibly attempt a coup?”

Neto also said the officials had brought him the next day a statement to sign – “and told me they could not give me a copy because the interrogation had taken place in a foreign country, and was, thereby, illegal. They wanted me to sign as if the interrogation had taken place in Luanda”, he revealed.

Neto told Maka Angola that the Language and Computer Studies Institute of Luanda was located in the annex of his home and that if he had been in Luanda he would have allowed to meetings of the youths to go ahead just the same.

“Who has the right to tell me who I can and cannot invite into my home? I am 72 years old, and I don’t need to answer that type of question. I am a free man.”

## KENYA

### We will work together, Burundi leaders tell President Uhuru Kenyatta

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Standard Digital (Kenya)

**5 September 2015** - President Uhuru Kenyatta Saturday held a meeting with the Speaker of Parliament of Burundi and his deputy who briefed him on the political situation in the East African nation.

The Speaker, Mr Pascal Nyabenda, doubles as the chairman of the ruling party CNDD-FDD, while the Deputy Speaker, Mr Agathon Rwasa, heads the opposition, Amizero y'Abarundi coalition. The two leaders told President Kenyatta that the government of President Pierre Nkurunziza and the opposition had agreed to work together for the interest of their country and sought Kenya’s support for further reconciliation in Burundi.

President Kenyatta told the two leaders, who were accompanied by MPs from the two sides, that they can count on Kenya’s support for all efforts aimed at fostering peace in Burundi.

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“The region’s interest is to have a peaceful Burundi because we cannot let you go back to the violence which you have gone through before,” said the President. President Kenyatta said the process of reconciliation and dialogue in Burundi should be inclusive so that the internal differences can be resolved once and for all. “I am happy to see that your team is composed of all the sides of the political spectrum sending a strong signal to the world that you want peace,” said the President. President Kenyatta said regional leaders are willing to continue supporting Burundi to remain peaceful but the biggest responsibility rests with Burundians themselves. “The internal challenges facing your country can be resolved by the people of Burundi without exclusion,” said the President. Mr Nyabenda thanked President Kenyatta for his strong message to all the sides in Burundi to respect their constitution and to avoid fuelling violence.

“We respected our constitution and today the Burundi government represents all ethnic groups and all political parties as provided for in the constitution,” he said.

The Speaker said Burundians want to continue with the process of dialogue and requested the East African Community to host a special summit to kick off another round of reconciliation. Mr Rwasa said the opposition chose to cooperate with the government to save the country from collapsing. “Burundi has gone through hard times but it is not in a desperate position today. We have to transform the challenges that face us into opportunities and if we commit to true dialogue we can achieve more,” he said. The meeting was also attended by Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Prof Karanja Kibicho and Burundi Ambassador to Kenya, Ms Beatrice Kankindi.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### ICC asks South Africa to explain failure to arrest Bashir

#### NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

By Mfuneko Toyana

**7 September 2015** - Judges at the International Criminal Court have asked South African authorities to explain why they failed to arrest Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir in June when he attended a conference.

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Bashir, accused of masterminding genocide in Darfur, was able to leave an African Union summit in South Africa and fly home, in defiance of a ruling by a South African court ordering his detention under a warrant from the International Criminal Court (ICC).

South Africa, a member of the ICC, is obliged to enforce warrants from the Hague-based tribunal.

In a statement on its website, the ICC asked South African authorities to submit by Oct. 5 the reasons for "their failure to arrest and surrender Omar Al Bashir".

The tribunal said in cases where a member of the ICC fails to cooperate, the tribunal may refer the matter to either the Assembly of States Parties, the ICC's governing body, or the U.N. Security Council, which established the court and has the power to impose sanctions.

President Jacob Zuma has defended the decision to let Bashir leave the country, saying the wanted leader had immunity as a guest of the African Union.

Clayson Monyela, the spokesman for the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, said he was unaware of the request from the global tribunal.

"I haven't heard anything about it. And even if it's there I won't be commenting on it - that matter is subjudice. It's in the courts," said Monyela.

Pretoria has said it will review its membership of the ICC and challenge a high court ruling that found the state erred in letting Bashir leave.

## SOUTH SUDAN

### S. Sudan Rebels to Ratify Peace Deal Tuesday

NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

Peter Clotey

**6 September 2015** - South Sudan's rebel leader says his group will ratify the recently signed peace agreement on Tuesday as part of efforts to restore peace and end the country's nearly two year long conflict.

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Former Vice President Riek Machar told VOA Sunday he is committed to the full implementation of the agreement. But he said he has petitioned mediators and regional leaders about the government's continuous violation of the peace agreement signed by both parties.

"My team will be ratifying this most likely on the 8th (of September) and the cease-fire has not been holding. So we need the cease-fire to hold first and a workshop conducted for the permanent cease-fire and security arraignments, then after that we can kick off the second phase of forming the transitional government of national unity," he said.

**Expressed reservations**

President Salva Kiir signed the agreement 15 days later than originally scheduled after expressing reservations about stipulations in the accord, which he said undermines South Sudan's sovereignty.

So far, both sides have accused each other of violating the cease-fire agreement. But Machar said the administration is to blame for endangering the accord.

"I can't say I am satisfied because the government has been breaking the cease-fire. It has not stopped its offensive despite the fact that the government declared a cease-fire. So, this is not satisfactory," he said.

Machar called on South Sudanese and the international community to pressure the administration in Juba to ensure a full implementation of the cease-fire agreement.

"I have complained, I have protested on the violations done by the government, and I have written to IGAD [Intergovernmental Authority on Development] leaders and those who witnessed the peace agreement."

Machar's comments came after reports that the U.N. Security Council was considering imposing sanctions following accusations of attacks that could endanger the peace agreement. Machar denied his rebels violated the accord.

**'Defending ourselves'**

"We have done nothing [wrong] we are only defending ourselves. The government has barges on the Nile [and] they were attacking our positions. We responded, we sunk some of the barges. The government is using helicopter gunships for the last four days, and also occupying our bases and we don't see any reason for such," Machar said.

"The U.N. sanctions should be targeting the government because they are the ones on the offensive. They are the one violating the cease-fire agreement," he said.

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Last week, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry called President Kiir to discuss the cease-fire violations. A State Department spokesman said: "President Kiir confirmed to the secretary that he is committed to the implementation of the peace agreement and the cease-fire."

A workshop to discuss the cease-fire, and how security in the country will be maintained during a 30-month transitional period, was postponed late last week. A South Sudan official said a new date will be announced as soon as possible.

Both the government and Machar's SPLM-in-Opposition (SPLM-IO) insisted that they are not to blame for the delay.

## **Juba Pushing for Somalia-Like AU Peacekeeping Mission**

### NEWS STORY

Source: The East African

By Fred Oluoch

**6 September 2015** - The government of South Sudan is lobbying the African Union to set up a peacekeeping force similar to that in Somalia, to ensure that the terms of the peace agreement are not violated by either side.

Juba doubts whether the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (Igad) Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, to be transformed into the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism, will be effective in preventing ceasefire violations.

The newly appointed South Sudan Special Peace Envoy, John Andruga Duku, told The EastAfrican that the idea is to have a force with contributions from countries neighbouring South Sudan, controlled by the AU and funded by the United Nations, just like the African Union Mission in Somalia (Amisom).

He argued that it would be better for the AU to take charge because their experience with the Igad monitoring mechanism showed that it did not have the capacity to cover hotspots, and was prone to blaming both sides whenever the terms of the ceasefire were violated.

According to the recently signed Compromise Peace Agreement on South Sudan, troops from Igad partner states and the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) will take

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charge of Juba for 30 months of the transition period until elections are conducted in 2018.

Igad sources told The EastAfrican that the government was jumping the gun, as these are some of the issues on the agenda of the September 5 workshop on security arrangements, and how to implement them.

The workshop in Addis Ababa is discussing what type of command the force will have, where it will be stationed and what type of equipment it needs to ensure that the peace agreement is not violated in the 90-day interim period before the transitional government of national unity is put in place on December 1.

Other issues include the formation of a Joint Military Ceasefire Commission to oversee the cantonment of the soldiers and the Strategic Defence and Security Review team that includes participation of the warring parties, the political parties, churches, women's organisations and youth groups.

Juba has not been happy with UNMISS since the civil war broke out in December 2013. UNMISS was established in July 2011 to help the newly independent nation develop capacity to provide security and longer-term state building, but the government says it has been unable to cope with the challenges of the civil war, which was not part of its mandate.

The focus for Igad after the signing of the peace deal is the demilitarisation of Juba and how to establish the Joint Integrated Police (JIP) by the warring parties, even though there is still mistrust between them and claims of violation of the permanent ceasefire by both sides.

The rebel side led by Riek Machar says that they have advised those who were camping at the UN camps in Juba, Upper Nile and Unity States to stay put until the Joint Integrated Police takes control.

According to Dr Machar's representative in Kenya, Adel Sandrai, it is still too risky for the internally displaced to return to their homes when government forces have gone to the offensive in some areas.

While the ceasefire is holding in most parts of the country, both the rebels and the government have engaged in skirmishes in Malakal in violation of the agreement.

US State Department deputy spokesperson Mark Toner, noted that recent fighting by forces on both sides runs contrary to the terms of the peace agreement, and announced that the US is working with the UN Security Council to pursue sanctions against those violating the agreement.

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In the meantime, a group that defected from the rebels and is now calling itself Federal Democratic Party, has rejected a recently signed peace deal.

The group led by Gabriel Changson Chang, is calling upon Igad to adopt a new strategy in the peace process on the grounds that a lasting peace in South Sudan can only come when all parties and stakeholders in the conflict are included in the deal.

Mr Chang said in a statement that his group does not believe that President Kiir and Dr Machar will be able to work together after failing to gain trust despite working for eight years in the same government.

They are also not happy that the Igad compromise peace agreement failed to recognise the Juba massacre, which is a disappointment to the Nuer ethnic group in general and to the families of the massacred people in particular.

## **SPLM-IO protests to IGAD over ceasefire violations: spokesperson**

### **NEWS STORY**

Source: Sudan Tribune

**6 September 2015** - South Sudan's armed opposition faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM-IO) led by the country's former vice president, Riek Machar, said they have submitted a letter of protest to the East African regional bloc, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), over continues violations of ceasefire by president Salva Kiir's government.

The opposition said government's forces and helicopter gunships have continued to carry out attacks on their positions in the country's oil-rich states of Upper Nile and Unity, which will be governed by the SPLM-IO in accordance with the peace agreement.

"We have submitted a letter of protest to IGAD mediation over these ceasefire violations by the regime in Juba," Machar's spokesman, James Gatdet Dak, told Sudan Tribune when contacted on Sunday.

He accused the government of lacking political will of commitment to respecting the ceasefire declared on 29 August and implementing the peace deal they signed on 26 August.

"For the past four days, government forces have been attacking our bases in Upper Nile state, to the west bank of the River Nile near Malakal, using ground troops backed by

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helicopter gunships. They have also moved out from Unity state's capital, Bentiu, and begun to attack our bases near Nhialdiu. These are serious violations," he said.

Dak denied government claims that the rebels had been delaying the conduct of the workshop on the ceasefire arrangements scheduled in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, saying the leadership had already selected senior military officers to take part in the workshop after ratifying the peace agreement beginning on Tuesday.

He said it was important to first ratify the peace deal in accordance with the provisions of the accord itself before implementation of other provisions kicked in.

Dak argued that in the peace agreement, the declaration and respect of the permanent ceasefire came first followed by ratification of the peace agreement and then the ceasefire workshop and so forth.

He accused the government of violating the very ceasefire which should be respected first before the workshop in Addis Ababa.

In a separate statement, SPLA-IO military spokesperson, Colonel William Gatjiath Deng, also claimed that continued attacks by president Kiir's forces on rebel positions took place on Sunday in Upper Nile state, alleging that Ugandan helicopters took part in the attack.

"This afternoon at 12:00AM, two Ugandan helicopter gunships used by the government of South Sudan continuing aerial bombardment at our bases in Panyikang county, Tonga and Nyjuat payam in Upper Nile state. They are targeting both military and local civilian population around. The SPLA/Juba faction is continuing making random shooting at civilians and burns some villages nearby," said Col. Deng in a statement extended to Sudan Tribune on Sunday.

President Kiir in his remarks during a meeting on Sunday with a tribal Jieng [Dinka] Council of Elders admitted that his army violated the ceasefire, but blamed it on undisciplined officers, warning them of punitive actions unless they respected his ceasefire orders.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in New York has been discussing a US-led draft sanctions on individuals in the parties or party which is seen to be violating the ceasefire and spoiling implementation of the deal. The sanctions would include assets freeze, travel bans and arms embargo, among others..



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## South Sudan Government Calls for International Support amid Repeated Ceasefire Violations

### NEWS STORY

Source: International Business Times

By Michael Kaplan

**7 September 2015** - The South Sudanese government is pushing for an international monitoring force to be set up to ensure a tenuous ceasefire holds, local media outlets reported during the weekend. The calls came as both sides traded accusations of violations, many of them unverifiable, following an agreement reached late last month meant to end months of escalating violence.

The government in Juba, which became the capital of South Sudan after it won its independence from Sudan in 2011, is doubtful a governmental monitoring agency will be able to prevent ceasefire violations. Newly appointed South Sudan Special Peace Envoy John Andruga Duku has proposed a force controlled by the African Union and funded by the U.N., similar to the African Union mission in Somalia.

The recently reached agreement called for an immediate end to fighting, and the freeing of child soldiers and prisoners of war. Military forces are to leave the capital and be replaced by a special force, and a new “vice president” post is to be filled by a representative from among the rebels, among other requirements.

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signed the agreement amid pressure from international actors, including the U.N., which threatened to place international sanctions on him otherwise. Several ceasefires reached in the past have failed to hold, and both sides already have been accused of violating the terms of the recently reached agreement.

South Sudan, the world's newest state, has been gripped by turmoil since December 2013 when Kiir accused Vice President Riek Machar of plotting a coup against him. The country has since divided along ethnic fault lines, as thousands of people have been killed in violence and millions have been displaced.

## **UN threatens sanctions if South Sudan peace deal isn't kept**

### NEWS STORY

Source: Associated Press

**5 September 2015** - The UN Security Council is discussing imposing sanctions on two additional South Sudanese for continuing to fuel conflict in the world's newest nation, diplomats said Friday.

The council called for an immediate end to fighting in a statement after a closed-door meeting and again threatened sanctions if the government and opposition don't fully implement the peace agreement they recently signed.

Fighting broke out in oil-rich South Sudan in December 2013 after President Salva Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, accused his ex-vice president Riek Machar, an ethnic Nuer, of trying to oust him. That sparked ethnic attacks and fighting that was supposed to end with Kiir's reluctant signing of the agreement on August 26. Machar signed on August 17.

The Security Council welcomed the signings and commitments to halt military operations by the two rivals but expressed "deep concern" at recent reports of fighting.

Members stressed in a statement following a video briefing by the UN envoy for South Sudan, Ellen Margrethe Loj, that they are ready to impose an arms embargo and targeted sanctions "to ensure full implementation" of the peace deal.

The diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity because the council's discussions were private, said US Ambassador Samantha Power raised the possibility of imposing an arms embargo and travel ban on one Kiir supporter and one Machar supporter.

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The council imposed sanctions on six generals — three from each side — on July 1 for continuing the conflict which has killed thousands, created a humanitarian crisis and displaced over two million people.

The United States, which was an early and vocal supporter of South Sudan's independence from neighbouring Sudan, has tried to keep up pressure on the feuding parties first to sign the peace agreement and now to implement it.

## US readies new UN sanctions on South Sudan

### NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

**4 September 2015** - The United States is preparing a new UN sanctions list for South Sudan after a ceasefire failed to take hold under a new peace accord aimed at ending the 20-month war, diplomats said Friday.

US Ambassador Samantha Power told the Security Council during a closed-door session that two more individuals could be hit by UN sanctions for their role in the continued fighting, according to diplomats.

The two names, one from the government and the other from the rebel side, are expected to be submitted to a UN sanctions committee which could decide to impose a global travel ban and an assets freeze.

Under a peace agreement signed by President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar, a ceasefire was due to enter into force last weekend but fighting has continued in Upper Nile state.

The 15-member council met at the request of the United States after Secretary of State John Kerry warned Kiir to respect the ceasefire, during a phone conversation on Thursday.

The council is prepared to consider "appropriate measures" including "an arms embargo and additional targeted sanctions" against those who violate the ceasefire, Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin told reporters after the meeting.

Churkin, who chairs the council this month, said the UN mission in South Sudan would be tasked with helping to implement the peace accord.

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The world's youngest nation, South Sudan descended into bloodshed in December 2013 when Kiir accused Machar, then his deputy, of planning a coup.

The violence has left tens of thousands of people dead and the impoverished country split along ethnic lines.

The council in July imposed sanctions on six commanders -- three from the government forces and three from the rebels -- the first to be blacklisted by the United Nations over the conflict.

The United States had presented a draft UN resolution imposing an arms embargo and targeted sanctions on individuals who block provisions of the peace accord, but the measure did not come up for a vote.

## SUDAN

### Sudan arrests opposition politicians

#### NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

**5 September 2015** - Sudanese security agents have arrested four opposition politicians in Khartoum for giving a speech criticising the government, their party chief said on Saturday, as President Omar al-Bashir presses for a national dialogue.

Members of the Reform Now Party, founded by a former Bashir adviser, they were detained late Thursday along with three people who had been listening to their speech.

The party members, "who were carrying out this symbolic act to draw attention to the reality of the crisis, were arrested as they gave a speech to people in a public place," Reform Now head Ghazi Salahuddin Atabani told a press conference.

Among them were the party's chief for Khartoum state and his deputy, Atabani said.

The arrests come as Bashir, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court on war crimes charges over the Darfur conflict, has been calling opponents to join talks to address the country's problems.

Insurgents have been battling his troops in the western Darfur region since 2003 and in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states since 2011.

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Sudan's economy has also suffered badly since 2011 after it lost most of its oil reserves with the secession of South Sudan.

Bashir announced the dialogue in January but most opposition parties and rebels say conditions are not right for meaningful talks to take place.

Atabani, who split from the ruling party over the repression of street protests in September 2013, said Reform Now will not join the dialogue.

The talks are due to start in Khartoum on October 10.

Human Rights Watch said the security service detained at least 17 opposition activists in August, mostly from the Sudanese Congress, a small party whose members have been giving speeches criticising Bashir's rule.

## **Bashir won't lead Sudan's delegation to UNGA: diplomat**

### NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

**7 September 2015** - The Sudanese government has announced that the foreign minister, Ibrahim Ghandour, will head its delegation to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) meetings late this month in New York.

Last Month, Sudan's deputy UN ambassador Hassan Hamid Hassan affirmed that president Omer Hassan al-Bashir would lead Sudan's delegation to the UN annual meeting dedicated this year to sustainable development.

Also, Bashir's name appeared on a provisional list of speakers at the summit but several Sudanese officials said in subsequent statements that the government has yet to decide on his participation in the meeting.

A senior Sudanese diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Sudan Tribune Monday that Ghandour would head Sudan's delegation to the summit which will convene on September 19 th. He added that the delegation will be comprised of nine members.

He said the delegation intends to bring up several issues in the UNGA meetings including the economic sanctions imposed by the United States on Sudan and maintaining its name on the list of countries sponsoring terrorism besides the arrest

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warrants issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against Bashir and several other Sudanese officials.

Sudan is on the US list of countries supporting terrorism since 1993 and also subjected to economic sanctions since 1997.

According to the diplomat, those issues will be discussed with several regional and international blocs and organizations within the UN including the Arab ministers, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the non-aligned countries and the Group of 77.

“Sudan will seek to mobilize support for its position regarding those issues in the UN,” he added.

The senior diplomat stressed that Africa’s foreign ministers would lead intensive moves on the sidelines of the UNGA meetings to promote the African Union (AU) decision ordering member states not to cooperate with the ICC.

The Sudanese president closely escaped being arrested and being turned over to the ICC while attending an AU summit in Johannesburg last June.

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

## TANZANIA

### Tanzania ruling party candidate promises land redistribution

#### NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

**6 September 2015** - Tanzania's ruling party candidate for next month's presidential election promised Sunday to redistribute unused land, vowing to end years of conflict over land rights.

The pledge was made during political campaigning ahead of the October 25 polls, in which Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party candidate John Magufuli is hoping to succeed President Jakaya Kikwete.

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"There are high-placed people, even in state institutions, who possess thousands of hectares that are just simply there, without being cultivated or used for livestock," he told a televised campaign meeting.

"I will redistribute them," he vowed.

Land rights is a contentious issue in Tanzania, where a period of privatisation in the 1980s and 1990s -- which was marked by land grabbing and corruption -- had fuelled conflict with pastoralists and indigenous groups.

The ruling CCM party has dominated politics since modern Tanzania was formed in 1964, and currently has two-thirds of seats in parliament.

Magufuli, aged 55 and currently a minister of works, has put the fight against corruption at the centre of his campaign, and has been depicted as a clean politician.

But he is facing the tightest electoral race in the east African nation's history, with the main opposition parties uniting around ex-prime minister Edward Lowassa, 61, who recently defected from the CCM.

He has also pledged to root out corruption and help the country's poor.

The CCM has also been weakened by internal splits and a string of graft scandals, and recently suffered defections of high-profile members -- including ex-prime minister Frederick Sumaye and former home affairs minister Lawrence Masha -- to the opposition coalition.

Tanzania, with over 50 million people, is east Africa's most populous country, with economic growth of more than seven percent, according to the World Bank.

Despite advances, the country remains very poor by regional and international standards, the World Bank says, with agriculture the key sector, providing a quarter of gross domestic product and employing three-quarters of the population.

## **Tanzania thank DRC government on release of hostage Imams**

### **NEWS STORY**

Source: Xinhua

**6 September 2015** - Tanzania's ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) Antony Cheche on Thursday hailed the DR Congo government for the release

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of six Tanzanian imams who were abducted by rebels last month in the east of the country.

The muslim preachers were abducted by suspected members of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) rebels.

"This heroic and comforting act demonstrates the excellence of close ties between President Mirosho Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania and his DR Congo counterpart Joseph Kabila," the Tanzanian diplomat said when he spoke in Goma, eastern DR Congo, where he had gone to receive his fellow citizens who had been released by their kidnappers.

The six men said they were not mistreated by their kidnappers other than being deprived of freedom, being exposed to bad weather and staying away from their close family members for close to 30 days.

The Tanzanian diplomat said the happy ending to the abduction saga of the six imams should be used to consolidate relations between the two countries.

Cheche hailed the courage of the DR Congo security forces who managed to rescue the six imams, and said the incident will not harm ties between Tanzania and DR Congo.

The six imams from Zanzibar who were released without any ransom being paid, said their kidnappers were young men aged between 16 to 19 years, but who were being guided by older people. No traces of torture were visible on their bodies.